

Simple Ways to Work for Peace at your Church!

Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle-MBA Just Peace Coordinator

Dare to be a prophet calling people to think about what peace means in our society and our individual lives each day.

Invite people to pray daily for peace. Start a prayer group for peace.

Develop a booklet with prayers for peace. (This is a great idea for Advent and Lent.)

Visit a place known for peace and justice in your area. Hold a retreat there on peace and justice topics.

Display telephone numbers for the White House and Capitol in a prominent place and encourage people to express their opinions.

Inform your congregation about the major peace and justice programs the UCC supports. Ask specific people to be the contact for each program.

Invite children and youth to draw pictures of a peaceful world and display them.

Post information on domestic violence and violence against children in your church.

Invite the Just Peace Players to perform.

Sing hymns and songs about peace.

Use worship resources that emphasize peace and justice every week, not just on special occasions. Resources exist from many faith traditions.

Teach and preach about the dynamic connections between our faith, peacemaking and doing justice in the world.

Set aside time daily to experience peace in your life. Invite others to do the same.

Do a "blessing of hands" highlighting the ways we use our hands to work for peace.

Help parents learn non-violent parenting skills.

Explore what it means to be a multi-cultural church.

Advocate for the peace and justice programs your church and the UCC support with the state legislature, Congress and the White House. Ask your conferences to keep supporting peace and justice programs.

Explore the connections between global economics and poverty in the world.

Start a small group Bible study to help people keep making the connections between the many Biblical calls to do justice and live peacefully and the ways we live our lives today.

Invite people from many religious traditions to come to your church to talk about their traditions. Visit other faith communities. Talk with people from different traditions in an atmosphere of openness and trust.

Do hands on projects like Habitat for Humanity or something specific in your neighborhood, state and the wider world.

Develop restorative justice programs in your community.

Offer strategies and support to people who want to live more simply.

Begin a study process to become Open and Affirming.

Sponsor a refugee family.

Write to a person in prison, visit prisoners and welcome their families.

Sponsor a resolution on peace for your Conference's Annual Meeting.

Become a "safe church." Have clear boundaries in all pastoral relationships.

Develop a phone tree and organize a letter writing campaign so that people can respond quickly to calls for support of peace and justice issues.

Invite the Just Peace Coordinator to preach or lead a workshop.

Invite Conference staff or a member of the Commission for Mission and Justice to visit your church and preach or lead a discussion.

Talk about the difference between charity and justice.

Celebrate your church's history of mission and justice programs. Sponsor a yearly Mission Fair so that members can meet people from the projects they support.

Send me ideas and stories about successful programs! I would love to include them on our web site or in additional resources like this one.

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