

# Sharing Christ's Peace with all Generations

Lancaster Conference of the Mennonite Church



## The Peace & Social Concerns Commission

Lancaster Mennonite Conference  
2160 Lincoln Hwy. East, Box 5  
Lancaster, PA 17602-1150

Phone 717-293-5246

### **PSCC has the following goals:**

To foster a greater understanding of peacemaking as an integral part of Biblical faith in a world of injustice

To foster a greater understanding of peace theology among Conference leadership.

To encourage people of all ages to embrace the stance of conscientious objection to war and militarism.

To challenge people of all ages to work together for justice and reconciliation and to live a life of service.

To partner with persons with vision and energy for peacemaking throughout Lancaster Conference.

## **Jesus calls us to be peacemakers.**

Anabaptists/Mennonites believe the peace witness is not optional, not marginal, and not related only to the military. We see peace and reconciliation as cardinal to the Christian message and life. Jesus gave His followers this ethic, not as a point to ponder, but as a command to obey. It was costly for Jesus and may also be costly for His followers. Our value system must come from the life and teachings of Jesus.

There is violence around us. Whether we meet violence on the street, or find it hidden in the appeal of a military advertisement, we are confronted with a choice. Choosing peace is not automatic, it requires careful thought, imagination and preparation.

The Christian peacemaker registration form asks you to respond to three questions. The questions come from the Selective Service system form 22. This form, "Record of Conscientious Objection to War," is what you would need to complete in order to claim conscientious objector status in the event of a draft.

In filling out the form, you should be aware the following:

**1** This is not an official claim for conscientious objector status. It is a method to document one's convictions. Documenting these beliefs before you actually file a claim for CO status is particularly helpful. If the draft is ever re-instated, sincerity is basic to having your conscientious claim accepted by a local draft board. Therefore, filling out the enclosed form and having it on file in your church or conference office may speak to questions a draft board may raise about your using a conscientious objector claim as an easy way out.

**2** Filling out the Christian peacemaker registration form does not necessarily imply that you intend to cooperate with any system of conscription.

**3** If the Peace Tax Fund bill becomes law, and you want to designate a portion of your Federal Income Taxes for peaceful purposes, a record of your conscientious objection to war will be helpful.

# ...working **TOGETHER** to teach peacemaking modeled on the life and words of Jesus Christ.

## What can families do?

### Parents

- Be committed to teaching peacemaking to your children
- With your child, think through a response to registration with the Selective Service.
- Fill out Christian Peacemaker Forms and/or sign a pledge of non violence as a Family.
- Model peace in your lifestyle and marriage.
- Model peace in your home concerning toys, movies and the internet.

### Older Adults

- Provide to others the perspective of history and personal experience. Tell peacemaking stories.

### Children

- Watch, listen and learn. Ask questions!
- Practice peace in your friendships and your play.

### Youth

- Ask an adult to help you fill out a Christian Peacemaker Form.
- Practice peacemaking in your friendships and life choices.

## What can congregations do?

### Pastors\*

- Develop and oversee a plan with specific goals for teaching peacemaking in your congregation.
- Preach peace from the pulpit!
- Model peace in your lifestyle and relationships.
- Make sure your congregation is a provider and promoter of the Christian Peacemaker Form.

### Youth Pastors/Sponsors\*

- Develop and oversee a plan with specific goals for teaching peacemaking in your congregation.
- Educate your youth about the Selective Service and help them process their response to registration.
- Once a year invite youth to fill out or update their Christian Peacemaker Form.
- Teach peacemaking in your “community life” of your group.
- Model peace in your lifestyle and relationships.

### Mentors\*

- Talk to youth about peacemaking issues (from personal to global).
- Share your own faith journey as it relates to peacemaking.
- Model Shalom in your relationship with your mentee.

## RESOURCES

### WEB LINKS

**MENNONITE PEACE WRITINGS**  
[www.bluffton.edu/~mastg/pacifism.htm](http://www.bluffton.edu/~mastg/pacifism.htm)

**THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR A PEACE TAX FUND**  
[www.peacetax.com](http://www.peacetax.com)

**MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**  
[www.mcc.org/programs/peace.html](http://www.mcc.org/programs/peace.html)

**CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER REGISTRATION FORM** [www.mcc.org/ask-a-vet/peacemaker.html](http://www.mcc.org/ask-a-vet/peacemaker.html)  
(ALSO SEE BACK PAGE)

**PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE OF THE MENNONITE CHURCH**  
[www.mennolink.org/peace/](http://www.mennolink.org/peace/)

**THIRD WAY CAFÉ (MENNONITE MEDIA)**  
[www.thirdway.com/](http://www.thirdway.com/)

### PRINTED RESOURCES

**DECIDE FOR PEACE**  
Faith & Life Press (Youth)

**PEACE JUST LIVE IT**  
Faith & Life Press (Youth)

**LEAP, TWIST, SPY, LISTEN: DOING NONVIOLENCE** (teacher's manual available) Mennonite Church Peace & Justice Committee (Youth)



### **Christian Education Teachers/ Superintendents\***

- Develop and oversee a plan with specific goals for teaching peacemaking in your congregation.
- Choose curriculum that teaches peacemaking as a core value for all ages.
- Have Christian education participants write down their commitment to peacemaking at various points in their lifetime. (Use the Christian Peacemaker Form for those 15 and older.)
- Model peace in your lifestyle and relationships

### **Church Librarians**

- Provide and promote peacemaking resources to all members of your congregation from young to old.

