

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP**

Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk

This form is a public record

MEETING DATE: May 27, 2010

SUBJECT: Presentation of Check to Multnomah County, with letter of explanation

AGENDA NUMBER OR TOPIC: _____

FOR: _____ AGAINST: _____ THE ABOVE AGENDA ITEM

NAME: John T. Schwiebert / Pat Schwiebert

ADDRESS: 2116 NE 18th Ave

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97212

PHONE: DAYS: 503 281-3697

EVES: 503 281-3697

EMAIL: john@metanoiaumc.org

FAX: _____

SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: _____

IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

1. Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk.
2. Address the County Commissioners from the presenter table microphones. Please limit your comments to **3 minutes**.
3. State your name for the official record.
4. If written documentation is presented, please furnish one copy to the Board Clerk.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

1. Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk.
2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.

18th Ave Peace House a ministry of Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church

2116 NE 18th Ave. Portland, Oregon 97212 Phone 503 281-3697 FAX 503 282-8985 Email: metanoia@tearsoup.com

May 27, 2010

TO THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Greetings:

Every Sunday at 4:00 PM members of our church congregation gather to vigil and pray for peace. We started doing this in 2003 as the United States government was making preparations to invade and occupy Iraq, hoping that our prayers could help prevent this disastrous outcome.

Now, seven years later we continue to pray the same prayer every week. We pray that God will deliver us and our nation from the addictive impulse to make war. We pray that the spirit of violence will depart from us and from our nation and that God's spirit of non-violence and peace will prevail.

But every year at tax time we confront the same dilemma: in good conscience how can we pray for peace and at the same time help pay for war? For that is what we do every time we file a federal tax return and enclose a check made payable to the Internal Revenue Service.

And yet we regard the payment of taxes as a civic responsibility, and we do not wish to be identified with those who find ways to avoid this responsibility.

The way we have resolved this dilemma is to compute the amount of Federal tax we owe, and then to not send that amount to the IRS, knowing full well that we are disobeying the law by our conscientious refusal.

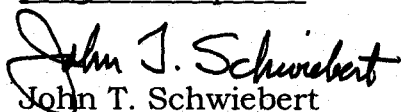
Instead we have chosen to donate this amount to you, our local Multnomah County government, knowing that you are looking out for the common good and promoting the general welfare of the people even when the federal government, in its promotion of military violence and conquest, is not.

Therefore we are here to present to you this check for \$4,104.00. And we thank you for allowing us to redirect our federal tax payment in this way.

Respectfully,



Pat Schwiebert
pat@tearsoup.com



John T. Schwiebert
john@metanoiaumc.org