

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: First Month, 2025



Monthly Query: *Do I faithfully attend Meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?*

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: *Waiting in silent expectation and prayer for guidance from the Light Within is the basis for our Meeting for Worship.*

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Monthly Calendar

First Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 8:15 - 9:15 am - Early worship in the meeting room● 9:30 - 10:30 am - Forum via Zoom● 11:00 am - 12:00<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Worship in the meeting room○ Online worship via Zoom● After meeting - Potluck in the schoolhouse
Second Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 8:15 - 9:15 am - Early worship in the meeting room● 9:30 - 10:30 am - Forum via Zoom● 11:00 am - 12:00 - Blended Meeting in the meeting room and via Zoom
Third Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 8:00 - 9:00 am - Early worship in the meeting room (reverts to 8:15 the following week)● 9:00 - 10:30 am - Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business via Zoom● 11:00 am - 12:00<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Worship in the meeting room○ Online worship via Zoom
Fourth Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Same as Second Sunday - Blended Meeting
Fifth Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Same as First Sunday, but without potluck



Upcoming Zoom Fora

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/forums.html>

January 5: Intent to Protect

A Peace & Justice sponsored forum in response to the following request from Fayetteville Meeting:

“We humbly request that you [read this statement](#) in full, consider sharing it thoughtfully and prayerfully among your meeting or congregation, and choose whether to join in taking this stand alongside us if you feel Jed to do so. Thank you.”

January 12: Quakerism and holiday observances

January 19: MFWAB

January 26: Tell it Slant - Chuck Fager and Emma Lapsanky-Werner on Fager's biography



Upcoming Events

Teen Retreat at New Garden Friends Meetinghouse, Jan. 17-19

Ann Miller shares with Friends:

Quaker Teens of Greensboro would like to invite all North Carolina Friendly Teens to join them for a retreat January 17-19 at the New Garden Friends Meetinghouse. [Register your teen to attend here.](#)

For those who don't know me: I was a Friendly Adult Nurturer (FAN) with the SAYMA youth program SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) for 14 years. I love Quaker teens and I've missed their dynamic energy since "retiring" a few years ago.

My spouse, Mark Wutka, (who was a FAN alongside me--that's how we met!) and I moved to Greensboro in 2023 and became members of Friendship Friends Meeting. In worship at

Friendship one Sunday a few months ago, I was given a Divine nudge to form a Quaker teen program that welcomes young Friends from all the yearly meetings in North Carolina.

I've been working with teens from New Garden and Friendship meetings and with Karin Heller, who is the Religious Ed coordinator at New Garden, to plan our first retreat. This is a new thing and we'll figure out what works and what doesn't as we do it. I think it'll be a great time for the kiddos who attend!

[Register your teen to attend here](#). Email me if you have questions or thoughts at friendmarylinda@gmail.com. And if you know of anyone I should talk with, please connect us!

With gladness,
Mary Linda



Announcements

Heart-Breaking Singing by Ramallah Friends School Students

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsEbIVJy0Gg->

Minute of Intent to Protect

Fayetteville Friends Meeting, Fayetteville, NC

We humbly request that you read this statement in full, consider sharing it thoughtfully and prayerfully among your meeting or congregation, and choose whether to join in taking this stand alongside us if you feel led to do so. Thank you.

Minute of Intent to Protect

As human beings we are all children of God and recognize that among us are many dear friends, family, neighbors, coworkers and others who are immigrants in this country or otherwise marginalized. Some of us have achieved citizenship, some have green cards, some have visas, some are in pending status or similar legal limbo, and others still lack official documentation. Often, this variety of circumstances exist within a family, and the resulting vulnerabilities can be very real, complex, and difficult.

As faith communities inspired by a common sense of divine standards in goodness and compassion, we join in publicly stating our intent to peacefully yet determinedly defend the defenseless and vulnerable in their need . In all morally upright and ethically sound matters we will continue as faithful Americans to cooperate with our government and receive all government agents in goodwill; however, if a case arises of persecution, oppression, or forcible removal of immigrant populations from among us, we will weigh human authority against our leadings to submit to Divine Authority regarding disgraces against the humanity of those in our community. As and when the situation calls for action, we will readily provide shelter, cover, aid and advocacy for our beleaguered neighbors.

