Peace, Earthcare & Social Justice Committee

Draft revision of our statement of purpose as of 10/10/2019 – we welcome further suggestions.

The Peace, Earthcare & Social Justice Committee facilitates opportunities for education, advocacy, and service among members and attenders of Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. Our work is based on our belief in the worth of every person and our faith in the power of love to overcome violence and oppression. We believe in the efficacy of nonviolent, persistent, faithful witness for peace, justice, and care of the earth. We meet regularly to share information, plan opportunities to build coalitions, and encourage each other in our respective commitments to spirit-led advocacy.

Our Committee provides leadership for Virginia Beach Friends in the following ways:

- We seek to be effective advocates for peace and public policy change in our world, nation, state, and local community. In accord with the mission of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, "We seek a world free of war and the threat of war and a society with equity and justice for all. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled. We seek an earth restored."
- We plan educational programs for our Meeting about the history of Friends in our community and nation and how our testimonies have measured up to the challenges presented to our forebears over the centuries.
- We aim to stay current with and engage initiatives of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the American Friends Service Committee, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and the Poor People's Campaign.
- We seek to nurture, and whenever possible provide leadership in, statewide and regional coalitions of non-profit organizations with similarly progressive missions, such as the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), Virginia Organizing, Social Justice University, Lynnhaven River Now, and the Legislative Collaborative Table of South Hampton Roads.
- We seek ways to facilitate constructive engagement between public officials and those in our community who feel least empowered and most victimized.
- We maintain supportive relationships with other interfaith organizations with which our Meeting has traditionally partnered, such as the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center (JCOC, a local interfaith outreach to the homeless), the Norfolk Catholic Worker, and Steady Footsteps (an organization founded by a member of Meeting now working in Vietnam).
- We serve as a resource for peace, earthcare, and social justice initiatives of the faculty and students of Friends School, and we advocate for financial support for certain of those initiatives.
- We encourage members/attenders of our Meeting to bear witness to their beliefs by writing letters to newspapers and to public officials, helping organize programs that bring these issues to public attention, such as the One Love Festival, joining advocacy

teams lobbying our public officials, and participating in peace vigils with others of like mind.

- We make annual funding recommendations to the Meeting for Business on behalf of organizations that have historically been supported by our Meeting, as well as organizations more recently granted our Meeting's support . In 2019 our Meeting has provided modest financial support to the following organizations: Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee, Quaker House in Fayetteville, Quaker United Nations Office, Steady Footsteps, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center, Norfolk Catholic Worker, and Ramallah Friends School.

  Draft as of 10/10/2019