

F/friends -

The minute below was approved this afternoon by the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's Peace and Justice Committee and will be considered next first day December 20 by our full meeting.

"We cherish Guilford College, and hold its community in the Light as it confronts severe financial difficulties. We honor the lives and work of those who came before us and the College's rich history.

We affirm the College's mission [to]:

'Provide a transformative, practical, and excellent education that produces critical thinkers in an inclusive, diverse environment that is guided by Quaker testimonies of community, equality, integrity, peace, and simplicity and emphasizes the creative problem-solving skills, experience, enthusiasm, and international perspectives necessary to promote positive change in the world.'

In embracing its core values we encourage Guilford's leadership to listen to and engage the entire community in the search for greater understanding as it discerns the way forward and pursues the community's common good.

We believe in an education in which relationships are central, and that embraces the whole person. We prioritize a learning environment encouraging spiritual growth and leading to vocations of deepest meaning. In pursuit of these, we affirm that an individual's calling is of greater importance than temporal success in the marketplace, whose demands are often incongruent with genuine need, and that discerning one's calling can be enhanced through broad academic and experiential learning, and most importantly relationships and modeled lives.

We encourage members of the College community to be as fully transparent as possible, and to recommit to honesty and plain speech in all communication and inferences.

We likewise encourage humility in assessing and administering the complex responsibility that is Guilford's resource stewardship and governance. In the leadership's decisions, we encourage an emphasis in community cohesion, the stewardship of all resources including finances, shared sacrifice, a long-term vision, and drawing creatively from all parts of the community to find a sustainable way forward.

Finally we give thanks to all those now engaging in this painful discernment process and recommit ourselves to greater attentiveness to the College's circumstances and to seeking divine guidance in this matter."

Thank you, John A. Bell '78

