

Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War

If I promised you a life of comfort, a good family, membership in a wonderful church, meaningful work, college education for your children and energetic defense of your human rights in exchange for one small thing:

You agree to pay for the killing of one person. Just one. Nobody you know.

And you won't be the only one. Everybody is chipping in.

You don't actually have to do it yourself, just make a small contribution.

Would you do it?

We are invited to this Faustian bargain every day of our lives when we are asked to consent to pay for war.

We encourage Friends to affirm the promise of peace in our faith, act as led, engage in public witness, talk to family and friends, write, speak, utilize the courts or other avenues for public witness, direct federal tax liabilities to the Purchase or Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting escrow accounts as able and/or seek spiritual guidance and support on matters of conscience and war taxes.

This support is offered in many ways but it often begins with a conversation. These many conversations, some one-on-one, some within a support committee, some with those whose cases are making their ways through the courts, some in Conscience Studios, some through Conscience and Peace Tax International or the Center on Conscience and War, all feed like small streams into a river of discourse which serves to create a world-wide community for what might otherwise be a very isolating witness in today's world.

*David Bassett, Ann Geiger, Naomi Paz Greenberg (clerk), Nadine Hoover, Daniel Jenkins,
Karen Reixach (recording clerk), Andrew von Salis.*