

What Does IPN Do?

Our website is filled with information and resources about important issues of the day. This is a website that intends to build community throughout the state and hopefully offer convenience. At the top of the "home page" there are three calendars. The more state-wide listings that we can get in one place, the better connected we will be... Please utilize these places to post your events and check often to see what's going on.

We participate with the Iowa Peace Task Force, with the focus on opt-out registration, and policies and procedures regarding military recruitment;

We keep a visible presence in the community by participating in weekly vigils at Nolan Plaza in Des Moines... In order to "see" we attend to the log in our eyes and are freed to change course.

Community outreach consists of: speaking engagements, street theater (which can substitute as a sermon,) educational films, Pastors for Peace events etc. Please utilize us when planning events.

In our Peace Resource Center we have Fair Trade Palestinian olive oil, perpetual peace calendars, Family-run hand made pottery items, educational materials, bumper stickers for our "bumper sicker ministry," note cards, reusable shopping bags etc.

We administer the Penalty Sharing Community and facilitate help with fines and penalties for those people who resist war taxes or participate in direct action or civil disobedience.

The quarterly newsletter the "Dovetail"— please contact us to receive it or read it on the website, www.iowapeacenet.org

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Iowa Peace Network

Forgiveness, Love, Peace

(Morse code)



Motivated by faith in God and a commitment to the way of life exemplified by Jesus Christ, we invite like-minded individuals, churches, and other groups to unite in the Iowa Peace Network to build a sense of community among those who find common ground for a peace witness in our day; to facilitate exchange of information, cooperative study and action, and encouragement of one another in peaceful pursuits; to demonstrate the effectiveness of an active peace witness in the interrelationships of individuals and groups; to pose life affirming alternatives to the prevailing trust in armaments for security and peace in the world."
-IPN's Statement of Purpose, 2007

Who Supports Us?

1. The United Methodist Church, Iowa Annual Conference;
2. Church of the Brethren, Northern Plains District;
3. Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, Conservative;
4. Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends United Meeting;
5. Mennonite Church, Central Plains District.
6. Generous contributions from individuals.

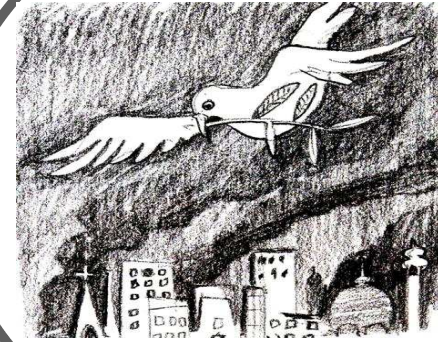
Each of these denominations is represented on IPN's Joint Oversight Committee. IPN is a 501 (c) 3, Nonprofit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.

What Do We Believe?

In all areas of life, we are called to be Jesus' disciples. Jesus is our example, especially in his suffering for the right without retaliation, in his love for enemies, and in his forgiveness of those who persecuted him. Led by the Spirit, and beginning in the church, we witness to all people that violence is not the will of God. We witness against all forms of violence, including war among nations, hostility among races and classes, abuse of children and women, violence between men and women, and capital punishment. —Mennonite Art. 17 & 22

In any forced option between loyalty to God and loyalty to the state, the choice of any Christian is clear. Obedience to God is their first and highest responsibility, their supreme loyalty, their positive beginning point, their plumb line for decision-making. It is a case of positive obedience to God, though the state may negatively call it "civil disobedience." From the Christian perspective it is the state which is in the condition of disobedience to God and his purposes for the world. **Brethren 1969 Annual Conference Statement**

Ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.
—Leonard Cohen



Vigil with us at Nolan Plaza, Des Moines, IA
Thursdays from 11:30—1:00

thought and expression, as demanded by our democratic philosophy, and would not tolerate tendencies toward transforming the nation into a police state. We would be more sensitive to the deadening impact of our industrial life, and to the inadequacy of prison systems, medical care, and housing. Instead of thinking of our democracy as something which is final and complete, and therefore belonging essentially to the past, we would think of it as a growing and developing vision, belonging essentially to the future. We would know that it cannot be guarded behind a radar screen, but must be shared freely and dangerously with all men, whose contribution is also needed for the realization of the vision. We would discover again the wisdom of Jefferson that error may be tolerated, as long as truth remains free to combat it. Any nation which, in this fear-ridden age, had the courage to trust the democratic process instead of bartering democracy for the illusory security of an atomic stockpile would speak with undreamed power to enslaved men the world over. **Speak Truth to Power: American Friends Service Committee**

"Not peace at any price, but love at all costs."

