Peace Earthcare & Social Justice
Report to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
March 13, 2021

Attendance has waned for the PESJ committee, which meets via zoom the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. The reminder email for the February meeting was not sent until the day before. January minutes were never submitted. Subjects on the attached agenda included links to local and national activities and articles.

Faye Bailey, Tom & Beth Bertrand, Elizabeth Waitekus and Mary Pelham White met February 18th, two people sent regrets and three others do not have zoom capability.
After a brief silence, Mary Pelham began with her ongoing concerns about leadership of our committee and stated that she would lay down the position of convener after the Feb. meeting.

No one in our group was prepared to take on that role. We agreed that our meeting are substantive but that articulating a direction during the rapidly changing political and social landscape is very challenging. We determined that we would continue to gather, sans formal agenda and minutes, to listen for a future way. Tom Bertrand offered his personal zoom account and committed to emailing the reminder monthly. At the end of each meeting, we will develop a brief summary to share with VBFM.

In our February meeting, we discussed subjects such as:

- ICANN efforts, via Steve Baggerly, to gain support of an international treaty ban nuclear weapons. Tom B. and Nancy C. attended the last meeting.
- Weekly open discussions with FCNL as well as Tom B's ongoing work with them.
- Our ongoing learning, gratitude, and enrichment studying Caste with DaShaunda T. and Tom B.
- Hope for progress in the way forward for asylum seekers. TITA (Tidewater Immigrant Transportation Association) is listening for how it may be called on to help again. Sally Gudas coordinates some local immigrants' transportation needs to various appointments. Sally brings to Meeting's attention that Giselle Weinstein coordinates food donations and some medical services for thirteen families (local asylum seekers.)
- The insurrection of January 6th,
    - ongoing personal experiences with friends and neighbors after that event
- the COVID pandemic and efforts to gain vaccination.

Mary Pelham White