

A Call of Conscience

“The Brethren commitment to peace has manifested in many ways over the years and remains an important aspect of Brethren doctrine for many members today. Historically, the Church of the Brethren has taken the stance that military service is antithetical to the teachings of Jesus. At the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, we believe it is important for Brethren to be aware of their options when it comes to engaging with the government on issues of war and peace.”

Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

One thing Brethren can do to be a witness for peace, and many Brethren have done in the past, is to become a conscientious objector to war. A conscientious objector, or CO, is someone who is opposed to serving in the armed forces and/or bearing arms on the grounds of moral or religious principles. The Church of the Brethren has resources that can help young people explore their own peace position based on Biblical teaching and the traditions of the church.



The Church of the Brethren’s webpage on conscientious objection to war is at www.brethren.org/peacebuilding/co. Links on this page direct young people who want to learn more about what conscientious objection means and its biblical and Brethren roots to a **free downloadable curriculum** titled “**Call of Conscience.**” The direct link to the curriculum is www.brethren.org/peacebuilding/co/introduction. Also available on the webpage is a **CO Toolkit**. A link is offered as well to the Church of the Brethren’s ecumenical partner on conscientious objection, the **Center on Conscience and War**, which got its start in 1940 as an initiative of the historic peace churches and is now the main organization offering aid to conscientious objectors who want to leave the military as well as general services to those objecting to military violence. The direct link to the Center on Conscience and War is <https://centeronconscience.org>

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