

Bridgewater College will present a symposium on March 16-17, 2017, entitled “Anabaptist Non-Resistance in the Age of Terror.” The symposium is co-sponsored by the Kline-Bowman Institute for Creative Peacebuilding and the Forum for Brethren Studies.

The gathering will explore the role of non-violence as viewed by Anabaptists and other faith traditions in the context of the dynamic and evolving global society of the 21st century. Traditionally, Anabaptists have condemned military action as sin and refused to participate in military activity, including non-combatant roles. The symposium will ask whether the changing global landscape has created a situation in which old definitions need rewritten. A critical question is the line between police and military action, the former being generally acceptable to Anabaptists and latter not. Is a special forces raid on a group plotting terror a police or military action? Similarly, do people of faith endorse armed force to provide security at refugee camps, prevent terrorists from flying airplanes into skyscrapers, subdue pirates, or rescue school girls kidnapped by terrorists, and do they fight shooters in their classroom or workplace? Further complications include the shift of conflict from inter-state to intra-state, transnational and non-state movements and from states to international organizations, particularly with regard to humanitarian intervention; such shifts make previous appeals to nationalism less relevant. Perhaps Anabaptists will fall back on the two kingdoms theory, for which other priorities take precedence over the ones posed above. In sum, the symposium strives to ask hard questions.

The event will begin on Thursday evening with a panel during a convocation session, and will continue on Friday with presentations in a meeting room (Boitnott) on campus. Speakers are Elizabeth Ferris (refugee security, Georgetown University), Robert Johansen (policing instead of military force; Kroc Center *emeritus*, Notre Dame), Donald Kraybill (Nickle Mines shooting and non-resistance on the personal level; Young Center *emeritus*, Elizabethtown College), Andrew Loomis (violence prevention; Department of State), Musa Mambula, (Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria and Bethany Theological Seminary); and Andy Murray (Baker Institute, Juniata College).

All sessions are open to the public. The Thursday evening lecture is free, and the charge for Friday is \$20, mostly to cover lunch. Times, titles and other details will come later. We will accept walk-ups, but RSVPs are greatly appreciated, mostly to facilitate set-up and lunch.

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