

1 **Document: 700.02**
2 **Name: Becoming peace-makers in our churches, our communities, our nation, and the wider**
3 **world**

4 **Authors: NICMFSA, Luis F Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICRMN, Luis F**
5 **Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICBC&S, Elisa Gatz, chair**

6 **CCFA Action: No financial implications**

7 **Legislative Section:**

8

9 **Action:**

10 We resolve to renew our commitment, our mission, as Christians further informed by United
11 Methodist principles and inspired by John Wesley and his vision, to sustain the Message of
12 Jesus the Christ to be peacemakers in the ways, the places, by the means we have, to promote
13 peace in our time.

14 This calls us to work towards PEACE-MAKING by engaging in and promoting these actions:

- 15 • to read, consider, and explore the vision of peace articulated by Jesus, Isaiah and Micah;
- 16 • to reflect on how both individually and collectively we might become “co-conspirators”
17 for peace;
- 18 • to engage in study, reflection, and dialogue exploring actions and attitudes that support
19 and promote peace;
- 20 • to speak for and take actions, individually and collectively, that model and promote peace;
- 21 • to commit to better understanding of the means of promoting, encouraging, and making
22 peace, working toward fulfilling Jesus ’continuing ministry, Micah’s vision, and Wesley’s
23 “call to action.”

24 The accumulated actions described above articulate the commitment of the people called
25 “Methodist,” who seek to serve as peace makers, and peace keepers.

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27 and promote peace;
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30 peace, working toward fulfilling Jesus ’continuing ministry, Micah’s vision, and Wesley’s
31 “call to action.”

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33 **Rationale:**

34 Christianity itself is rooted in the concept of peace and peace making (Matthew 5:9).

35

36 Jesus – often referred to as the Prince of Peace – modeled being a peacemaker, taught peace-
37 making in parables (e.g., The Good Samaritan; Luke 10: 25-27), and guided his disciples to also
38 live as peacemakers.

39

40 The ancient prophets were “seers” (esp. Isaiah & Micah) who envisioned a NEW world order
41 aligned with God’s plans, different from the contentions and disparities of war, hunger, need,
42 and greed. They envisioned a new social environment where guns used to kill were turned into
43 tools for planting crops to feed the people, where orchards and fields weren’t hoarded for a
44 few, but thrived as orchards to feed us all. Isn’t that the world we want, too?

45

1 Throughout civilizations, some have called for, modeled, and led us toward peace, while others
2 appealed to childish temptations to hoard, fight, even kill one another, despite God's
3 commandments.

4
5 John Wesley called early Methodists to recognize, respect, and even serve community needs so
6 that ALL might prosper rather than having some suffer.

7
8 Both the early Methodist and more recent United Methodist Church bodies composed and
9 ratified "social principles" specifying actions and practices that promoted peaceful communities
10 of shared resources and respectful co-existence.

11
12 The many ministries supported by UMC funds, direct work, and numerous physical and
13 human resources reflect a centuries 'old commitment to relieve, or alleviate, suffering resulting
14 from hostile actions of war, famine, and actions of repressive political regimes.

1 **Document: 700.03**
2 **Name: A Call for Peace with Justice in the Middle East**
3 **Author: Elisa Gatz**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**
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8 **Action:**

9 The Northern Illinois Conference urges United Methodists to call on Congress and the President
10 to support steps for establishing a peace based on justice for all peoples in Israel and Palestine.
11 We urge United Methodists to take steps in their own communities to build peaceful
12 relationships with and deeper understanding of their Jewish and Muslim neighbors. To that
13 end, we encourage United Methodists to:

- 14 a. Condemn violence in all its forms, whether perpetrated by Hamas or other terrorist groups,
15 or the IDF (Israel Defense Forces.)
- 16 b. Call for a ceasefire by all parties so that innocent Palestine and Israeli citizens can rebuild
17 their lives and work toward establishing a just piece.
- 18 c. Communicate directly and regularly with our elected representatives to support policies
19 that lead to a peaceful and just resolution for all people in the Middle East, such as policies
20 supported by the General Board of Church and Society's recommendations for legislation.
- 21 d. Work toward eliminating Antisemitism and Islamophobia by recognizing Jewish and
22 Muslim holidays and the contributions of Jewish and Arab communities. This can include
23 the International Holocaust Remembrance Week in January and the celebration of Arab
24 American Heritage Month each April.
- 25 e. Include Palestinian and Israeli histories and issues into anti-bias, anti-racist training.

