

1177. Peace (Adopted April 3, 1982)

(Replaces WCR 1052, 1087, and 1129)

Whereas, Christ came into the world as the Prince of Peace, denoting God's concern for caring within the human family throughout the world; and

Whereas, We are commissioned to "lift up an ensign of peace, and make a proclamation for peace unto the ends of the earth" (Doctrine and Covenants 102:11); and

Whereas, The official seal of the church, as a symbol of peace, should be a daily reminder of our individual and collective obligation to promote peace; and

Whereas, We have been reminded that "These are portentous times. The lives of many are being sacrificed unnecessarily to the gods of war, greed, and avarice. The land is being desecrated by the thoughtless waste of vital resources. You must obey my commandments and be in the forefront of those who would mediate this needless destruction while there is yet day" (Doctrine and Covenants 150:7); and

Whereas, We are a World Church and must address the issues of peace throughout all nations; therefore be it

Resolved, I. We, as a church, promote peace. People motivated by Christian love promote peace through constructive and peaceful activities. The cause of peace is positively, though not exclusively, furthered by the following:

- a. The propagation of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who has the power to regenerate persons making them true brothers and sisters.
- b. Providing opportunity for self-expression, recognition of equality, and acknowledgment of personal worth before God and all humanity.
- c. Upholding law which supports individual and group dignity and freedom, and by opposing oppression and tyranny. It is a Christian duty to participate responsibly in governmental processes and to support good and wise persons in positions of governmental leadership (Doctrine and Covenants 95:2).
- d. Addressing the root causes of war and violence and working toward the elimination of these evils.

II. We, as a church, share the responsibility for world conditions. The great commandment of Christ that we love God and our neighbor as ourselves gives us purpose and challenges us as stewards of God's creation to be responsible for world conditions. We recognize that personal sin and the resultant evils of the social order are the source of civil and international violence. We accept responsibility to bring reconciliation in situations of hostility. We express our sense of responsibility in ways, such as:

- a. Calling on persons to accept their stewardship over God's creation.
- b. Encouraging persons to adjust their personal lifestyles toward the elimination of waste, greed, and insensitivity.
- c. Committing our resources in the pursuit of peace, justice, reconciliation, and human development.
- d. Encouraging individuals to support leaders who are promoting peace.
- e. Speaking out against human inequity wherever and whenever it is found.

III. We, as a church, oppose all forms of destructive violence, such as national and international conflict, war, withholding of food, terrorism, and mental and physical abuse. These destructive actions have their roots in fear and greed and are characterized by unregulated and immoral behavior.

As long as selfish interests, materialistic desire, or forms of special privilege are valued above human needs, rights, and dignity, there will be such violence.

While acts of terrorism, unprovoked war, and wanton mental and physical abuse cannot be supported under any circumstances, we understand there are instances where reasonable avenues to reconcile differences appear to have been exhausted and resorting to force is deemed unavoidable. We deplore this sinful situation and the resulting consequences. The existence of this dilemma intensifies our pursuit of peace.

IV. We, as a church, urge nations toward responsible reduction of the instruments of mass destruction. It is the urgent and sobering obligation of persons of goodwill to influence individuals, organizations, and governments everywhere toward this end.

V. We, as a church, emphasize that peace is not attained by mere nonparticipation in violence. The best form of Christian witness strives to promote peace and remove the causes of aggression. These causes are removed from society by the application of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the lives of

individuals and the community. To support our belief in the value of peace we proclaim again that we shall do all within our ability to make the gospel of peace an incarnate reality. The contents of this resolution in no way condemn those who choose to work from within the military establishment to bring the love of God to bear in such a way that the cause of world peace is promoted.

VI. We take these additional actions:

- a. We call for the continuation of the Committee on World Peace and ask the First Presidency to expand it by the appointment of international members. The functioning of the committee is to provide for the ongoing study of the role of the church in relation to peace, war, and the use of force.

Reports and program resources should be made available to the church through normal publication procedures.

b. We will move toward participation with other organizations constructively promoting peaceful existence of humanity.

c. We encourage the church, at the national level, to develop and disseminate adequate information with respect to military service, as well as adequate information with respect to various legal alternatives to military service. This information should include the World Church's position on peace.

d. In nations where conscientious objection to military service or to bearing arms is in harmony with the law, we urge that a statement regarding individual conscience be developed by the church at the national level.

e. We ask the First Presidency to investigate the feasibility of designating one week per year to celebrate and honor peace.

f. This resolution shall supersede WCR 1052, 1087, and 1129.

1216. Temple Ministries For Peace And Justice (Adopted April 7, 1990)

Whereas, A primary purpose of the church is to fulfill Christ's mission of preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming release for the captives, and setting at liberty those who are oppressed; and

Whereas, Section 156 instructs that "the temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace" (5a) and shall be "a place in which the essential meaning of the Restoration as healing and redeeming agent is given new life and understanding" (5e); and

Whereas, The presence of poverty in our world calls for institutions to be sensitive to the basic human rights of all people so that the poor and oppressed are not denied the opportunity to experience the peace, justice, and wholeness of body, mind, and spirit which Temple ministries are designed to foster; and

Whereas, Actions of justice and compassion among the poor will extend and validate the spiritual growth of wholeness which the Temple will bring to the church; therefore, be it

Resolved, That in harmony with instructions already received, the Conference requests the First Presidency to include in the ministries of the Temple creative initiatives for peace and justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed peoples of the world, including initiatives designed to facilitate nonviolent efforts on the part of peace-loving persons to reconcile oppressors and oppressed; and be it further

Resolved, That the Temple Ministries Division is requested to include, as resource persons, international persons who have training and/or experience in working on human rights issues in the planning of these ministries; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency is encouraged to provide sufficient funds for this purpose in the operating budget for Temple Ministries.

1227. Our Pursuit Of Peace (Adopted April 10, 1992)

Whereas, Our planet, the places where we live, and our lives suffer from violence and needless destruction; and

Whereas, Military force, economic power, and security systems have too often been used for immoral and unjustifiable purposes; and

Whereas, In the ten years since the church has adopted WCR 1117, the world has suffered from numerous wars, destructive conflict, local community and personal violence, and ecological degradation; and

Whereas, As a church we have been called to pursue peace (Doctrine and Covenants 102:11; 150:7; 151:9-10; and 156:5; Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:11 [IV]; Luke 6:27-28; I Nephi 3:189; Mosiah 8:49-50; Alma 14:27-28); therefore, be it

Resolved, That we intensify our efforts to heal the causes of violence, war, prejudice, discrimination, greed, hunger, and oppression; and be it further

Resolved, That the church encourage all persons and jurisdictions to work with others in waging peace and in developing processes that are alternatives to violence and needless destruction; and be it further

Resolved, That we pledge anew to forgive, be patient, bring reconciliation, sacrifice for others, suffer with the pain of compassion, and be actively engaged in the pursuit of peace, all as taught to us by Jesus Christ.