We earnestly hope that such a preemptive posture as represented by this minute may prove unnecessary. Yet behind our hopes and prayers, and even as we operate from a general stance of political neutrality, we yet agree to stand ready together to physically assist those persons who may seek our help, to facilitate legal assistance as far as possible, to persistently petition legislators, to send delegations and speak with key government officials, and/or to publicly denounce inhumane government policies which would aim to tear apart immigrant families or inappropriately harass harmless people. We hereby state our intent to take these and similar peaceful actions as such needs may arise.

Remembering that we are all flawed and oft-mistaken human beings, we take this stand not from a spirit of pride or conflict, but in a soul-searching hope for an American future of harmony, peace on earth, and goodwill toward everyone.



Recurring Announcements

InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers

We invite anyone interested in becoming, or knowing more about being an IFC Committee Member to please contact Carolyn White.

We welcome volunteers to help with food preparation and service at ICF every second Thursday for lunch: 10a - 1p, and/or every second Friday for dinner 4p-6:30p. Volunteers are welcome for part of the shift, or the full shift.

Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted

Support Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's Zoom worship and forums by becoming a tech host. The role is much more simple than you would imagine. Trust us! We need your help and will train

you. Please contact the Zoom Subcommittee if interested, or have questions:
zoom@chapelhillfriends.org.

Inter-Faith Council Pantry Needs Donated Food Items

Please consider IFC's needs when doing your shopping. There is a basket in the meetinghouse foyer for food donations. IFC has requested the following food items: coffee, hot chocolate, canned protein, canned pork and beans, canned soup (not vegetable), boxed cereal, cake mixes, instant foods, ramen noodles. Thank you!

FRIENDS, PLEASE LIMIT YOUR WEEKDAY MEETINGHOUSE VISITS.

The CFS Early School teachers, parents and guests have priority use of the meetinghouse parking lot from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday throughout the calendar year. If you must visit the meetinghouse during weekday hours, please alert John Hite, the Meetinghouse Resident, at least one day ahead. Email: johnthequaker@gmail.com or call: 919-929-5377.

Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to news@chapelhillfriends.org.

- The deadline for weekly eNews is *Wednesday* 5 pm.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last day of the month*.

To unsubscribe, email to news@chapelhillfriends.org with the subject line, Unsubscribe.

Note: If you think that you haven't received your weekly enews or monthly newsletter, it helps to add news@chapelhillfriends.org to your contacts. Otherwise it might go to your Spam folder (and likewise for other chapelhillfriends.org mailing lists such as pfym@chapelhillfriends.org).



Recurring Events

Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Join us when you can for as long as you wish - from your own home.

Do you have a name or a group of people to add to - or remove from - the list of those we will hold in our hearts and prayers? If so, please send to: prayers@chapelhillfriends.org. The list of names to be held in the Light will be renewed each month. Names must be resubmitted each month to be maintained on the list. We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

This virtual prayer service continues under the care of the Care and Counsel Committee and each week, a committee member will collect and post the names that are submitted and will read them aloud during the time of the service.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine. Thursdays, 5:30pm

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

You are invited to join Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel at 5:30 p.m. ET / 2:30 p.m. PT. We will continue to meet weekly on Thursdays at this time, at least through the months of January and February, or until a permanent ceasefire is reached.

Join on Zoom:

<https://afsc-org.zoom.us/j/85831333364?pwd=VEtPTUZuYk5hTHV2OGs1VzRkY0ZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3133 3364

Passcode: 759311

Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am

Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center is now opening their daily morning worship to everyone, by way of Zoom or phone. A lovely opportunity for gathered worship every morning. “A handful of Pendle Hill residents continue to gather daily in the Barn – from 8:30am to 9:10am Eastern Time – expanding the 90-year-long tradition of daily worship here on campus. Beginning the week of March 16, 2020, we started an experiment of opening the circle of worship to YOU in your home. You can join us here via Zoom.”

