

War and Peace

War and Peace – Adopted 1968

We are convinced that war destroys all Christian values, including the destruction of human lives, rights and properties; that the possibility of plunging the human race into an unimaginable holocaust of death and destruction through nuclear warfare is ever upon us; that we share in the weakness and sinfulness of the human race, that we express our Christian love toward all mankind, since we believe that God is love and that every person is precious in His sight; that ultimate peace comes only through the coming of the Prince of Peace; that any temporal hope for the solution of the problems of human society is through the Gospel of Jesus Christ which offers reconciliation and peace with God and our fellow men.

Therefore we recommend that the members of our Baptist General Conference churches

1. Confess their sins, asking God's forgiveness for all past failures that have contributed to misunderstanding and conflict.
2. Increase their support of world missions through which the Gospel of redemption and salvation is proclaimed to all nations.
3. Pray without ceasing for peace and good will throughout the world; for leaders and organizations which seek to bring about cooperative understanding and the alleviation of international discord, racial injustice and world hunger.
4. Support any practical program which attempts to reduce armaments thereby lessening the tensions that lead to war.

Recognize that we are a part of a world-wide fellowship of believers in Christ, that we have spiritual resources that transcend national boundaries and political differences and that link us to the power and Spirit of Almighty God and His Christ.

Resolution: Reaffirmation of our church planting vision

For 166 years, Converge has been planting churches. From our first church started in August of 1852 in Rock Island, Illinois, to our most recent plants on the coasts, in small towns, big cities and suburbs of this country and in nations around the world, we have always recognized the necessity of starting new congregations to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We start new congregations for the glory of God, that he may be honored in every heart, household and homeland. Church planting is still the most effective strategy to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We start new congregations because we desire to help fulfill the mission of God—every church to engage in the Great Commission by making disciples of all nations.

We start new congregations because we have personally experienced the power of God in our own lives, and we understand that this power is available to all who meet, know and follow Jesus.



We start new congregations because we desire to see the kingdom of God advance in every community, county and country and among every people group.

For these reasons and more, we reaffirm our commitment to focus on starting new congregations and strengthening existing congregations to start new congregations worldwide. Our prayer and desire is that every Converge church will play a part in intentionally starting new congregations that reach ethnically, racially and economically diverse communities locally, regionally and globally with the love of Jesus Christ.

We pray that our church leaders will sense a responsibility to their entire community, city or county. We pray that they would unapologetically and courageously call their congregants to lives of sacrifice, mission and generosity, create leadership development programs such as internships and residencies, and collaborate with other Converge churches to recruit, coach, train and resource church planters. We pray that our churches, in collaboration with national and district leaders, will adopt Each One Start One as a goal for this next season. We pray that every church would find a way to parent, partner or plant, and that, by God's grace, we as a movement of churches will experience the greatest number of new churches started from 2020 to 2025 in our rich history as a significant step in our vision to start 100 new congregations annually in the near future.

START. STRENGTHEN. SEND.