

# **ACTION AGAINST PAYING FOR WAR**

## **Background**

In our Assembly “Covenant and Understandings” we have the following commitment we have made to one another:

We believe that accepting Christ as Lord and guide in all the decisions and activities of life in this time and context involves the following:

Living as those whom Christ calls to be peacemakers in all areas of life. We commit ourselves to reconciliation in situations of brokenness and oppression, conscientious objection to military service, and the use of economic resources in a way consistent with Jesus’ nonresistant love. The congregation pledges support to members refusing...war tax payment.

We have been conscientious objectors to giving our bodies for training for killing and military service. But we are finding that the need in contemporary warfare is as much for dollars for an unprecedented military machine as for the bodies of those ready to participate. Many of us are, at this time, faced with the demand of the United State government that we participate in paying for war, as well as, at times, participating in its execution. Some or many of us are conscientious objectors to participating voluntarily in paying for destruction and killing.

The church bodies that merged to form the Mennonite Church USA have both supported war tax resistance as a form of conscientious objection to participation in war.

## **Proposed actions**

In the present situation, we take the following actions:

1. We encourage our members (a) to withhold voluntary payment of at least \$10.40 of the amount the Internal Revenue Service requests as calculated on our Form 1040 income tax returns and (b) to enclose with their tax returns letters to the Internal Revenue Service (with copies to our legislators, as appropriate) explaining their reasons for withholding the amounts they are not forwarding and stating that the amount they are withholding is being contributed to a charitable organization working for peace rather than being retained for their personal use.
2. We ask members who are withholding amounts from their income tax payments to inform Karl Shelly or Lora Nafziger of our Assembly Mennonite Church Pastoral Team, and we ask that our Pastoral Team inform us of the numbers of those who are withholding amounts so that we may include in our communications with the I.R.S. the fact we are doing this with the support and cooperation of others in our congregation.
3. We add our name, “Mennonite Church – Assembly” to the list of “Endorsing Organizations” of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund.
4. If a member of our congregation senses a call to this witness, we propose that the member of Assembly Mennonite Church be supported in this call and made available for appointment as an Indiana “Congressional District Contact” (“CDC”) person for the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund.

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