

NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

Whereas, the detonation of even a single nuclear weapon could set in motion a nuclear holocaust that would incinerate or lethally contaminate masses of human beings;

Whereas, the continued production, testing and stockpiling of nuclear weapons significantly increases the risk of a human or mechanical error that could trigger a detonation, as well as increasing the risk of a nuclear action by a terrorist group;

Whereas, a nuclear war, won or lost, would end civilization as we know it;

Whereas, we want our children to be free of this shadow of death and destruction;

Whereas, we believe that the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons is a moral and physical crime against life on this planet;

Whereas, spending for the nuclear arms race has contributed to the record federal budget deficits which seriously threaten our nations economic stability and continues to divert resources from programs that would provide needed services and assistance to people and communities;

Whereas, tacit approval of nuclear weapons and the nuclear arms race is inconsistent with our mutual bond to practice morality and religion;

Whereas, we are responsible for assuring that the property owned by our religious community shall be used for socially constructed purposes,

Therefore in solidarity with the people of Erie County, who voted overwhelmingly in a special county-wide referendum to freeze the production of nuclear weapons, and with all the people of the world who wished to live in peace and safety, the FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY of ERIE, 7180 NEW PERRY HIGHWAY, ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA, declares

(a) our property to be a nuclear free zone, within which no nuclear weapon nor any component thereof shall be made, tested, stored, transported, disposed of, nor permitted in any fashion,

(b) we renounce the right to be defended by the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons,

(c) we offer our friendship and partnership with others to dismantle nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons systems

(d) we will post this declaration in a permanent and prominent location inside our meeting place and post a "NUCLEAR FREE ZONE" sign near the entrance to our property,

(e) we will share copies of this declaration with other religious organizations in and beyond the Erie community and urge them to adopt similar resolutions.