



JOIN MEN RETREATS

Gathering men and promoting their growth

Engaging the Warrior

Of all the roles people play, the warrior is the most difficult for Anabaptist men in the peace church tradition. What place, if any, does the warrior have for us who follow the nonviolent way of Jesus? In a world with many dark warriors who act with aggression and domination, we need nonviolent, peaceful warriors—those who are sacrificial, courageous, and strong in their role to serve and protect. In scripture, Yahweh is a warrior who protects people, fights injustice, liberates from oppression, and brings about justice in service of shalom. As God's Messiah on a warrior's mission, Jesus confronted evil, cleared the temple, and spoke truth to powers. Created in God's image, many men have impressed within them this impulse and are called to serve in the power of nonviolent love. This retreat explores questions about the warrior and engages men with their bodies to experience the differences between being submissive, aggressive, and assertive when faced with threatening or difficult conflicts.

Disclaimer: Some people may find the use of "warrior" objectionable despite the focus of Christian nonviolence in this retreat.

Sessions

- The good, the bad, and the ugly of warrior
- The way of the warrior in the Bible
- Engaging the warrior with our bodies
- Discerning our call to serve and protect
- Commissioning the warrior for God's service



Leader

Steve Thomas, US coordinator of Mennonite Men, appreciates the role of nonviolent warriors to serve and protect. He has connected the warrior with peacemaking as a Mennonite pastor, martial arts instructor, peace educator, and adjunct professor at Goshen College. With a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, Steve was co-founder of Peacemakers Academy—a Mennonite martial arts program (2000-2020)—and author of *EmPower*, a curriculum for transforming conflict and violence.



**Mennonite
Men**

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.