



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

A Pastoral Letter to the USA Church

Promoting Dignity, Peace, and Compassionate Community in Challenging Times

January 19, 2026

Community of Christ in the United States,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, whose life shows the way of peace, justice, and compassionate community. As we look honestly at the state of our nation, we do so grounded in the Enduring Principles and guided by the wisdom of our World Conference Resolutions. These call us to honor human dignity, pursue peace, protect the vulnerable, and participate faithfully in civic life.

We are living in a time marked by deep division, growing fear, and hostility toward those who are different. Public conversation often turns harsh. Misinformation spreads easily. Many people—especially immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those struggling financially—feel anxious about their safety and belonging. These realities are far from the peaceable kingdom Jesus described. Yet this moment also gives us a chance to live our faith boldly and compassionately.

We recognize that members and friends in the USA hold a wide range of views, yet what binds us together is our unity in Christ. When we treat each other with respect and a genuine desire to listen, we can have meaningful conversations that build trust and understanding. Nothing should divide us from Christ's mission.

Our Enduring Principles Remind Us of Jesus' Life and Guide Us Today:

- **Worth of All Persons** reflects Jesus' care for the outcast and forgotten and reminds us that every human being has divine value.
- **Unity in Diversity** mirrors his table fellowship with people of all backgrounds and calls us to resist divisions that demean or exclude.
- **Responsible Choices** aligns with his command to love God and neighbor. It invites us to take part in civic life—by voting, serving our community, and advocating—with careful thought and integrity.
- **Pursuit of Peace** embodies his nonviolent way of life and challenges us to be peacemakers in our communities.

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- **Sacredness of Creation** echoes his parables drawn from nature and urges us to preserve and protect the earth.
- **Blessings of Community** remind us of the loving communities Jesus formed and calls us to build relationships with people who are different, reaching beyond our usual circles.

These principles help us follow Jesus as we navigate the complexities of our nation today.

Community of Christ, through World Conference Resolutions, has repeatedly affirmed commitments that speak to today's issues. The *Statement on Nonviolence* (adopted on June 2, 2025) reminds us that our calling does not fit neatly within any political party or ideology. Instead, it calls us to a higher loyalty: the peace and justice of Christ's kingdom.

In this time of national tension and uncertainty, your discipleship matters. Here are some ways to follow Jesus' example:

- **Practice Peaceful, Courageous Conversation**—Listen with compassion and curiosity, grounded in Christ's peace.
- **Engage in Civic Life as a Spiritual Practice**—Approach voting, advocacy, and community work prayerfully, seeking the wellbeing of all people.
- **Stand with the Vulnerable**—Let your congregation be known as a place of refuge, welcome, and support.
- **Confront Oppression with Love and Courage**—When you encounter racism, xenophobia, or dehumanizing speech, respond by upholding honesty, empathy, and determination.
- **Care for Creation**—Honor Jesus' love for nature by protecting the earth and promoting sustainability.
- **Deepen Your Spiritual Life**—Prayer, discernment, and community worship give strength and clarity for the journey ahead.

The challenges we face are real, but we are not without hope. The Spirit is moving among us, calling us to be a people of peace, reconciliation, and healing. Our mission is to show a different way—a way shaped by Jesus' compassion, justice, and radical hospitality.

May we move forward with humility, courage, and trust in God, who calls us to build communities of joy, hope, love, and peace.

In Christ's peace,
Your companions in mission and ministry

Apostles supporting the church in the USA Field

<https://cofchrist.org/world-conference-resolution-1184/>
<https://cofchrist.org/world-conference-resolution-1177/>
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