

Dear Chapel Hill Friends Meeting,

I am writing this letter to document my declaration as a Conscientious Objector, and to ask for your support in doing so. Becoming a Conscientious Objector has been a pressing issue for me because I recently turned eighteen and had to register myself with Selective Service.

I have been attending the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting since birth, and was raised with Quaker values of non-violence. I am opposed to war in all forms. I do not support any war for any reason. I believe that there is the light of God in every human being. Therefore, all humans share a spiritual connection no matter what race, gender, or any other classification they happen to be. Harming another human being not only hurts the victim, it harms the perpetrator as well. Since all people are spiritually connected, it is unnatural and emotionally traumatic to the perpetrator to hurt someone else. I know personally that when I get really angry and mentally wish harm to someone else, very quickly afterwards I reassess the situation and I feel sick for ever wishing to harm someone else.

I do not feel that I could serve the military in either a combatant or non-combatant role because even if I wasn't directly killing people, I would be helping other people kill people. These are my own personal beliefs and I respect other individual's right to choose whether or not to participate in a war effort. However, I myself do not wish to ever aid any war and will not participate in a war in any supportive role.

Sincerely,

Eli Darnell