MINUTE FOR MISSION

Oakland, California

BUILDING GOD’S HOUSE:   
A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE

When I say the word “nuclear,” I imagine that many things come to your mind. I imagine that “peace” isn’t one of them. In fact, I suspect the opposite is true: it triggers thoughts of fear, not hope. Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California, chose to address this fear when they chose to give their retained portion of the 2019 Peace & Global Witness Offering to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF). In November, the congregation held a Peace Literacy Day, and invited NAPF’s Peace Literacy Director, Paul K Chappell, to speak to their group of 150 congregants and community members.

Founded in 1982, NAPF serves “to educate and train people of all ages and backgrounds to solve the most dangerous technological, social and psychological issues of our time, and to survive and thrive in the 21st century.” They envision “a world in which people are as well-trained in waging peace as soldiers currently are in waging war.”

In November 2018, on the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, Montclair Presbyterian declared itself a Peace Church, joining its voice “with the chorus of congregations, denominations, parachurch organizations and ecumenical bodies around the globe exploring issues relative to peacemaking and violence. Together, we are working to build a world in which no child of God must fear or commit violence. May that day come quickly.”

The congregation states, “Never before have we understood so clearly how global warming, conflict between peoples, poverty, disease, inequality and injustice are interrelated. But also, as never before, we have a sense of what we can do as part of a worldwide community of people acting out of a global consciousness.”

In the days when things feel so tense and ripe for conflict, we are called to be peacemakers. If we all work to promote peace and equality, our collective efforts will support resources in dealing with conflict, provide nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global siblings, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

Through their commitment to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, Montclair Presbyterian further proclaims the message of Christ’s peace that has become so central to their identity. In our community, we are being peacemakers by using our retained portion of this Offering to [DESCRIBE HOW YOUR CONGREGATION USES YOUR SHARE OF THE OFFERING].

Together, through our gifts, we are building God’s household in places where compassion, peace and justice are not just heartfelt words, but lifesaving needs. Through our gifts, we are active peacemakers. We are builders. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray ~

Reconciling God,

continue to build us as your Church.

May we engage in ministries

that share your joy and promise with all people

and deepen our call

to be reconciled to one another.

**Amen.**