

## **Declaration of Peace – Key Talking Points**

**1) The Declaration of Peace is an initiative of more than 370 groups committed to bearing moral witness at this pivotal point in American history – the occupation in Iraq.**

- We believe appeals to conscience make a difference in this country and have done so throughout our history (the civil rights, labor rights, women's suffrage and anti-Vietnam war movements, for example);

-In contrast to the political bickering this election season, we draw our commitment to action from the moral gravity of the situation and the call of our consciences.

**1) We are calling attention to the failed policies that have led to the escalation of violence in Iraq.**

-It is clear at this point that the Bush Administration policy will not bring peace, but will instead cause more bloodshed, with no end in sight.

-We believe that most Americans are now open to receiving a clear, moral message about the war.

**2) We will confront Congress on moral grounds to demand legislation for a new course in Iraq that would end the occupation in a timely and responsible way.**

-Our goal is that Members of Congress sign the Declaration of Peace pledge and then vote for pending legislation that calls for a prompt timetable for withdrawal of troops, a peace process for security, reconstruction and reconciliation and the shifting of war funding to meet education, healthcare and employment needs.

-If Congress refuses to set a new agenda for Iraq, we are committed to a self-imposed deadline of Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> (International Day of Peace) to take a variety of creative nonviolent actions of moral witness, including civil disobedience.