<https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/?bblinkid=210290749&bbemailid=19903873&bbejrid=1408822779>

Note: The above link takes you *not* to the meeting but to a page of general instructions. Look for the sentence “You can join us via Zoom **here**, or by clicking on the image below.”

Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow, Daily

Link to the Daily Meeting for Worship for Peace sponsored by FHM/FHMSA: (Friends House Moscow)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4165005614?pwd=NUtieEtqbDBYbjBrcGdMMzBKQ3drQT09>

Meeting ID: 416 500 5614

Passcode: 182805

The room opens at 8:45am Pacific time (10:45 EST); worship begins on the hour and ends an hour later. After worship there will be time to share brief thoughts that did not rise to the level of ministry. You may also want to rename yourself indicating your geographic location. There will be no audible indicator when one enters or leaves, and everyone will be muted on entry. Please leave yourself muted unless giving ministry.

Ministry may also be shared in the chat, but it is not the place for private conversations. If you are new to Quaker unprogrammed worship and wish to talk with someone about it, send a message to the host and someone can join you in a breakout room.



Business Meeting Minutes

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Minutes 12/15/2024 online via Zoom

Present: Carolyn White, Ann Miller, Tom Munk, Jennifer Leeman, Jeff Brown, David Waterman, Hart Pillow, Lynn and Matt Drake, Anthony (Tony) Hickey, Dottie Heninger, Tom Ludlow, Hank Elkins, Kate Fitch, Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Wendy Michener, Carolyn Stuart, Monteze Snyder, Susan Newcomer, Deborah Gibbs, Julia Cleaver, Buzz Borchardt, Quaker Harmon, John Hite, Nancy Milio, Paul Munk, Naveed Moeed, Calaway Rohloff, Betsy Brinson

1. We opened with worship and the query, "In what ways do I see our meeting as a beloved community?"
2. We welcomed Tony Hickey as a first-time attendee.
3. The minutes of the November 2024 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were accepted as printed in the newsletter.
4. We approved a request from a member to have a table outside of meeting on a couple of Sundays in January for her daughter to offer Girl Scout cookies for sale.
5. Dottie Heninger read the Spiritual State of the Meeting report (Appendix A). The report was accepted with appreciation for the report and to the Ministry & Worship Committee for organizing it. We have since received the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting queries and will consider those in the near future.
6. Carolyn White read the Clerks' retreat report (Appendix B). We accepted the report. Ministry and Worship is discerning ways to provide additional support to committee clerks.
7. David Waterman read the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation report (Appendix C). One Friend noted the importance of Quakers organizing to take action at the state level, in North Carolina particularly. The report was accepted with appreciation.
8. Ann Miller, Clerk, reviewed our current benevolence process, which was established in 2020/21. A short list of legacy benevolences comprise most our benevolence spending. In addition to this we reserve 21% of the benevolence funding for organizations that are selected on an annual basis. Our process for selecting these benevolences has involved creating an adhoc committee to recommend organizations to support. Ann noted that the document outlining these processes calls for a review of the legacy benevolences every five years, which is coming up in 2025. Ann invited input on the benevolence process but not with a plan to come to any decisions today. Our criteria for selecting benevolences includes supporting

organizations that are Quaker-affiliated and/or that involve direct engagement with individuals in the Meeting. Another Friend noted the value to an organization when they receive support from another organization. Wendy Michener, Clerk of Peace & Justice (P&J), reported that P&J does not think it has the capacity to continue to oversee benevolence selection. Friends are concerned about the amount of Meeting energy going toward decisions about benevolences and hope to discern a more efficient process. One Friend reported that in the meeting where she holds her membership, they follow the energy and investment of the time of which members, which they determine via a Google survey of where meeting members were spending their time. They then give to those organizations. One Friend encouraged the meeting to honor the recommendations of whatever group is designated to recommend benevolences.

