



Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Peace and Justice Ministries
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CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER REGISTRATION

Dear Friend:

Voices of faith. Voices of peace. The quotations on the cover page come to us from across the centuries and around the world. They are voices of courage which nurture and challenge us. With your words and your life, you can choose to add your voice to theirs.

What do you believe about the call of God and the call to arms? How does God ask you to live and make peace in our world? Can you offer clear reasons for your beliefs and convincing evidence in your life?

The CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER REGISTRATION FORM provides you with an opportunity to think through these questions. This is important for several reasons:

- (1) Jesus clearly calls all of us to be peacemakers. If we would follow Jesus, we need to discover what this means for us.
- (2) A world suffering from violence needs people who will choose peace. Whether we meet violence at home, on the street, at school, or hidden in the appeal of a military advertisement, we are confronted with a choice. Choosing peace is not automatic. It takes preparation and courage.
- (3) If the government should ever return to a military draft, a written record of your conscientious objection to war may help establish the sincerity of your conviction.
- (4) If the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill becomes law, and you want to designate your federal income taxes for peaceful purposes, a record of your conscientious objection to war may be helpful.

The 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.

If you are not a conscientious objector to war, please fill out the form, answering the alternate question (1A) for question one.

We urge you to keep a copy of this form. MCC U.S. Peace and Justice Ministries will also keep a copy on file if you send it to us.

Sincerely,

Titus Peachey
MCC U.S.
Peace and Justice Ministries

INSTRUCTIONS

1. The primary purpose of the Christian Peacemaker Registration Form is to strengthen our commitment to be peacemakers in the name of Christ. Peacemaking is a spiritual journey. It includes our relationship to God, to one another, and to creation. We believe it is important to make peace in the home, in the community, and among nations.

This form focuses on one aspect of peacemaking only: conscientious objection to war.

2. We encourage everyone between the ages of 16-18 to begin a file regarding your peace convictions. Your file should contain the Peacemaker Registration Form, letters of reference from persons who know you, and a record of any actions you have taken which support your commitment to peace. Actions might include a public speech, mediation training, letters to congress, charitable contributions, participation in service projects, etc.
3. This is **not** an official claim for conscientious objector status. The legal value of the Peacemaker Registration Form is not certain. Based on past experience with the Selective Service System, it is clear that the ability to document one's convictions is important. Documenting these beliefs before you actually file a claim for Conscientious Objector status is particularly helpful.
4. Take your time to study, pray, and discuss your beliefs with others before filling out the form. Talk with your family, your pastor, youth advisors, or others in your congregation. The attached list of resources may also be helpful.
5. Further evidence of your peace convictions may be submitted at any time after you originally file your Record.
6. Filling out the Peacemaker Registration Form does not necessarily imply that you intend to cooperate with any system of conscription.
7. You may file your Peacemaker Registration Form with your congregation, conference office, or with MCC U.S. Peace and Justice Ministries.