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# Disarming Iraq without War

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As a strong supporter of global non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Methodists United for Peace with Justice believes that Iraq's capacity to develop, store, and potentially use weapons of mass destruction should be eliminated. However, we believe that this should be accomplished by other means than going to war.

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## Views of Methodist Bodies

A variety of Methodist bodies have spoken on how to deal with Iraq. They include:

### United Methodist Church

*General Board of Church and Society:* [Bush Urged to Turn Back from War](#), August 30, 2002

<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/gbpr170.htm>

*Women's Division, Executive Committee:* [Statement on Iraq](#), September 4, 2002

[http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/statement\\_iraq.html](http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/statement_iraq.html)

*Council of Bishops:* [Pastoral Letter on Iraq from Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher](#), October 4, 2002

<http://www.umc.org/headlines/newsflash/default.htm>

*General Board of Church and Society:* [Statement on Iraq](#), October 12, 2002

<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/gbpr171.htm>

*General Board of Global Ministries* [voices concern over Iraq](#). October 24, 2002.

[http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=1211](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=1211)

*Council of Bishops:* [Endorsement of Bishop Christopher's letter](#), November 8, 2002.

<http://www.umc.org/churchlibrary/bishops/iraq.htm>

*Council of Bishops:* [Bishops' president urges Bush to use restraint with Iraq](#), February 6, 2002

[http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=1410](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=1410)

*Council of Bishops:* [Letter to Methodists around the World from Bishop Sharon A. Brown Christopher](#), February 6, 2003

[http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=1411](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=1411)

*General Board of Global Ministries,* [What The United Methodist Church Says on War and Peace with Iraq](#) [http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=1405](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=1405)

### World Methodist Council

*Youth Committee,* [Statement on Iraq](#), November 4, 2002

<http://www.worldmethodistyouth.org/iraq.htm>

## **Religious Statements**

Numerous religious organization and religious leaders have spoken out against rushing to war against Iraq. Sources for these statements include:

Interfaith Committee for Nuclear Disarmament

<http://www.zero-nukes.org/howtogettozero3.htm#disarmingiraq>

National Council of Churches

<http://www.nccusa.org/iraq/iraqlinks.html>

Faith and Values.com

[http://www.faithandvalues.com/channels/iraq\\_faith.asp](http://www.faithandvalues.com/channels/iraq_faith.asp)

## **Sources of Information**

Other sources of information for opposition to war against Iraq include:

American Friends Service Committee

<http://www.afsc.org/iraq/>

Churches for Middle East Peace

<http://www.cmep.org/sites.htm#LINKS%20TO%20PREVENT%20IRAQ%20WAR>

Education for Peace in Iraq Center

<http://epic-usa.org/>

Foreign Policy in Focus

<http://www.fpif.org/index.html>

Fourth Freedom Forum

<http://www.fourthfreedom.org/>

Friends Committee for National Legislation

<http://fcn1.org/issues/int/iraindx.htm>

Iraq Policy Working Group

<http://www.iraqbriefts.org/>

Sojourners

<http://www.sojo.net/>

Marie: follow the style you used for <http://www.mupwj.org/methodistfamily.htm>

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## Issues

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***Methodists United for Peace with Justice is an advocacy and educational organization. In order to be effective we concentrate our efforts on a relative few, though highly significant, issues.***

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Nuclear Disarmament

*Since our beginning in 1987 nuclear disarmament has been a major focus of Methodists United for Peace with Justice. It remains the central issue we deal with.*

[Read more....](#)

Iraq

*During the past year Iraq has become a major focus for the U.S. government and the world. We favor disarming Iraq without war.*

[Read more....](#)

Justice as the Foundation for Peace

*It is often said that you cannot have peace unless you have justice. For us the two go hand in hand.*

[Read more....](#)

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# *Justice as Foundation for Peace*

This page is under development.

# Nuclear Disarmament

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Nuclear disarmament has been the central issue for Methodists United for Peace with Justice since our founding in 1987. This stems from our initial organizing in response to a call for prayer and action on this issue by the United Methodist Council of Bishops in their pastoral letter and foundation document, *In Defense of Creation: The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace*.