9. Naveed Moeed, Co-Clerk of Buildings & Grounds, provided an update on the ongoing HVAC project. He reported that Peter Malone has done extensive work planning updates to our HVAC system. The major purchases have been completed, and we are now working on installation. Peter is also working on HVAC for the Chapel Hill Carrboro School System and may be delayed in completing work on the Meeting house. The timing of completion is unclear and the committee asks for the Meeting's patience. Monteze Snyder, Clerk of Finance, reported that we are within budget, largely thanks to Peter. The committee plans a forum on the topic in the near future to provide an opportunity for more in-depth discussion.

10. Ann Miller, Clerk, read a "Minute of Intent to Protect" (Appendix D) that the Fayetteville Friends Meeting has approved. Fayetteville Friends Meeting invites other meetings to "discern whether Divine Guidance might lead you to join in this intent". Friends were moved by the minute. We will hold it over for further discernment at the January Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

11. Clerk: In response to a Carolina Friends School (CFS) student's inquiry about Quaker's role in Native American boarding schools, Ann will meet by Zoom with the 2 CFS teachers in his classroom and brainstorm ideas for further collaborative discussion. If any meeting folks are interested in taking part in the classroom session or have information or experience to add to the discussion, please contact Ann Miller.

12. The next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 1/19/2025.

Announcements: Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting is seeking contributions to assist rebuilding their destroyed meeting house. Quaker Teens of Greensboro invite our teens to a retreat on 1/15-17/2025.

Ann Miller, Clerk, and Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk

Appendix A

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Spiritual State of the Meeting November 16, 2024

Thirteen Friends came together via Zoom on Saturday morning, November 16th to explore the spiritual state of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. We began by reading aloud two short passages from our deceased member Marnie Clark's edited book, *Lives that Speak: Stories of Twentieth Century Quakers*. It is from Marnie's book that Ministry and Worship chose the focus of our gathering: "Lives – and Meetings – that Speak." We broke into small groups and each group considered both queries presented by Ministry and Worship. A member of Ministry and Worship took notes in each group and later reported to the full meeting.

Query 1: *How does my own spiritual journey shape my worldly engagement and actions?*

Two Friends reflected on how their upbringing in families who lived Quaker values helped to form their spiritual journeys and social actions. One mentioned participating in a protest that included circling the Pentagon as an early, indelible memory. Some of the groups remarked on the importance of the opportunities the Meeting provides to engage in social action: cooking at the IFC; engaging in prison visitation; participating in Community Remembrance and Bridging the Gap activities. Others describe how Quaker testimonies carry over into their daily lives: using Quaker skills and values at work; reaching out to members of the larger community; caring for friends and family in the aftermath of the election; living our values in protecting the environment by driving electric cars, choosing and preparing food thoughtfully. Another spoke of engaging with the lives and words of Quakers in history as a foundation providing continuity for his spiritual journey. Others mentioned the importance of times of silence; times of quiet and gathering fortitude are necessary preparation for civic action. We recognize that there is much work to be done in our society; we acknowledge, however, that we can't do it all. We must do what we know how to do – what the Testimonies have shown us – this is the superpower that Quakers possess!

Query 2: *What is the connection between our spiritual life as a Quaker community and our Meeting's engagement in public life?*

One group expressed gratitude for Quaker process. The deep listening in our meetings for worship with attention to business is essential. Only through loving attention to all the voices speaking can we come to unity. It is necessary that committees season well their requests for MWAB. We are grateful that our Meeting has come to unity on two minutes regarding the bloodshed in Gaza, and that we have supported other social justice initiatives reflecting our Quaker values. One Friend noted that our actions and statements as a Meeting need to be prefaced with language that reflects and

emphasizes our Quaker traditions. We must continuously nurture our Meeting community and protect the beloved community we mean to build. We know this takes ongoing commitment and love.

The results of the election weighed heavily on today's conversation. Some noted that our Meeting's deliberations about communal social engagement may need to be more proactive as we anticipate possible dangers in the years ahead.

