

RESOLUTION: AFFIRMING PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVES TO WAR ON IRAN

WHEREAS, the prophetic tradition in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures is that God “will judge the nations, and will render decisions for many people. And they will hammer their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war” (Isaiah 2:4); and

WHEREAS, we claim our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ, who taught us to love our enemies and to pray for our persecutors (Matthew 5:44) and that as peacemakers we are blessed as “the children of God” (Matthew 5:9); and

WHEREAS, the New Testament tells us to “live peaceably with all” (Romans 12:18) and to “be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21); and

WHEREAS, as Christians committed to the promotion of justice and peace we are called to go beyond our comfortable circumstances and work for a world free of violence, war, terrorism, human abuse and oppression. By doing so we advance shalom, the vision which pulls all creation towards a time when weapons are swept off the earth, all people have food and shelter and dwell secure from want; and

WHEREAS, the United States has recently changed its aggressive position towards Iran to one more diplomatic, military options are still open and the situation remains fluid; and

WHEREAS, unilateral, pre-emptive or preventive use of force by the United States against Iran will almost certainly further destabilize international security by providing another example for other nations to follow;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the delegates of the 139th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, urge the United States to continue working cooperatively on international plans to resolve peacefully the dispute with Iran concerning nuclear power and development of nuclear weapons and not to engage in a pre-emptive strike against the government and people of Iran, but rather to call upon countries, including the United States, to reduce their nuclear armaments toward the goal of eliminating such weapons of mass destruction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Connecticut Conference and national staff of the United Church of Christ provide information and suggestions to enable member churches and individual members to understand better the issues related to nuclear weapons, to different cultures and mores, particularly those in Iran and other Middle Eastern Countries, and to provide guidelines for constructive actions to promote peace and justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the local churches and individual church members be urged to communicate to members of the United States government and to the media their concerns and convictions relating to the possession, development and use of nuclear weapons by any country and their desire for a peaceful resolution of the dispute the United States and other nations have with Iran.