Five Affirmations to Guide the Peacemaking Witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016, Portland, Oregon)

1. We affirm that **peacemaking is essential to our faith** in God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ, whose love and justice challenge evil and hatred, and whose call gives our church a mission to present alternatives to violence.

2. We confess that **we have sinned by participating in acts of violence**, both structural and physical, or by our failure to respond to acts and threats of violence with ministries of justice, healing, and reconciliation

3. **We follow Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Reconciler, and reclaim the power of nonviolent love** evident in his life and teaching, his healings and reversals of evil, his cross and resurrection.

4. Learning from nonviolent struggles and counting the costs of war, we draw upon the traditions of Just War, Christian pacifism, and Just Peacemaking to cultivate moral imagination and discern God's redemptive work in history. **We commit ourselves to studying and practicing nonviolent means of conflict resolution, nonviolent methods for social change, and nonviolent opposition to war.** Even as we actively engage in a peace discernment process, we commit ourselves to continuing the long tradition of support by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for our sisters and brothers who serve in the United States military, veterans, and their families. We promise to support materially and socially veterans of war who suffer injury in body, mind, or spirit, even as we work toward the day when they will need to fight no more.

5. We place our faith, hope, and trust in God alone. We renounce violence as a means to further selfish national interests, to procure wealth, or to dominate others. **We will practice boldly the things that make for peace** and look for the day when 'they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.'