The morning gathering closed with sharing small group responses to the queries. We had not received the queries from the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship by the time we met. Ministry and Worship will make time for our community to discuss these when they arrive. After our meeting for worship with attention to business has received this report, we will submit it and responses to the PFYM queries to the yearly meeting.

Appendix B

Summary of 2024 Clerks' Retreat

Oct 6, 2024, 1:30 to 3:00 PM in the Meetinghouse (following potluck)

The title of this year's retreat was "Committee work, the cornerstone of the community." The retreat was attended by 25 people, and included six members of the Ministry and Worship committee. The retreat began with a short period of silence, followed by introductions. Ann shared 3 short readings from *Listening Spirituality, Vol II* by Patricia Loring. (see below). People referred to the readings in our sharings.

We broke into 6 small groups (each group had a member of M&W as a note taker and 3 representatives from various committees) and spent 40 minutes exploring this query: What are the challenges, opportunities and concerns you have for your committee this year? Afterwards, each group briefly shared their challenges and concerns. Below are some of the comments:

- Committees provide opportunities for getting to know people in different ways; checking in is important
- Each committee has its own unique challenges
- Need people to step up to leadership; how to best integrate new members of a committee
- It takes awhile to feel comfortable clerking a committee
- Cooperation among committees; sometimes it is difficult to know which committee is in charge of a particular issue
- Co-clerking has many positives
- Some committees are very task oriented and maybe not as spirit led
- Many committees feel overloaded
- Committees need new members and younger members
- A need for "Clerking 101"
- Clerks must deal with the unexpected
- Committees work best if there are both seasoned members as well as newer members
- Clerks feel a need for more support

Ann spoke briefly about committee work and the importance of maintaining a calendar for tasks. Sean gave a quick explanation about Google groups and how we will be able to set our own email lists and share documents. He will be reaching out to clerks individually.

Care and Counsel announced an upcoming threshing session on term limits and encouraged clerks to include this in their upcoming agendas.

We closed with Worship.

Readings for Clerks' Retreat, 10/6/2024

From "Listening Spirituality, Volume II" by Patricia Loring

"An expression of the Oneness we have...felt in the gathered meeting is the mutuality of care for and service to one another...Our committee structure is a kind of exo-skeleton for the life of the meeting. That Oneness is manifested in the participation of the membership in the jointed articulation of the shell. We may be aware of the Oneness or we may find other outward reasons for participation. Nonetheless, our participation manifests our love, by our willingness to serve one another in the tasks that keep the outward life of the meeting running." P. 170

"Committee work can be a microcosm of our spiritual development or transformation in relation to other people. It challenges us to find ways of engaging with one another in love, in spite of boredom, exasperation or active dislike; to find and grow in the ways of proceeding with business without being manipulative or coercive;...to let go of seeking our personal agendas...; to grow in the ability to wait on those whose thought processes or discernment processes may move more slowly—possibly more deeply; to grow in our ability to wait on the Spirit, rather to be driven by a plan to manage the process." p. 171

"After a period (in history) in which Friends experienced the temptation and hazards of entrenched and willful leadership, most meetings now rotate responsibilities. Part of our humility and love in our life together is manifest in willingness to serve in more mundane capacities as well as in those of more searching spiritual responsibility. All are necessary to the functioning of the organism." p. 171

Appendix C

Annual Report (2024) of the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) Representatives from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

December 15, 2024

FCNCL has been functioning since October 2019 under the spiritual care of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. In 2024 FCNCL continued to educate ourselves and our participants about the NC General Assembly (NCGA) and to advocate for legislation that promotes Quaker values.

All of us working with FCNCL appreciate the continued spiritual guidance and moral support provided by North Carolina Fellowship of Friends, Piedmont Friends Fellowship, and by other Quaker organizations throughout the state. We have 22 volunteers actively engaged in four committees: The Policy Committee, the Outreach and Engagement Committee, the Communications Committee and the Nominations Committee. These are all shepherded by the Executive Committee, which is composed of Clerks of each committee. We have consistently supported our commitment to antiracism in our work as we advocate for state policies that support our Quaker values and identified policy priorities. We appreciate the financial contributions from Meeting and individuals that support our outreach efforts.