### **Worship Leaders**

- Pray for peace in rhythm with current events.
- Incorporate music and rituals that remind us of our commitment to peacemaking

## **What can Lancaster Conference do?**

### **The Resource Center (books/videos/ speakers/etc):**

- Provide and promote peace resources for all ages.

- Provide help to congregations wishing to develop a plan for teaching peacemaking in their congregation.

### **Youth & Young Adult Commission**

- Promote peacemaking in congregational youth ministry.
- Incorporate peacemaking into all Conference youth programming.

### **Damascus Road**

- Provide information and seminars that dismantle racism and promote healing in our relationships.

### **Peace & Social Concerns Commission:**

- Support leaders in Lancaster Conference as they call congregations to peacemaking.
- Regularly promote peacemaking in all areas of conference life.
- Serve as monitor of the expectations laid out in this document.
- Provide and promote the Christian Peacemaker Form in LMC.

### **Nurture Commission**

- Provide guidance to congregational leaders for teaching peace for a lifetime.

### **Discipleship Ministries/EMM**

- Incorporate peacemaking as a core value in discipleship training.

### **Bishops**

- Regularly ask the congregations in your district what they are doing with peace education.
- Pray for peace in situations from global to personal.
- Refer leaders to the peace resources available at the Congregational Resource Center.
- Pick up Christian Peacemaker Forms at Bishop Board and make them available to leaders in your district.
- Model peace in your lifestyle and relationships
- Call for congregations to expect a commitment to peace in their leadership

### **Mennonite Schools**

- Integrate Peace and Justice into students total education.
- Educate youth about registering with Selective Service and help them process their response at age 18.
- Be a provider and promoter of the Christian Peacemaker Form.

### **Mennonite Camps**

- Teach and model peacemaking in your programming.

## **What can you & I do?**

- Forgive.
- Do Justice.
- Love Mercy.

*\* These partners might make a natural team to work on peace education and other issues relating to children and youth in your congregation.*

### **KIDS & CONFLICT**

Faith & Life Press (Ages 3-13)

### **PEACE HEROES**

#### **FAST LANE BIBLE STUDIES**

Faith & Life Press (Jr. Youth)

### **LIVING WITHOUT VIOLENCE**

#### **FAST LANE BIBLE STUDIES**

Faith & Life Press (Jr. Youth)

### **MAKING PEACE WITH CONFLICT**

Herald Press (Mennonite Publishing House) (Adult)

### **\* COMING SUMMER OF 2002**

#### **SECOND MILE: A PEACE JOURNEY FOR CONGREGATIONS**

Mennonite Publishing House (Adult)

### **VIDEO RESOURCES**

**RHYTHMS OF PEACE 1,2&3** (video)  
Mennonite Media (Ages 8-11)

### **CHANGE OF COMMAND** (video)

Mennonite Central Committee  
(Youth/Adult)

### **CONCHIES: AN AMERICAN STORY OF COMMITMENT AND COURAGE**

(Video) Sister & Brothers, Inc.  
(Youth/Adult)

These resources are available from  
the Lancaster Conference  
**Congregational Resource Center**  
located at 2160 Lincoln Highway East.  
(Call 717-293-5246)

# Christian Peacemaker Registration Form

Lancaster Conference of the Mennonite Church

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ SS # \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

## Directions

- **TEACHERS, PARENTS, & PASTORS:** Use this sheet to reproduce as many forms as you need.
- Answer the questions below honestly, stating the way you really believe. Attach your answer sheet to this form.
- If you wish, you may attach letters from persons who know you. You may also attach any other information you would like the local board to consider.
- Ask your congregation to keep a copy on file and/or mail a copy to the Lancaster Mennonite Conference Center, 2160 Lincoln Highway East, #5, Lancaster Pa, 17602
- It is recommended you keep a copy of the registration form for your own record.

## Questions

- 1** Describe your beliefs which are the reasons for your claiming conscientious objection to combatant military training and service or to all military training and service.
- 2** Describe how and when you acquired these beliefs. Your answer may include such information as the influence of family members or other persons; training, if applicable; your personal experiences; membership in organizations; books and readings which influenced you.
- 3** Explain what most clearly shows that your beliefs are deeply held. You may wish to include a description of how your beliefs affect the way you live.