In this section of our website we offer: [each item in boldface linked to sub-sections]

- **United Methodist policy** on this issue.
- **Statements by Methodists United for Peace with Justice.**
- Reference to **interfaith statements.**
- Consideration of specific **public policy issues**, including
  - De-alerting
  - Halt of testing and production
  - Reduction and elimination of the global nuclear arsenal
  - Missile defense
  - Non-proliferation
- **Action** ideas for achieving nuclear disarmament.

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## United Methodist Policy

In their 1986 **pastoral letter** [<http://www.zero-nukes.org/religiousstatements2.html#indefenseofcreation>] *In Defense of Creation: The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace*, the United Methodist Council of Bishops stated: "we say a clear and unconditional *No* to nuclear war and to any use of nuclear weapons. We conclude that nuclear deterrence is a position that cannot receive the church's blessing."

In their **foundation document** with the same title the United Methodist bishops presented a biblical and theological grounding for their position. They recommended a set of policies for a just peace. Although out-of-print for a period, *In Defense of Creation*, is available once again from the United Methodist Publishing House's Cokesbury unit by calling (800) 672-1789 or logging on to [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) (item number X516641). In addition, a **study guide** [<http://www.cokesbury.com/InDefenseofCreation/>] is available for free download from Cokesbury.

Current United Methodist policy is expressed in a resolution "**Saying No to Nuclear Deterrence**" [<http://www.zero-nukes.org/religiousstatements2.html#sayingno>] adopted by the 2000 General Conference.

The **United Methodist Council of Bishops** [<http://www.umc.org/abouttheumc/bishops/>] continues to have a strong interest in nuclear disarmament and speaks out on specific aspects.

The **General Board of Church and Society**, [<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/disarm.htm> ] the social action agency for the United Methodist Church, engages in public policy advocacy for nuclear disarmament measures.

Although other denominations in the Methodist family have been less active on this topic, from time to time their leaders sign on to letters to public officials on nuclear disarmament issues.

## **MUPWJ Statements**

Our chair, Howard W. Hallman, provided an overview of "Nuclear Disarmament" [[http://www.umc-gbcs.org/csasept1\\_oct2001.htm](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/csasept1_oct2001.htm)] in an article in *Christian Social Action*, September/October 2001, published by the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society.

In the spring of 2001 Methodists United for Peace with Justice offered its views to the Bush Administration on the pending Nuclear Posture Review. In a April 2001 letter [[link to below](#)] to President George W. Bush, we indicated:

*We believe that the final product should contain a multi-year plan for nuclear disarmament on equal terms with specification of deterrence policy and targeting.*

When the conclusions of the Nuclear Posture Review were made public early in 2002, an article in *Peace Leaf* called the report "A Flawed Proposal". [[link to below](#)]. We observed:

*The greatest flaw is the belief that nuclear weapons should remain forever. In contrast, the voices of religion say that possession, threatened use, and actual use of nuclear weapons is immoral and that all nuclear weapons should be eliminated.*

The article identified other flaws: continuation of the doctrine of mutual assured destruction (MAD); expanded role for nuclear weapons; development of new nuclear weapons; the possibility of renewed testing.

[Marie: Copy in entirety the two following letters now on [www.zero-nukes.org](http://www.zero-nukes.org). Later I will have you remove them from that site and have only a linkage to [www.mupwj.org](http://www.mupwj.org) as the primary depository for these letters.]

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Letter to President George W. Bush on Nuclear Posture Review [from <http://www.zero-nukes.org/religiousstatements2.html#methodistsunitedforpeace>]

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Nuclear Posture Review: A Flawed Proposal [from <http://www.zero-nukes.org/religiousstatements2.html#methodistsunitedforpeace>]

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## **Interfaith**

For more than fifty years religious organizations and religious leaders have expressed concern about nuclear weapons and have advocated their elimination. A sampling of **Religious Statements** [<http://www.zero-nukes.org/religiousstatements1.html>] is available on the website of the Interfaith Committee for Nuclear Disarmament.

## **Public Policy Issues**

Under construction.

## **Action**

Under construction

## **Public Policy Issues**

Nuclear disarmament comes to focus in sets of public issues dealing with various aspects of disarmament. Some of them, along with sources of information, are as follows:

**De-alerting**

**Halt of Testing and Production**

**Reduction and Elimination of the Global Nuclear Arsenal**

**Missile Defense**

**Non-proliferation**

## **Action at Nuclear Weapons Facilities**

Religious peace activists around the country sometimes direct their attention to facilities where nuclear weapons are developed, produced, and tested.