Pam Schwingl, David Waterman, and Wendy Michener are currently the FCNCL representatives from the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR

During this year, FCNCL's work has been led by these policy priorities discerned in 2022: 1) Equal Access to Quality Public Education; 2) Protecting Participation in the Democratic Process for All; 3) Concern for the Health and Safety of All North Carolina Residents; 4) Protecting the Environment; and 5) Criminal justice reform. The Policy Committee followed a number of topics over the past year by studying the issues, preparing Fact Sheets and sending out Action Alerts, communicating with Monthly Meetings and encouraging our participants to write letters to newspaper editors and to

write or call their representatives in the legislature.

- During the spring of 2024 we solicited input from Meetings statewide for our legislative priorities during the next two years - that is, for the 2025-26 NCGA session. Twelve Meetings participated in sessions within their Meetings and contributed reports. Based on this feedback, we retained the five major categories of priorities from the past two-year session, adding more detail about specific aspects of these general priorities which Meetings encouraged us to pursue. These policy priorities can be found on our website

(<https://fcncl.org/policy-statements/legislative-priorities/>).

- In April we expanded our educational outreach by organizing and showing two screenings of “The Smell of Money,” along with Q&A expert panels, at the Chelsea Theater in Chapel Hill, with over 150 people participating. This documentary presents the environmental and racial justice problems associated with hog waste lagoons on Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs).

- We also worked to help form a NC Quaker Call to Action inviting Friends to engage in election work.

- On June 12, about 30 Quakers gathered from across the state to speak with our legislators and their aides about our concern for education and our opposition to state funding of vouchers for private school tuition. Participants in this “lobby day” event were briefed in a morning session at the NC Museum of History by Sen. Michael Garrett, and given packets that included the agenda for the day, scheduled meeting times, “leave-behinds” about the priorities of FCNCL, and evaluation forms. Meetings with legislators that FCNCL had pre-arranged took place afterwards and through the afternoon. Senator Garrett, who represents High Point, gave an assessment of the current education bills that were currently in front of the NCGA, and encouraged us to continue contact with our Representatives and Senators, emphasizing that they do listen to people who come to speak to them. For some people, it was their first time at the NC General Assembly; they appeared to be pleased and excited to take part. For those who had participated in our first lobby day last year, the day provided an opportunity to strengthen the relationships with legislators and their aides that we had previously made.

- In October, FCNCL hosted our Annual Meeting of the General Committee, held at New Garden Friends Meeting in Greensboro. We had close to 40 people who registered for the hybrid meeting. Our keynote speaker was Jennifer Watson Roberts who (along with former NC Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr) has been the co-lead for

the Carter Center's Strengthening Democracy Project.. This initiative, working with many coalition partners, seeks to restore faith in established democratic norms and pave the way for fair, safe and secure elections. Ms. Roberts has been a champion of education, equality, inclusion, and environmental protection issues in her role as Mecklenburg County Commissioner, and as Mayor of Charlotte, she was recognized for her work on sustainability and equality.

- FCNCL sent out four Action Alerts this year requesting members to:
 - 1) comment on improved permitting of CAFO hog waste disposal
 - 2) protect public education by opposing proposed private school vouchers
 - 3) help advance proposed state standards for PFAS chemicals; Fact Sheets on each issue were also made available.
 - 4) write letters to Governor Cooper requesting that he commute the sentences of those on death row.

Through the end of 2024, which is the end of the second year of a two-year NCGA legislative session, the party that has opposed many of the efforts and priorities of FCNCL had a veto-proof majority. While FCNCL mounted several efforts to support our concerns, in the end, even with the Governor's veto of many of the bills which did not favor our priorities, the legislature was able to override these vetoes and pass legislation which FCNCL did not support.

During 2025's "long session" we intend to continue to advocate for our priorities, and are hopeful that due to the loss of the GOP supermajority, that some of the worst bills generated by the legislature may not survive our new governor's veto.

