



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**



January 23, 2009

Dear friends,

Greetings in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ!

As we approach the end of the sixth year since the invasion of Iraq, there are still a variety of voices and concerns that have not had public audience in ways we believe they should. The “war on terror” that has been manifest most clearly in Iraq and Afghanistan has cost lives and unprecedented amounts of financial resources. Those lives—both those lost and those forever changed—are each precious in God’s sight.

The Church, because of its unique relationships and its engagement in ministries of justice and compassion, has perspectives that are not often available. For that reason, we are pleased to announce the release of “From War to Peace: Iraq and the Church’s Voice,” a resource that has required the commitment and effort of many UCC and Disciples people, and taken several months to compile. This resource provides valuable insight and perspective on issues related to the war from our church partners in Iraq and the Middle East; to the reality of internally displaced Iraqis and Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries; to the impact on individuals serving in the military and chaplains, families, and congregations who know, counsel, and love those military personnel; and to the issues of peace and justice that have been with us since the beginning of human conflict and re-emerged in the past few years.

We hope that you will find these voices inspiring, helpful, and challenging. We know that they comprise perspectives that are necessary. We commend this to you, and pray that peace and justice will prevail.

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