-- Dick Sheppard

The United Methodist Church strongly protests all unilateral first-strike actions and strategies on the part of any Government or military force and calls on the President and Congress of the U.S. to cease and desist from such actions...

Since the non-violent insight underlines the necessity of first attacking our own evils, it is clear that the American people would be obligated to move farther in overcoming racial discrimination and religious intolerance. We would insist on maximum freedom of

TENT ADOPTION:

**Redistribute camp gear...
from our garages and basements... to
folks who live outdoors!**

Iowa Peace Network collects unused camp gear. We will pick it up from your house and give it to those living in tent camps. This is tax deductible for you. For those who live outside the



Photo by Trish Toma-Lark

Des Moines metro area, creativity facilitates getting the equipment here! There are places in Iowa that do not have large populations who live outdoors yet in many urban areas throughout the state there are significant communities of our brothers and sisters living without shelter.

**Please consider Iowa's harsh climate and
Imagine how much better life is with a Tent,
Bike, Cooler, Sleeping Bag, Camp Stove,
Tarp/Rope/Lantern/Candle etc.**

We are grateful for complete tents and working bikes, we cannot make repairs or locate missing parts. Remember that any contribution is tax deductible and will make a real difference to all who receive these items! 515-255-7114

THIS IS PEACEMAKING!



Penalty Sharing Community

Governmental power is often maintained through oppression and the tacit compliance of the majority of the governed. Any significant withdrawal of that compliance will restrict or dissolve governmental control. Apathy in the face of injustice is a form of violence. Struggle and non-violent conflict are often necessary to correct injustice.

"In those days the Church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society...you assert that our actions, even though peaceful, must be condemned because they precipitate violence [arrest,] but is this a logical assertion? Isn't this like condemning a robbed man because his possession of money precipitated the evil act of robbery? Society must protect the robbed and punish the robber...." MLK Jr.

IPN maintains a mailing list of persons who have made a commitment to share in the penalties assessed to individuals and families who have chosen to resist war taxes or have incurred fines & penalties for non-violent direct action or civil disobedience. If the resister was assessed a \$300.00 penalty, each of the persons in the Penalty Sharing Community would share in the cost. If we have 200 people in the Community, each would pay \$1.50. **PLEASE JOIN**

**Anyone who believes that all laws should
always be obeyed would have made a fine
slave catcher. Anyone who believes that all
laws are applied equally, despite race,
religion, or economic status, is a fool.**

~John J. Miller

Here at IPN Peacemaking is viewed to be: Prayer; Environment; Prison reform; Just economics; Local and organic food; Welcoming all peoples; Nuclear disarmament; Racial equity; Support of loving relationships and; Health care; Working to end war etc .

We are driven by the commands that we find in the Gospel—Unconditional Love, Unlimited Forgiveness, Radical Egalitarianism and Bottom-Up organizing structures.

Please join in this Community!

...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' ... for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'..."
Matthew 25:35-46

Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.

—Mark Twain



**We thrash, curse for air
as our strangler declares
Look, how violent the Arab**
Zein El-Amine



...When we let the
rifles fall from our
shoulders

And children dress their dolls in flags of truce
When land mines of death have been removed
And the aged may walk into evenings of peace
When religious ritual is not perfumed
By the incense of burning flesh
And childhood dreams are not kicked awake
By nightmares of abuse
When we come to it.
We, this people, on this small and drifting planet
Whose hands can strike with such abandon
That in a twinkling, life is sapped from the living
Yet those same hands can touch with such healing,
irresistible tenderness
That the haughty neck is happy to bow
And the proud back is glad to bend
Out of such chaos, of such contradiction
We learn that we are neither devils nor divines
When we come to it
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body
Created on this earth, of this earth
Have the power to fashion for this earth
A climate where every man and every woman
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety
Without crippling fear
When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this world
That is when, and only when
We come to it. — Maya Angelou

A Brave and Startling Truth