Communications, outreach and training. FCNCL has made it a priority to reach out to monthly and yearly meetings urging them to hold discussions on abortion rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and racial equity issues. We have suggested that meetings create Minutes on the commutation of death sentences, and that individuals write letters to the editor or write op-eds. During 2024, FCNCL published 4 quarterly newsletters, and is currently working to expand their content to include reflections by various FCNCL Friends, reports from FCNCL committees, and information about other organizations doing similar work.

In the past, the Strategic Advocacy and Education committee (recently renamed Outreach and Engagement) has conducted trainings and helped us in our outreach to the NCGA; recently two active members have taken a leave, so now the committee is

seeking new members who have interest/skills in training, social media, and outreach.

The FCNCL website contains much valuable information, including our newsletters, our Anti-Racism statement, archived Action Alerts and Fact Sheets, and our Legislative Priorities for the 2025-2026 legislative session.

Building Partnerships. FCNCL has been in discussion and collaboration with several organizations which share our priorities, to strengthen and amplify our message, including:

- Down Home NC
- The Audubon Society
- The NC Council of Churches
- The NC Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
- Public Schools First NC
- The Carter Center

Contributions and expenses. The organization has no paid staff but is powered by volunteers from meetings across the state of North Carolina. The total reported contributions to FCNCL from meetings and individuals amounted to **\$5,094**. We ended the year with a balance of

\$11,378.74.

Another state-wide FCNCL Lobby/Advocacy Day in Raleigh will take place in the Spring of 2025. We are awaiting developments around several bills/issues before setting a specific date. Once this is set, we will welcome **Meeting members and attenders statewide to join us!**

More information will be available soon.

FCNCL welcomes any who are committed to Quaker advocacy in NC to attend a committee meeting; craft Action Alerts and Fact Sheets; help the Communications group with our newsletter and website; help Outreach and Engagement seek out individuals who are interested in helping us grow; and most importantly -- respond to Action Alerts and build relationships with your representatives! Please contact your FCNCL representatives for times, etc. of meetings.

Respectfully submitted: Pam Schwingl, Presiding Clerk; David Waterman, Policy Committee Member, Wendy Michener, Policy Committee Member

Appendix D

Fayetteville Friends Meeting Fayetteville, NC

We humbly request that you read this statement in full, consider sharing it thoughtfully and prayerfully among your meeting or congregation, and choose whether to join in taking this stand alongside us if you feel led to do so. Thank you.

Minute of Intent to Protect


As human beings we are all children of God and recognize that among us are many dear friends, family, neighbors, coworkers and others who are immigrants in this country or otherwise marginalized. Some of us have achieved citizenship, some have green cards, some have visas, some are in pending status or similar legal limbo, and others still lack official documentation. Often, this variety of circumstances exist within a family, and the resulting vulnerabilities can be very real, complex, and difficult.

As faith communities inspired by a common sense of divine standards in goodness and compassion, we join in publicly stating our intent to peacefully yet determinedly defend the defenseless and vulnerable in their need. In all morally upright and ethically sound matters we will continue as faithful Americans to cooperate with our government and receive all government agents in goodwill; however, if a case arises of persecution, oppression, or forcible removal of immigrant populations from among us, we will weigh human authority against our leadings to submit to Divine Authority regarding disgraces against the humanity of those in our community. As and when the situation calls for action, we will readily provide shelter, cover, aid and advocacy for our beleaguered neighbors.

We earnestly hope that such a preemptive posture as represented by this minute may prove unnecessary. Yet behind our hopes and prayers, and even as we operate from a general stance of political neutrality, we yet agree to stand ready together to physically assist those persons who may seek our help, to facilitate legal assistance as far as possible, to persistently petition legislators, to send delegations and speak with key government officials, and/or to publicly denounce inhumane government policies which would aim to tear apart immigrant families or inappropriately harass harmless people. We hereby state our intent to take these and similar peaceful actions as such needs may arise.

