



The Changing Face of War

Bruce Ervin and Craig Watts

Dear Sacred Conversation participant:

Welcome to a faithful conversation on The Changing Face of War, one of several Sacred Conversations which will be held at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting in Orlando, Florida July 13-17, 2013. The following materials will help you prepare for your participation in this faithful conversation. You will find below a list of links, followed by a piece on the Just War Tradition. Craig Watts and I will be leading the conversation on Tuesday, July 16. We look forward to meeting you then.

Participants should also read GA-1331: Resolution Condemning Drone Warfare
<http://www.disciples.org/GeneralAssembly/Business/Resolutions/1331ResolutionCondemningDroneWarfare/tabid/1394/Default.aspx>

Blessings,
Bruce Ervin

Some Resources:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/aug/02/philosopher-moral-case-drones>
<http://politicsinspires.org/how-the-advent-of-autonomous-drones-will-affect-our-conception-of-ethics/>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/guest-voices/post/white-house-drone-program-legal-ethical-and-wise-is-it/2013/02/05/2777b91c-6ff1-11e2-ac36-3d8d9dcaa2e2_blog.html

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUB3PSOYGsc>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/sunday-review/the-moral-case-for-drones.html>

<http://www.dpfweb.org/singing-of-the-virtues-of-drones/>

Just War Tradition

Background

1. Developed over hundreds of years in Christian theological/ethical circles
2. All criteria must be met for a war to be just
3. Useful in evaluating whether or not armed force is just in a particular context, as well as whether or not the use of particular strategies or weapons is just within that context

Criteria

1. Possessing just cause
 - a. Self-defense and protection of civilians would be examples of just cause
 - b. Initiating acts of aggression (i.e. pre-emptive strikes) generally viewed as unjust
2. Being a last resort
3. War must be initiated by legitimate authority
4. Possessing the right intention
 - a. The pursuit of justice has traditionally been viewed as one such intention
 - b. Self-interest or material/political gain has traditionally been viewed as contrary to right intention
5. Having a reasonable chance of success
6. Proportionality of ends
 - Overall damage of war does not exceed original injury
7. Noncombatant immunity
 - Civilians are not intentionally killed
8. Proportionality of means
 - a. Counter-attack must not be disproportionate to aggression of first attack
 - b. Use weapons appropriate for target (i.e. no canons verses slingshots)
 - c. Combatants face risk roughly equal to that of opponents