

President Bush:

JESUS CHANGED YOUR HEART. NOW LET HIM CHANGE YOUR MIND.

PRESIDENT BUSH, We beseech you to turn back from the brink of war on Iraq. Your war would violate the teachings of Jesus Christ. It would violate the tenets, prayers and entreaties of your own United Methodist Church bishops. It would ignore the pleas of hundreds of Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders. You've proclaimed the crucial role of your faith in your life, and you've said that people of faith are often "our nation's voice of conscience." Listen to our voices now.

This is not a just war.

We acknowledge that Saddam Hussein is a cruel tyrant, but a war on the country he rules is not a just war. It will be an unprovoked, pre-emptive attack on a nation which is

Religious leaders from every faith urge President Bush to stop the rush to war on Iraq.

not threatening the United States. It will violate the United Nations Charter and set a dangerous precedent for other nations. It will bring

death and destruction to Baghdad, a huge city filled with innocent civilians. It will take the lives of too many of our own sons and daughters. And its huge cost will be gouged out of the already unmet needs of the poor, the underfed and the under-educated in our own country.

"It is inconceivable that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and the Prince of Peace, would support this proposed attack."

Those are the words of the General Secretary of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Church and Society. Your church leaders have sought private hearings with you to express their passionate objections; they've been denied. All of us who signed this statement share their convictions. A strong faith-based revolt against war on Iraq is coming together in the first weeks of December. If Jesus Christ truly "changed your heart" as you have said, let Him change your mind.

Bishop Melvin G. Talbot, Ecumenical Office, Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church; Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Detroit; Pat Geln, National Coordinator, Fellowship of Reconciliation; Diane Robinson, National Coordinator, Pax Christi USA; Kathy Thornton, ISM, National Coordinator, NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby; Rev. Michael S. Livingston, Exec. Dir., International Council of Community Churches; Bishop Bernard J. Sheil, Founder, Institute for Servant Leadership; Bishop Paul Moore II, Episcopal Bishop of New York (ret.); Jim Wallis, Exec. Dir., Sojourners; Michael S. Kendall, Archbishop, Episcopal Diocese of New York; Rev. George M. Houser, Int. Exec. Dir., American Committee on Africa; Frederick Buchner, Minister; Sister Gal Waldorf, President, Green Mountain Monastery; Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs, Temple KJ Tikva; The Reverend Jeri D. Dehmer-Dowle, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; The Reverend John R. 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RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR SENSIBLE PRIORITIES
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Reverend Robert Edgar
Chair, Religious Leaders for Sensible Priorities
General Secretary, National Council of Churches

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