

**W**e invite you to join thousands of Mennonites who are making visible their opposition to a U.S. invasion of Iraq by signing a Mennonite Church USA letter to President Bush. We believe that if we can gather at least 5000 signatures and deliver this letter September 12, our voices will have an impact on President Bush's policy decisions. Please note that J. Daryl Byler, Mennonite Central Committee Washington Office director, is closely working on this process with us.



### Christ calls us to speak to our governments

As our *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* states, Mennonite Church USA seeks to follow the biblical agenda of “being ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20), calling the nations (and all persons and institutions) to move toward justice, peace, and compassion for all people. In so doing, we seek the welfare of the city to which God has sent us. (Jer. 29:7)”<sup>1</sup>

This is our intention in writing a letter to President Bush. As the leaders of our nation struggle to decide whether or not to go to war, Christ calls us to speak boldly. Our confession continues: “Christians may often witness to the state, asking it to act according to higher values or to standards which, while less than what God expects of the church, may bring the state closer to doing the will of God. Christians are responsible to witness to governments not only because of their citizenship in a particular country, but also in order to reflect Christ’s compassion for all people and to proclaim Christ’s lordship over all human institutions.”<sup>2</sup>

### We believe Christ calls us

- To know and live the biblical way of peace,
- To share this understanding with our world,
- To pray for the state of affairs of our world,
- To pray publicly to invite God into our world and as a witness to our community,
- To take actions that bring attention to injustice,
- To care for the “least among us” by advocating in their names,
- To go beyond our comfort zones in our work for peace and justice.

A copy of the letter and more information is available on the Peace and Justice Support Network web site <http://peace.MennoLink.org> or on paper from Kathy Harshbarger, Executive Board office, 574-294-7523.



<sup>1</sup> *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, article 23.

<sup>2</sup> *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, article 23, comment 2.

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