

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Peace & Justice Committee
Annual Report 2019
March 17, 2019

Since our last report, in March of 2018, the Peace & Justice Committee has been busy. Each month, this committee conducts informative, and at times spirited discussions of the many peace and justice activities of the Meeting and of individual Friends. This report highlights only some of these activities, which are too numerous to report in full.

Benevolences: Using the process approved by the Meeting for Worship, we have recommended funding for selected benevolences in a separate report. We give special thanks to the Benevolences Subcommittee, comprising Hank Elkins (clerk), Linda Drake, John Hite, and Karen Porter, and ask Friends to consider whether they may be led to participate on this subcommittee next year.

War in Yemen: Tom has coordinated Friends' lobbying efforts to cease U.S. unauthorized hostilities in the Saudi-led war on the Republic of Yemen, which has resulted in the worst humanitarian disaster of recent times. Efforts over the past year, as well as ongoing (and current) efforts have included lobbying U.S. Rep. David Price, as well as U.S. Senators Burr and Tillis.

Justice United: The Meeting continues to be actively engaged in the work of Orange County Justice United's efforts. Representatives of the constituent organizations continue to focus on immigration, jobs, and housing as ongoing priorities. Jim and Hank represent Peace & Justice for Justice United and inform the committee of activities on an ongoing basis. For example, the Justice United Housing Action Team presented a Master Leasing Proposal for affordable housing to the Orange County Housing Advisory Board. As another example, the Orange County School Board has committed to recruiting 141 minority teachers over the next five years. Additionally, Justice United has engaged in immigration lobbying for immigrants under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Tim, Ronald Cairns, and Jim attended a three-day training.

Veterans of 1960s Civil Rights Forum: Wendy organized this forum, which featured several Friends who had been activists in the 1960s era and afterward.

Sanctuary: Peace & Justice has continued its support of Sanctuary efforts undertaken by the Church of the Reconciliation (Methodist) and the Mennonite

Church. Reconciliation has sheltered an immigrant on its premises for almost a year; and several Friends have volunteered in this effort, including Tim, Karen, and Leslie Rountree. Lori Fernald-Khamala has been involved in statewide sanctuary efforts on behalf of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Lori and Karen, along with Beth Welton of Reconciliation, conducted a forum on Sanctuary.

Quaker House: Curt Torell, Quaker House Treasurer, reported that Quaker House will produce two videos for its 50th anniversary this year; and the celebration will occur next fall in Fayetteville, along with local programs at various meetings.

Nonviolent Communication Workshops: These workshops were a great success, and some Friends continue to improve their Nonviolent Communication skills in the Meeting using the Quaker Social Change Ministry process. Wendy has been active in this area.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) General Secretary Visit: Naveed kept Peace & Justice informed about AFSC General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny's visit to the area, which had a two-fold purpose: (A) To educate and involve this area with AFSC's work and (B) to discuss needed funding cooperation.

Bolivian Teacher: Hank kept Peace & Justice informed of details involving a Bolivian teacher arriving to teach at Carolina Friends School this year.

Ruth Zalph's Four Arrests Protesting Kavanaugh U.S. Supreme Court Confirmation: Peace & Justice strongly supported Ruth's heroic efforts in this regard and agreed that Friends can contribute informally to her \$200 in legal expenses as individuals, as well as spread the word that others might wish to do so as they are led.

Casey Webber and Freedom of Speech: Casey, a graduate of our first-day school program whose principled efforts in protest to address the injustices that Quakers deplore, resulted in an unfair felony charge of riot. Peace & Justice has continued to monitor this situation and has encouraged Friends to continue voicing support for Casey throughout the year. Casey may present a forum later this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Drake, Hank Elkins, Nancy Elkins, Tim Fogarty, Wendy Michener, Naveed Moeed, Tom Munk (co-clerk), Jim Palmer, Karen Porter (co-clerk)