26
27 **Rationale:**

28 As stated by our General Board of Church and Society, "scripture is consistent in the call for
29 followers of Christ to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44-45a), forgive others their trespasses
30 (Matthew 6:14-15), to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21), and to seek peace and pursue it
31 (Psalm 34:14). Peacemakers are blessed and called the children of God (Matthew 5:9)."
32

33 "As disciples of Christ, we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers
34 of conflict. We must insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve
35 by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them." – United Methodist
36 Social Principles, ¶165.C
37

38 Seeking justice and serving as reconcilers includes advocating for policies that lead to a peaceful
39 and just resolution and accountability for the utilization of all military and humanitarian aid to
40 the Middle East, such as the passage of HR 3103: Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian
41 Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act.
42

43 If we are to take Jesus' words seriously, rather than return hate for hate, we need to model what
44 it looks like to love our neighbors.
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1 **Document: 700.13**

2 **Name: Discontinuance of HOMEWOOD: ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

3 **Author: District Superintendent, Dr. Audrea F. Nanabray, Lake South District, UMC**

4 **CCFA Action:**

5 **Legislative Section:**

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8 **ACTION:**

9 WHEREAS the ST. ANDREW UMC located in the City of Homewood, Illinois at the
10 **commonly known address** 18850 Riegel Road, Homewood, IL 60430 in Bloom
11 Township of Cook County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed to Jesus Christ
12 and served its community and the world for many years and having closed on June 30, 2024
13 and

14 WHEREAS the St. Andrew UMC faithfully served the community in the Village of
15 Homewood, IL and boldly risked themselves in this effort; and

16 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The United*
17 *Methodist Church 2016*, the Lake South District Superintendent has recommended with the
18 approval of the District Strategy Team that the church be discontinued effective June 30, 2024.
19 The Lake South District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
20 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the presiding Bishop
21 and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of
22 The United Methodist Church have consented to the District Superintendent's
23 recommendation to discontinue said church;

24 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to the
25 Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said Church,
26 though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church, nevertheless be
27 maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a reincorporation thereof by
28 the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious Corporation Act, with the incumbent
29 Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees of the Discontinued Church under the
30 procedure established by Article VII "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of
31 the By-laws of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all properties and assets of said Church,
33 including, but not limited to its existing and future gifts, devises, and bequests,
34 its existing personal property and accounts and its real property commonly
35 known as 18850 Riegel Road, Homewood, IL 60430,

36 Shall become the properties and assets of the Northern Illinois Conference of The
37 United Methodist Church, and

38 Shall, in the discretion of the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, be either:

- 1 a. Retained by the reincorporated shell Illinois religious corporation
2 referred to above
3 pending sale or other disposition; or
4 b. Transferred to the Board of Trustees of the Northern Illinois Annual
5 Conference of The United Methodist Church; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred to
8 **Olympia Fields UMC** in Olympia Fields, Illinois, unless any such members shall inform the
9 pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and

10 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois Annual
11 Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to execute on behalf
12 of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal counsel shall
13 recommend to effectuate the above.

14 **RATIONALE:**

15 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ,
16 Homewood: St. Andrew UMC has come to a place of transition and closure as membership
17 and attendance have declined. The congregation has expressed its desire to celebrate its past
18 ministry but to no longer remain in service as Homewood: St. Andrew UMC. The closure
19 has been recommended by the Lake South Board on Church Location and Buildings and the
20 District Superintendent.