Report of Peace, Earthcare & Social Justice Committee
to
Virginia Beach Friends Meeting for Business
13th day of 9th month, 2019

Reminder of Why We Have Changed the Name of our Committee

Mindful of Query Number 10 of our NCYMC Faith and Practice ("Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the world's irreplaceable resources?"), our Committee has been especially concerned to raise higher the visibility of protection of the environment as an advocacy issue for our Committee and our Meeting. In the past, members of our Meeting and School, notably Karen Forget, Whit Peace and Gwynne Wells, have taken leadership in South Hampton Roads for protection of our rivers, through founding of the Lynnhaven River Now project. Environmental protection continues to be a major focus of the educational program at Friends School, which has been a Pearl School for some years, just as our Meeting became a Pearl Faith Community last year. Over the past two years with prodding from Rosie Heart, Faye Bailey, and Lewis White our Committee has been active in advocating for environmental justice, and several of us have participated in environmental justice initiatives of the Poor People's Campaign. Our Committee is actively exploring affiliation with Quaker Earthcare Witness (founded 1994), a network of North American Friends and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies. We hope to position our Meeting and our School to be competitive for the Quaker Earthcare Witness mini-grant program. The 2020 national meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness will take place at the Durham Friends Meeting in April of 2020.

In view of the environmental crisis that the world is facing in the next eleven years, there was enthusiastic agreement on the Committee to seek approval from the Meeting to change the name of our Committee to "Peace, Earthcare and Social Justice" so as to raise the visibility of environmental issues in our Meeting's concern and advocacy. The Committee had seasoned this idea of a name-change for several years. The Committee reported our Committee recommendation to Meeting for Business in 8th Month, then spent much of our Meeting on September 1 and a second meeting on September 29 revising our Committee's statement of purpose. The name change was approved at Meeting for Business in 9th Month, with the expectation that the Committee would update our Committee's statement of purpose accordingly.

Notes from our most recent meeting on September 29, 2019, focused on further revisions in our Committee's Statement of Purpose:

David French, Elizabeth Waitekus, Mary Pelham White, and Tom Bertrand met for 45 minutes following Meeting for worship on the fifth First Day of Ninth Month. Our primary item of business was to review our progress in updating the description of the work of our Committee as posted on the Meeting's website.

The value of posting a full description of the work of the Committee is (1) to remind us of what we seek to accomplish as a Committee, (2) to enable new members of Meeting to understand the work we seek to do and to consider joining us, and (3) to help maintain a record of how the activities and commitments of our Committee have evolved through the years. Our monthly reports to the Meeting for Business, incorporated into the Meeting's archives, constitute a more detailed historic record of the concerns and activities of our Committee.

We made a few changes in our earlier draft (the one that had been attached to our committee report to Business Meeting posted on the website for 9th month) for purposes of clarity (see attached copy of the latest draft). It is out intent to submit a final draft for approval at the Meeting for Business in 11th month.

Kudos to Mary Pelham White for her Op-Ed Piece, *"There Are No 'Winners' in War"* published in the Navy Times for October 2 (see https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/10/02/op-ed-there-are-no-winners-in-war/)

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 12, 11 am to 3 pm at Mt. Trashmore Park. Lynnhaven River Now Fall Festival, with a focus on Trees.

October 21, 2019. The Kings Bay Plowshares defendants will go to trial in Brunswick, GA for their disarmament action at the nearby Trident submarine base.

October 27, 2019 9:30 am. Meet at Meeting House for transport to the Somerton Friends Meeting for morning and afternoon of worship, fellowship, eating, and learning about Quaker history in the Tidewater of Virginia and North Carolina (see attached flyer about this event)

Saturday, November 2, at 12 noon, Christy Coleman, CEO of the American Civil War Museum in Richmond speaks on "How Shall We Remember? The Civil War, Slavery, and Confederate Heritage." This will be the Pax Christi presentation at Virginia Wesleyan's One Love Festival at the new Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center at Virginia Wesleyan University.

November 13-17, 2019, FCNL Annual Meeting & Quaker Public Policy Institute, Washington DC, see
https://www.fcnl.org/updates/annual-meeting-and-quaker-public-policy-institute-2019-27

January 22, 2020, VICPP Day for All People, Richmond, VA, Lobbying day at the Virginia General Assembly, See https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/events/day-for-all-people-2/1579678200/1579705200/

March 28-31, 2020, FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend for Young Friends, Washington DC

June 28-July 4, 2020, Friends General Conference (FGC) 2020 Gathering, Radford University, Radford, Virginia. The FGC 2020 Annual Gathering will be under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Recommended:

Richard Rohr Meditation on Oneness:
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgxwDrRZRrZgXZMfxxCfrwtdHqjvX

Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*
(**timdugganbooks.com**, 2017)

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Bertrand on behalf of the Committee