Report of Peace & Social Justice Committee
to Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
November 8, 2015

"In our current crisis, nearly 30 million children worldwide have been driven from their homes by war and persecution. Media coverage has lately focused on the Syrian dimension of this tragedy (in part because of the fate of one refugee child, Aylan Kurdi, the Syrian toddler who drowned crossing the Mediterranean in September). But these 30 million girls and boys are from all over — Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea, Libya, Nigeria, Honduras, El Salvador, Myanmar, Bangladesh."

New York Times Special Report, November 5, 2015

Summary of P&SJ Activities since last Monthly Meeting for Business

1. **Meeting of P&SJ Committee, October 18.** Following rise of Meeting for Worship on First Day, Tom Bertrand, Nancy Craft, Patrick Goold, Michele Ewing, Paula Justice, Elizabeth Waitekus, and Bob Young met to share their recent activities and concerns. Various members of the committee had sent their regrets due to out-of-town travel.
2. **Michele Ewing's activities.** Michele reported that *she would be traveling back and forth to Pennsylvania over the next month.* First to Lancaster to assist with a diversity workshop for a leadership group. Then up to Abington Friends School on the 31st for their Diversity Conference, followed by 5 days at Pendle Hill to intern in a diversity training (Nov 1-5). She has also been contacted regarding training for The Philadelphia Friends Yearly Meeting on the 7th, though I haven't gotten all of the details yet.
3. **On October 21 in a classroom at Friends School, the Committee aired the film "Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible."** The Committee will continue seeking opportunities to share this or a related film with a larger group, perhaps to include members of the Baha'i, Pax Christi, and Norfolk Catholic Worker communities.
4. **Individual Members of the Committee have agreed to report to Meeting regarding those Peace & Social Justice issues for which they have particular concern.** Examples of this were the impassioned statements at recent Meetings for Worship offered by Bob Young concerning his support for a Single Payer Health System, and by Patrick Gould concerning his opposition to our government's drone warfare program. In addition, Tom Elder, who has taken responsibility for maintaining communications with Steady Footsteps, recently shared with the Meeting an extended letter from Virginia Lockett in Da Nang updating the Meeting on the work of Steady Footsteps this past year.
5. **The Committee continues its collaboration with other faith-based peace initiatives in our metropolitan area:**
   - **Prayer Walk for Peace and Racial Harmony 2015**. For the second straight year members of our committee co-sponsored this Sunday afternoon gathering and walk with members of the Baha'i community of South Hampton Roads from 2 to 5 pm, Sunday, October 19. Three members of the Committee (Bob Young, Mary Pelham White, and Tom Bertrand) participated, along with a dozen members of the Baha'I fellowship and five members of Pax Christi and the Norfolk Catholic Worker.
   - **Prayer Walk for Peace and Racial Harmony 2016 has been scheduled for June 12, 2016**. Next year this event will include a barbecue at the end of the Sunday afternoon walk at Mt. Trashmore. World Racial Unity Day falls on this date next year.
   - **Social Justice University** (Legislative Collaborative Table of South Hampton Roads), Sunday, November 8th 2:00-4:30 pm, St. Gregory's Catholic Church, 5345 Virginia Beach Blvd Virginia Beach, VA 23462. Participants will hear from Policy Experts on Health Care, Predatory Lending, Virginia Coastal Protection Act and Redistricting. This action-oriented educational event is FREE and open to the public.
   - **Friends Committee on National Legislation Annual Meeting & Quaker Lobby Day**, November 12-15 – Capitol Hill, Washington DC. Tom Bertrand, who serves on the FCNL national General Committee, will attend the four day session. He will share a room at the hotel with FCNL General Secretary Emeritus Ed Snyder.

Submitted for the Committee by Tom Bertrand