



Don't keep God's vision for peace to yourselves. Share it with your community. A congregation could. . .

### in worship

- sing songs from the peace section of the hymnal.
- celebrate Peace Sunday. Explore biblical foundations for peacemaking.
- at your church retreat, sing peace and creation care songs around the campfire and play cooperative games.
- act out dramas on making peace, using local, historical or biblical stories.
- include prayers for peace in your congregational prayers.
- have regular peace stories for children.

### in congregational life

- teach biblical basis for creation care.
- seek to communicate openly and freely, using *Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love: Commitments for Mennonites in Times of Disagreement*. Learn to face and work through unresolved conflicts.
- make business meetings a setting in which differences are respected. Do not allow old patterns to control decision-making.
- teach about conflict resolution in membership and marriage preparation classes.

### in education

- provide a time for people to talk about jury duty.
- compile suggestions of educational video games, computer games, books, movies, television shows and music for parents and grandparents.

- encourage voluntary service and group service projects for all ages.
- put a peace scripture, quotation or cartoon in your bulletin or newsletter.
- have church video nights. Serve popcorn and lead a discussion afterward.
- schedule peace workers to speak to your congregation. Invite the community.
- distribute textbook covers that promote peace to children in your congregation at the beginning of the school year. Pray for peace in the schools.
- create a wall of memory with the names, images and stories of members who made peace (in the workplace, congregation, neighborhood).

### in finances

- examine the church budget and see if it reflects the congregation's commitment to peace and justice.
- support peace, justice and creation care organizations.
- explore local needs to support with part of your Peace Sunday offering.
- do an energy audit of your church building/budget. Research ways to conserve resources.
- provide concrete local and global giving projects for children and youth through an alternate Christmas bazaar or Sunday school or Bible school giving project.
- gather a group to study war taxes and support each other in withholding.

### in your community

- promote or start environmental clean up and restoration projects.
- work to get military recruiters out of local high schools.
- start a Victim Offender Reconciliation Program.
- start a local mediation center or sponsor conflict resolution training in your local school.
- have a peace toy fair for your community in early November.
- hold a service near the site of murders or accidental deaths as a way to honor those who died, and to ask for God's blessing on family and friends who grieve.
- organize a public witness against war toys when the Christmas season is in full swing.
- offer church facilities as a neutral setting for parties involved in a local conflict, such as a teachers' strike, to meet and seek resolution.
- organize a display for your church or a public event that highlights a policy issue (examples: 100,000 Faces representing Gulf War victims; symbols of lives lost to abortion; 38,000 pairs of shoes representing those who die each year in the U.S. from gun violence).
- host an evening forum for community conversation on the latest global conflict. Welcome honest responses. Serve refreshments to make room for informal fellowship.
- reduce, reuse, recycle.

## in your community (cont.)

- attend trials and pray for people involved in death penalty cases.
- sponsor "Peace of Pizza" with a local pizza place. Children who turn in a toy weapon receive a free piece of pizza.
- host a community peace concert.

## in the world

- support the work of international environmental preservation groups.
- distribute a Prayers for Peacemakers calendar to congregation members.
- as a Sunday school class, correspond with a prisoner.

- sponsor a full time Christian Peacemaker Team corps members or reservist.
- contact Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) to be matched in the Campaign for Secure Dwellings on behalf of a Palestinian family whose home is or may be demolished.
- pray faithfully for a peace worker. Send letters of encouragement and chocolate.

## in advocacy

- organize a public witness such as a prayer vigil, march or demonstration in response to a concern.
- include children during an annual letter-

- writing campaign on a public policy issue—like Bread for the World's offering of letters.
- engage in nonviolent civil disobedience to call attention to a law or policy that is immoral.
- tell the story of your creative advocacy through your local media and/or the Mennonite press.
- call someone in your congregation to "kick start" your plan of action by serving as your "peace mobilizer."

For information about this brochure, contact Susan Mark Landis, Mennonite Church USA. You may copy this brochure for local distribution. Do not copy the comic strip alone without permission from Joel Kauffmann, <PontPud@aol.com>.

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## For resources and help, contact:

