



Universität Hamburg  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

Department of Protestant Theology  
**Institute for  
Peace Church Theology**



# **A Transformative Spirituality for Peacebuilding**

**The ecumenical Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace  
World Council of Churches**



**pilgrimage  
of justice  
and peace**

© Fernando Enns



pilgrimage  
of justice  
and peace

**You have been told,  
O humankind,  
what is good and  
what God looks for in you.**

**Nothing other than  
to practise justice,  
to love kindness  
and  
to walk gently  
with your God**

(Micah 6:8)



# God of life, lead us to justice and peace

**World Council of Churches  
10th Assembly**

30 October to 8 November 2013

Busan, Republic of Korea





God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace

World Council of Churches  
10th Assembly  
30 October to 8 November 2013  
Busan, Republic of Korea

→ From the **Message of WCC X. Assembly, Busan 2013**

„... We intend to move together.

Challenged by our experiences in Busan, we challenge all people of good will to engage their God-given gifts in transforming actions.

**This Assembly calls you to join us in pilgrimage.**

May the churches be communities of healing and compassion,  
and may we seed the Good News so that **justice** will grow  
and God's deep **peace** rest on the world.”

*Blessed are they who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times!*

*Psalms 106:3*



- I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage  
– building on the concept of ‘Just Peace’**
- II. Transformative Spirituality  
– the Trinitarian Foundation of ‘Just Peace’**





## I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage

### 1. Continuation of the Conciliar Process for **Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation**

WCC-VI. Assembly of the World Council of Churches  
Vancouver 1983





# I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage

## 2. *Just Peace*

- as the new Paradigm of Ecumenical Theology and Social Ethics



**International  
Ecumenical  
Peace  
Convocation**

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011





## International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011

### Definition of *Just Peace*

“... is a collective and dynamic yet grounded **process** of freeing human beings from fear and want, of overcoming enmity, discrimination and oppression, and of establishing conditions for **just relationships** that privilege the experience of the most vulnerable and respect the **integrity of creation.**”

*An Ecumenical Call to just Peace, §11*





## International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011

### Definition of *Just Peace*

“The Way of Just Peace is fundamentally different from the concept of “just war” and much more than criteria for protecting people from the unjust use of force;

in addition to silencing weapons it embraces

**social justice,**

**the rule of law,**

**respect for human rights** and

**shared human security.**

*An Ecumenical Call to just Peace, §10*



## Dimensions of *Just Peace*

### a. **Peace in the Community** – *Justice within societies*



## **International Ecumenical Peace Convocation**

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011



## International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011

### Dimensions of *Just Peace*

- a. **Peace in the Community** – *Justice within societies*
- b. **Peace among Peoples** – *War and Peace, International Law*



## International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011

### Dimensions of *Just Peace*

- a. **Peace in the Community** – *Justice within societies*
- b. **Peace among Peoples** – *War and Peace, International Law*
- c. **Peace in the Marketplace** – *Economic Justice*





## International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011

### Dimensions of *Just Peace*

- a. **Peace in the Community** – *Justice within societies*
- b. **Peace among Peoples** – *War and Peace, International Law*
- c. **Peace in the Marketplace** – *Economic Justice*
- d. **Peace with the Earth** – *Ecological Justice, Climate Justice*



## International Ecumenical Peace Convocation

Kingston | Jamaica | 2011

### Dimensions of *Just Peace*

- a. **Peace in the Community** – *Justice within societies*
- b. **Peace among Peoples** – *War and Peace, International Law*
- c. **Peace in the Marketplace** – *Economic Justice*
- d. **Peace with the Earth** – *Ecological Justice, Climate Justice*
- e. **Peace with oneself** – *how to do justice to oneself?*



## I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage

1. Continuation of the Conciliar Process for  
*Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation*
2. *Just Peace*  
– as the new Paradigm of Ecumenical Theology and Social Ethics
3. The **pilgrimage-metaphor**  
– against the reduction of 'Just Peace' to a socio-political aim



## I. Steps leading to the Ecumenical Pilgrimage

1. Continuation of the Conciliar Process for  
*Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation*
2. *Just Peace*  
– as the new Paradigm of Ecumenical Theology and Social Ethics
3. The *pilgrimage-metaphor*  
– against the reduction of 'Just Peace' to a socio-political aim
4. The Pilgrimage *of Justice* and *of Peace*  
– a Journey *of* the Churches



God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace

World Council of Churches  
10th Assembly

생명의 하나님,  
우리를 정의와 평화로  
인도하소서

Worship

God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace

World Council of Churches  
10th Assembly

生命的主  
引領我們邁向公義與和平

Worship

God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace

Diyong Sheng  
anhan kini tung sa  
doyo at Kasaysayan

Worship

God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace

ದಯಾಕಾರಿ  
ನಿನ್ನನ್ನು ಕಾಣುವ  
ಮಾರ್ಗವು

Worship

God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace

ದಯಾಕಾರಿ  
ನಿನ್ನನ್ನು ಕಾಣುವ  
ಮಾರ್ಗವು

Worship

God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace

ದಯಾಕಾರಿ  
ನಿನ್ನನ್ನು ಕಾಣುವ  
ಮಾರ್ಗವು

Worship

회의실 2,3층 →  
Meeting Room 2,3F

주요행사장 안내, 주차장  
주요행사장 안내, 주차장





## “Stations” of the Pilgrimage of the international *Reference Group on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace*