Remembering that we are all flawed and oft-mistaken human beings, we take this stand not from a spirit of pride or conflict, but in a soul-searching hope for an American future of harmony, peace on earth, and goodwill toward everyone.

Signed,


Clerk

Note:

All congregations, faith group leaders, and representative individuals who wish to support each other in this public effort may sign and return a copy of this to:

Fayetteville Friends Meeting
Religious
Society of
Friends
(Quakers)
223 Hillside
Ave
Fayetteville, NC 28301

We may also be reached via email at NCQuakerPSA@gmail.com.

(sign here)

(title or position)

(date)

Humildemente les solicitamos que lean este memorando en su totalidad , consideren compartirlo con atención y oración entre sus juntas o congregaciones y elijan si desean sumarse a esta postura junto con nosotros si se sienten guiados a hacerlo. Gracias.

Un Memorando De Intencion De Protege1

Como seres humanos, todos somos hijos de Dios y reconocemos que entre nosotros hay muchos queridos amigos, familiares, vecinos, compañeros de trabajo y otras personas que son inmigrantes en este país o que están marginadas de alguna otra manera. Algunos de nosotros hemos obtenido la ciudadanía, algunos tienen Tarjeta de Residente Permanente (tarjeta verde), algunos tienen visas, algunos están en un estado pendiente o en un limbo legal similar, y otros aun carecen de documentación oficial. A menudo, esta variedad de circunstancias existe dentro de una familia y las vulnerabilidades resultantes pueden ser muy reales, complejas y difíciles.

Como comunidades de fe inspiradas por un sentido común de normas divinas de bondad y compasión, nos unimos para manifestar públicamente nuestra intención de defender pacíficamente pero con determinación a los indefensos y vulnerables en sus necesidades. En todos los asuntos moralmente rectos y éticamente sólidos, continuaremos como estadounidenses fieles a cooperar con nuestro gobierno y recibiremos a todos los agentes gubernamentales de buena voluntad; sin embargo, si surge un caso de persecución, opresión o expulsión forzosa de poblaciones inmigrantes de entre nosotros, sopesaremos la autoridad humana frente a nuestra dirección para someternos a la Autoridad Divina en lo que respecta a las desgracias contra la humanidad de quienes forman parte de nuestra comunidad. Cuando la situación lo requiera, brindaremos refugio, protección, ayuda y defensa a nuestros atribulados vecinos inmigrantes.

Esperamos sinceramente que una postura preventiva como la que se presenta en este memorando resulte innecesaria. Sin embargo, más allá de nuestras esperanzas y oraciones, y aunque actuamos desde una posición general de neutralidad política , acordamos estar listos para ayudar físicamente a aquellas personas que puedan solicitar nuestra ayuda, facilitar asistencia legal en la medida de lo posible, presentar peticiones persistentes a los legisladores, enviar delegaciones y hablar con funcionarios gubernamentales clave y/o denunciar públicamente políticas gubernamentales inhumanas que

apuntan a destrozar a familias inmigrantes o acosar inapropiadamente a personas inofensivas. Por la presente, declaramos nuestra intenci6n de tomar estas y otras acciones pacificas similares cuando smjan tales necesidades.

Recordando que todos somos seres humanos con defectos y que a menudo cometemos errores, adoptamos esta postura no por un espiritu de orgullo o conflicto, sino con la esperanza de un futuro estadounidense se de annonia, paz en la Tierra y buena voluntad hacia todos.

Firrnado,
Fayetteville Friends Meeting (Reuni6n de Amigos de Fayetteville)



Oficinista

Nota:

Todas las congregaciones, lideres de grupos religiosos y personas representativas que deseen para apoyarnos unos a otros de este esfuerzo publico pueden firmar y devolver una copia de este documento a:

Fayetteville Friends Meeting
Religious
Society
of
Friends
(Quakers
) 223
Hillside
Ave
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Tambien podemos ser contactados por correo electr6nico: NCQuakerPSA@gmail.com

(finna aqui)

(titulo o posici6n)

(fecha)

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377