

# Statement on the War in Iraq

## Mennonite Church USA

### This is our faith:

We believe that peace is the will of God. God created the world in peace, and God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ, who is our peace and the peace of the whole world. Led by the Holy Spirit, we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing nonresistance, even in the face of violence and warfare. (Article 22, *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, 1995)

We believe that the church is God's holy nation, called to give full allegiance to Christ its head and to witness to every nation, government and society about God's saving love. (Article 23)

### This is our hope:

The biblical vision is of a day when nations will no longer learn war (Isaiah 2:4, Hosea 2:18, Micah 4.3), a day when God will wipe away all tears and when death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more. (Revelation 21:4) It is this glorious vision and the example of Jesus Christ that moves us, even now, to live as peacemakers in our world.

### This is our love:

- ❖ We will repent for ways we have contributed to this war;
- ❖ We will pray for peace, justice and reconciliation,
- ❖ We will renew our commitment to teach peace to every generation and to provide youth with meaningful alternatives to military service;
- ❖ We will support Mennonite Central Committee's work in Iraq, including relief, development, and peace projects;\*\*\* We will encourage those called from our congregations to serve on Christian Peacemaker Team delegations to Iraq;
- ❖ We will offer our support to local military personnel and their families as they deal with the trauma of this war;
- ❖ We will reach out in friendship to local Muslims;
- ❖ We will join our voices with many other people of faith who are calling for our national leaders to end the U.S. military presence in Iraq, recognizing that such visibility is fueling a growing insurgency movement and adding to the daily suffering of ordinary Iraqis.

In all this, we seek to be "that 'city on a hill' which demonstrates the way of Christ" and to faithfully call "the nations (and all persons and institutions) to move toward justice, peace and compassion for all people." (Article 23, *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, 1995)

Mennonite Church Delegate Assemble  
Charlotte, North Carolinas  
July 9, 2005