- 2015 **Geneva** (Europe) – Climate Justice
- 2016 **Israel/Palestine** – Peacebuilding in Contexts of Violence
- 2017 **Nigeria** – Peacebuilding in Contexts of Interreligious Conflict
- 2018 **Colombia** – Diakonia and Sustainable Development
- 2019 **Myanmar/Bangladesh** – Racism





## **II. Transformative Spirituality**

### **– the Trinitarian Foundation of ‘Just Peace’**



## II. Transformative Spirituality

- a. Via positiva
- b. Via negativa
- c. Via transformativa







## II. Transformative Spirituality

- a. **Via positiva – Celebrating the Gifts of Creation**
- b. **Via negativa – Visiting the Wounds of Violence**
- c. **Via transformativa – Transforming the Injustices**



## II. Transformative Spirituality

- a. **Via positiva – Celebrating the Gifts of Creation**
- b. **Via negativa – Visiting the Wounds of Violence**
- c. **Via transformativa – Transforming the Injustices**

→ and the trinitarian foundation of Just Peace

## Statement on the Way of Just Peace (2013)

Together we believe in **God, the Creator** of all life.

Therefore we acknowledge that every human being  
is made in the image and likeness of God...

In wondrously creating a world with more than enough natural riches  
to support countless generations of human beings and other living  
things,

God makes manifest a vision for all people to live  
in the fullness of life and with dignity,  
regardless of class, gender, religion, race or ethnicity.



## Celebrating the Gifts – *via positiva*

We do not journey with empty hands, nor do we walk alone.

The “**original blessing**” of being created in the image of God and together – as a fellowship – we are a unique part of the wider web of life, which amazes us.

Together we celebrate God’s great gift of life, the beauty of creation and the unity of a reconciled diversity.

We feel empowered by this grace to participate **God’s movement** of love, justice and peace.



pilgrimage  
of justice  
and peace





**Focus 2018: Colombia**

## Statement on the Way of Just Peace (2013)

Together we believe in **Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace**.

Therefore we acknowledge that humankind is reconciled with God, by grace, and we strive to live reconciled with one another.

The life and teachings, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, point toward the peaceable kingdom of God.

Despite persecution and suffering, Jesus remains steadfast in his way of humility and active non-violence, even unto death.

His life of commitment to justice leads to the cross, an instrument of torture and execution.

With the resurrection of Jesus, God confirms that such steadfast love, such obedience, such trust, leads to life.

By God's grace we too are enabled to take the way of the cross, be disciples and bear the costs.



## Visiting the Wounds – *via negativa*

This pilgrimage will lead us to the locations of ugly violence and injustices.

We intend to look for

**God's incarnated presence**

**in the midst of suffering, exclusion, and discrimination.**

The true encounter with real, contextual experiences of a broken creation and sinful behavior against each other

might inform us anew about the essence of life itself.

It might lead us to repentance and

– in a movement of purification –

liberate us from obsession with power, possessions, ego, and violence, so that we **become ever more Christ-like.**







pilgrimage  
of justice  
and peace



Focus 2018: Colombia



## Statement on the Way of Just Peace (2013)

Together we believe in the **Holy Spirit, the Giver and Sustainer** of all life.

Therefore we acknowledge the sanctifying presence of God in all of life, strive to protect life and to heal broken lives...

The Holy Spirit assures us that the Triune God will perfect and consummate all of creation at the end of time.

In this we recognize justice and peace as both promise and present – hope for the future and a gift here and now.



pilgrimage  
of justice  
and peace

## Transforming the Injustices – *via transformativa*

Being transformed ourselves,  
the pilgrimage may lead us to concrete actions of transformation.  
We may grow in our courage to live in true **compassion**  
with one another and with nature.

This will include the strength to resist evil – injustice and violence..  
Economic and ecological justice as well as  
the healing of the wounded and  
the striving for peaceful reconciliation is our call  
– in each and every context.



The credibility of our actions might grow  
from the quality of the fellowship we share  
– **a fellowship of justice and peace.**





pilgrimage  
of justice  
and peace







*Defending human rights is  
**a way of life;**  
it is a collective project  
that one must take hold of  
with body and soul  
in order to bring about change.*

*Once you start  
there is no going back  
because once you take that  
first step  
you are no longer responsible  
just for yourself,  
but rather  
for the entire community.*





**pilgrimage  
of justice  
and peace**

**‘Place  
works on the pilgrim...  
that's what pilgrimage  
is for.’**

*Rowan Williams*





pilgrimage  
of justice  
and peace

**You have been told,  
O humankind,  
what is good and  
what God looks for in you.**

**Nothing other than  
to practise justice,  
to love kindness  
and  
to walk gently  
with your God**

(Micah 6:8)