

MOVING TOWARD PEACE

STATEMENT

We, the members of The Unitarian Church in Summit, abhor the violence, death, and destruction that have resulted from the disruptive presence of the United States in Iraq. While the stated mission of our government's involvement in Iraq has changed over the past four years, little has been accomplished. U.S. involvement in Iraq has further destabilized the Middle East and diverted billions of dollars from our country's most pressing needs such as disaster-recovery from Hurricane Katrina, adequate health care, global warming, and care of our nation's children. It has also alienated many of our allies, heightened animosity towards the U. S. worldwide, exacerbated the threat of terrorism, diluted our constitutional rights, compromised our country's moral values, and caused hardship to our troops by extending their tours, shortening their leaves, and providing them with inadequate medical treatment and remuneration. We call on all people of the United States to end this misbegotten war without delay.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the U.S. war and occupation in Iraq has caused more than 3,800 U.S. deaths, more than 29,000 wounded, and more than an estimated 95,000 Iraqi deaths and has consumed billions of dollars desperately needed for peaceful purposes while intensifying hostilities in the Middle East;

WHEREAS the war in Iraq has become a civil war among cultural and religious factions and as such, peace can not be enforced by a foreign nation;

WHEREAS a growing majority of Americans oppose the war, with hundreds of thousands actively engaged in democratic opposition to it;

WHEREAS The Declaration of Peace*, a nationwide interfaith, nonviolent campaign endorsed by over 800 religious and secular organizations, including the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in June, 2006, calls on the U.S. government to end the war and establish a comprehensive plan for:

- Supporting an Iraqi-led peace process;
- Maintaining no permanent U.S. military bases or installations in Iraq;
- Returning control of the political and economic life of Iraq, including Iraqi oil, to the Iraqis;
- Making reparations and supporting reconstruction of this war-torn country;
- Increasing support for veterans and their families;
- Prohibiting so-called "preemptive" war against other nations;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the members of The Unitarian Church in Summit:

- Endorse the Declaration of Peace
- Accept the challenge to publicly declare and promote an end to military involvement in Iraq.

Furthermore, the members of The Unitarian Church in Summit call on the U. S. government to prohibit harsh interrogation techniques by our military and intelligence operatives that are tantamount to torture.

* www.declarationofpeace.org .