

## **RESOLUTION ON DECLARING OURSELVES A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONGREGATION**

passed by a vote of the congregation at the Semi-Annual Meeting, June, 1998

### I. Declaration

As members of Washington Park United Church of Christ, we believe in a God who calls us to participate in caring and supportive relationships. We believe in the inherent good -- though sometimes deeply hidden -- in every human being. We believe in the healing power of reconciliation and restitution.

We are troubled by the failure of our nation's criminal justice system to hear the pain and help identify the needs of victims of crime, to expect accountability on the part of offenders and to reduce the level of violence in our society. We are aware that new responses of Restorative Justice are creating successful outcomes across the country and here in Colorado. The vision of Restorative Justice is to respond to crime by repairing the injuries from crime by promoting healing to victims, offenders and communities. Therefore, we declare ourselves to be a Restorative Justice congregation. As a Restorative Justice congregation, we believe that:

- Our faith calls us to find effective, long-term solutions to the problems of crime.
- Such solutions are necessary for the health of our society.
- The principles of Restorative Justice are a creative step toward reaching that goal.
- If it can be done, the place to begin is here where we are.

### II. Pledge to Action

As an outward expression of ourselves as a Restorative Justice Congregation, we pledge to the best of our ability to:

- celebrate the work our church has already done in the areas of Restorative Justice.
- encourage ongoing education of our whole church family on the important issues of criminal and Restorative Justice.
- include criminal justice concerns in our personal and corporate worship.
- demonstrate our commitment to a just society through political, economic and social justice activities aimed at alleviating the root causes of violence.
- develop an action plan for responding to the victims of violence and crime in our own congregation, community and the world.
- continue to expand our commitment to Restorative Justice activism through our Outreach activities.