

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship calls for an immediate halt to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and a return to diplomatic talks. The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship opposes all war. We maintain that the nonviolent realism of Jesus is more compelling than the so-called realism that attempts to justify war by any party.

Here are some commitments we are trying to hold in this moment:

- Putin needs to pull his troops out – we join with the world in raising our voices.
- The folly of nuclear stockpiles is – once again – obvious and inescapable in the face of Putin’s threat. We must end the proliferation of nuclear weapons and dismantle the nuclear weapons that do exist.
- We support war demonstrators, war resisters and conscientious objectors in Russia and in Ukraine as well. We also call upon Ukraine to allow everyone, including men ages 18 – 60, to leave Ukraine if they choose.
- This war highlights the direct link between the threat of war and fossil fuel dependence. We must end our reliance on fossil fuels, which destroy the planet, motivate armed conflict, and force people to become war and climate refugees.
- We must work to end the racism that is turning away Africans fleeing Ukraine at the Polish border.
- For lasting peace, we must address imperialism and militarism in all its forms, including by the US and NATO.
- We are in prayer and discernment about how to “operationalize” our commitment to nonviolence in this moment.

True peace requires those with power to give up that power. But we know that power is never relinquished willingly. That’s why we’re so inspired by the widespread Ukrainian nonviolent resistance to the invasion, like an unarmed person blocking the road so tanks can’t proceed. That’s why we’re inspired by the Russians who are protesting their government’s actions at great personal risk and the Russian soldiers who are surrendering when they realize that they’ve been lied to and the Ukrainians do not want them there. That’s why we’re inspired by creative alternatives to fossil fuels, like the suggestion of using US resources to send electric heat pumps to Europe and undermine Russia’s monopoly on oil and gas.

See presbypeacefellowship.org/blog for the full statement, as well as “Nonviolent Resistance is the Only Thing that Will Ultimately Save Ukraine” by Bill Galvin, PPF Activist Council Member and Counseling Coordinator at the Center on Conscience & War.