

Peace in the Public Square

Presentation & Discussion

Saskatoon, 2009



Workbook Page 74:

July, 2008: A Resolution from the Mennonite Church Canada Delegate Body

BE IT RESOLVED:

Our nation is at war and we are becoming a more militaristic culture.

The principles of “redemptive violence” are being aggressively promoted to justify the increase in military spending and the shedding of blood by and of Canadian soldiers. Christ’s message of peace, reconciliation, and grace needs to be heard in our country.

Realizing that we are called to bear witness for Christ and his message, we request that the staff of MC Canada develop a proposal for promoting the peace message in the “public square”, and that it is presented at the 2009 annual delegate assembly.



Workbook Page 73:

A proposal for promoting the peace message in the public square:

Given what is (and is not) viable, what is already being done, and what is needed, we make a simple proposal:

We propose:

- that *each* part of the Body within Mennonite Church Canada commit to publicly engage *one* local (regional, national, international) issue per year for the next 4 years;
- that *each* part of the Body commit to provide the education and resourcing needed (within and beyond the Body) to articulate and explain the public engagement from a Peace Church perspective;
- that *each* part of the Body commit to provide a written report to Mennonite Church Canada, outlining its engagement and reflecting on the impact of its work;
- that Mennonite Church Canada staff commit to resource the educational needs of these initiatives;
- that Mennonite Church Canada commit to compile these engagements into an annual summary report, providing perspective and analysis as needed and helpful;



This proposal assumes that our objectives are...

- To help inform the general public and governments that non-violent peace making is possible.
- That there are Christians and churches who believe in non-violent peace making and intentionally work at it.



Some options...

- Visit your local MP once a year and encourage an imagination for peace.
- Equip your congregation to speak out for peace.
- Annually write letters to editors of your local paper that encourage an imagination for non-violent peacemaking in the world.



Some options...

- Consider alternate ways of acknowledging Remembrance Day. eg. Encourage your local school to imagine a message of non-violent peacemaking for Nov. 11 services. Promote www.alternativeservice.ca in your local school
- Support conscientious objection to military taxation via Conscience Canada. (www.consciencecanada.ca) & 1,000 Acts of Peace initiative
- See page 74-77 in your Workbook for more ideas
- Visit www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre



An advertising proposal... messaging

- Make a date with peace.
- Give your conscience a workout.
- Imagine life without war.



Make a date with peace.



liveforpeace.ca



Give your conscience a workout.



[your name]
Mennonite
Church

liveforpeace.ca

W 200th

PATTISON





Some funding illustrations...

caveats

- Costs are at current rates and could go up or down, do not include taxes, but do include production (printing) costs.
- These illustration are not “apples-to-apples” comparisons. Every market is different. Costs represent what is deemed to be the most effective means for the least cost in each market.
- There are other means of advertising for which costs have not been estimated.



Some funding illustrations...

Costs are at current rates and could go up or down, do not include taxes, but do include production (printing) costs.

If **23** MC Canada congregations in Wpg. Regina, and Saskatoon combined resources, the following advertising would cost each congregation about **\$400 each for 4 weeks** of:

- *One billboard in Regina*
- *5 transit shelters in Saskatoon*
- *30 busses in Wpg.*



Some funding illustrations...

Costs are at current rates and could go up or down, do not include taxes, but do include production (printing) costs.

If **11** MC Canada congregations in Edmonton and Calgary combined resources, the following advertising would cost each congregation about **\$750 each for 4 weeks** of:

- 4 light rail stop posters*
- 4 transit shelters*



Some funding illustrations...

Costs are at current rates and could go up or down, do not include taxes, but do include production (printing) costs.

If **15** MC Canada congregations in
Kitchener-Waterloo area combined
resources, the following advertising
would cost each congregation about
\$650 each for 4 weeks of:

– 13 Transit Shelters



Some funding illustrations...

Costs are at current rates and could go up or down, do not include taxes, but do include production (printing) costs.

If 7 MC Canada congregations in the Toronto area combined resources, the following advertising would cost each congregation about:

\$800 each for 2 weeks of 97 digital ads in downtown office tower elevators (15 second exposure, 45 second rotation)

OR

\$1350 each for 1 week of 256 digital subway screens (15 second rotation)



Some funding illustrations...

Costs are at current rates and could go up or down, do not include taxes, but do include production (printing) costs.

- If 6 MC Canada congregations in Vancouver combined resources, the following advertising would cost each congregation about:
 - \$600 each for 4 weeks of a billboard
 - \$1050 each for 6 transit shelters



Discussion...

- Is this an initiative you can see your congregation grabbing hold of? (yes, no, why?)
- Are you able to commit, on behalf of your congregation, to support this initiative with action?



Food for thought...

" . . . in the conflicts in the past 15 years, only 7.5% have ended with a military victory by one party over the other. The negotiation route, though long and difficult, is the one that prevails in 92% of the cases. The challenge is thus not being a skilful warrior but a skilful negotiator." - 2008 Peace Process Yearbook, School for a Culture of Peace, Autonomous University of Barcelona.

