



Americus
Mennonite
Fellowship

We Believe in Peace

As a declaration of our faith and in response to the Iraq war, we state the following:

The Costs of War

- The U.S. appropriated **\$400 billion*** in fiscal year 2005 for the military.
- An additional **\$194 billion*** has been dedicated to funding the Iraq war thus far.
- Total federal education spending for fiscal year 2005—**56.6 billion***
- Total Iraqis killed in the war—between **24,000** and **28,000** and counting.**
- Total Americans killed in the war—**1,896** and counting with over **15,000** wounded.

*Figures taken from the Office of Management and Budget at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2006/tables.html>

**Figures taken from the Brookings Institute.

Resources You Can Use

If you or a loved one is of the age to register for the army, know that there is also an alternative. See the links below for more information:

- Information to think about before you enlist:
—<http://www.nisbco.org/>
—<http://www.objector.org/>
—<http://www.mcc.org/thermostat/>
- Answers to some frequently asked questions:
<http://www.mcc.org/co/faq/>
- Ask questions of veterans who are now conscientious objectors to war:
<http://www.mcc.org/us/co/askavet/>
- More helpful information and resources:
<http://peace.mennolink.org/youth.html>

Contact Information

We believe that Christ's example and call to all his followers is one towards peace and justice where love is the bottom line.

- Love each other as I have loved you. (*John 15:12*)
- Love your neighbor as yourself. (*Galatians 5:14*)
- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (*Matthew 5:44*)
- Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. (*Micah 6:8*)
- My Kingdom is not of this world; if it were, then my servants would fight. (*John 18:36*)
- Put away your sword, Peter, they that take the sword will perish by the sword. (*Matthew 26:52*)
- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (*Romans 12:26*)
- Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God. (*Matthew 5:9*)

We believe Jesus Christ indeed provides the way to eternal life by giving his life on the cross. In this way, he also showed the real way of victory through love of enemies.

We believe that Christ calls Christians everywhere to walk to the beat of a different drum. **We acknowledge** that this is not always easy to do. But it is to Christ, not our government, that we owe our highest allegiance.

We affirm the efforts of those who are seeking peaceful solutions amidst violence.

We stand with those who have decided, because of their faith, not to take up arms and fight in the war.

We are disturbed that young people are being recruited into the army through promises of money, opportunity and education only to be sent off to the battle field.

We do not support the aggressive projection of U.S. military and economic power around the world. We believe this results in anger towards the U.S. and hurts our relationships with other countries.*

We lament the absence of well being in our world, in particular the loss of life through acts of terror and wars against terror, wherever they may be.*

We grieve with all those who have lost loved ones in the Iraq war—Americans as well as Iraqis.

We believe that there are only losers when war and violence are sought as the solution.

We reject the assumption that our personal and national security is enhanced through the destruction or destabilization of other nations or people groups.

We call for a more creative response to the sense of vulnerability that has become part of the national fabric since September 11.

We call for an end to this war. Continuation of this war will only bring more pain and suffering to Americans and Iraqis.

We challenge the people of our nation and our leaders to put money and energies into things that have a lasting positive impact or which expand opportunity in the U.S.—better schools, affordable medical care, better outreach to those most in need. Investment in war happens at the expense of investment in our people.

We invite you to walk with us in bringing God's message of peace to all people.

We welcome the opportunity to dialog with you.

* adapted from statements published by the Mennonite Church Peace and Justice Network.