**Resolutions Passed by The Church Peace Union [now Carnegie Council], at its First Meeting, 2/10/1914**

Andrew Carnegie devoted the later portion of his life attempting to create world peace. He established the Church Peace Union (CPU) in February 1914 with the belief that church congregations could become the basis of a grass-roots movement to outlaw war. In a terrible irony, a few months later in July 1914, World War I began.

RESOLVED THAT WE, the members of The Church Peace Union, and one or other of the following religious bodies: Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, Unitarian, Jewish, Universalist, and Friends, as our first duty appeal to the Rulers, Statesmen, and people of all civilized lands to give their immediate, earnest, and prayerful attention to the lamentable facts here presented...to co-operate in abolishing savage war and establishing the reign of peace through arbitration of international disputes...

Here, as it appears to us, lie the two outstanding evils of our day, entailing grave responsibilities upon all religious men from Emperor to workman, that the crime of men killing each other may soon be banished from the face of the earth.

**FIRST:** The combined debt of the world, mostly borrowed and used for war purposes, amounts to nearly $37,000,000,000. If the entire property of the United States were to be sold, and the returns capitalized and put at interest at four per cent, it would just about keep up the military and naval forces of the world in time of peace...Our own country, the United States, spends on Army and Navy $800,000 per day.

The so-called civilized world maintains, chiefly in idle parade, usually all their lives, no less than 6,244,600 men, armed and pledged to go forth and kill their fellowmen as ordered should war arise. Even in war, with men firing at battleships twelve miles distant, with troops under cover firing at troops a mile distant -- war is no longer conducive to the heroic.

**SECOND:** The second sad and distressful crime of our day is that in war we are still capturing private property upon the high seas...[T]he seas are the highways of peaceful and necessary exchange of products; no nation has been created to live by its own products alone, but by peaceful, neighborly exchange with other nations, thus creating a brotherhood of man, each benefitting the other.

There is another aspect worthy of attention: the three Teutonic nations, Germany, the Fatherland; Britain, the Motherland; and the United States, peopled largely with their sons and daughters, all as we have seen, deeply involved in the international exchange of products, naturally possess for its protection the greatest part of the naval power of the world; why, therefore, should they not meet and agree to inform the world in friendly manner that they could not look with favor upon war on the high seas, the sacred pathway of peaceful exchange, promoting the brotherhood of man.

**RESOLVED:** That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent to each Sovereign, President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Relations, President of Legislature, and other high official of the World Powers, and to the clergy of Germany, Great Britain and the United States.

**Suggested Discussion Questions:**

**1. This document was written in 1914 in the lead up to World War I. Could the same reasoning for demilitarization be used today? Explain.

2. This document was written by a group of varied religious leaders. Do you see any overtly religious reasoning for peace in their arguments? Do you think this was a strategy? Explain.**