

## **Society of Friends (Quakers)**

Since all men are children of one God we are called on to love and respect all persons, to overcome evil with good, and to meet with positive good will those with whom we disagree.

In the year 1660 a Quaker "Declaration" to King Charles II reads as follows: "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever; this is our testimony to the whole world. The Spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil, and again to move unto it; and we certainly know and testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us unto all truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ nor for the kingdoms of the world... Therefore, we cannot learn war anymore."

Quakers declare their faith in those abiding truths taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ - that every individual of every race and nation, is of supreme worth; that love is the highest law of life, and that evil is to be overcome, not by further evil, but by good. The relationship of nation to nation, of race to race, of class to class, must be based on this divine law of love, if peace and progress are to be achieved. We believe in those principles, not as some mere ideals for some future time, but as part of the eternal moral order and as a way of life to be lived here and now. War is a colossal violation of this way of life. If we are true to our faith we can have no part in it.

We affirm the supremacy of conscience. We recognize the privileges and obligations of citizenship; but we reject as false that philosophy which sets the state above the moral law and demands from the individual unquestionable obedience to every state command. On the contrary, we assert that every individual; while owing loyalty to the state, owes a more binding loyalty to a higher authority - the authority of God and conscience.