

PROPOSAL FOR PARTNERSHIP OF CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY BAIL/BOND JUSTICE PROJECT

The Transition and Support Committee and the Peace and Justice Committee propose that Chapel Hill Friends Meeting partner with the Orange County Bail/Bond Justice Project, an interfaith project initiated by Binkley Baptist Church.

Background: In 2018, Orange County detained pre-trial approximately 1,000 people who were not able to afford to pay bail. 64% of people charged with misdemeanor offenses in Orange County had to post a secured bail to be able to go home and wait for their trial. That means they had to pay cash, put up home/property collateral or sit in jail. We believe how much money you have should not determine whether you sit in jail.

Goal: The project goal is to support people impacted by the Orange County bail system and to make the system less burdensome.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Court observation
- Telephoning or texting people to alert them to their court dates
- Transporting people to their court dates if necessary
- Collecting and assessing data
- Bail assistance through a revolving bail fund (although this is currently a minimal need)
- Education and outreach in Orange County and North Carolina
- Describing the Orange County experience to encourage other North Carolina counties to undertake similar work

We propose that the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting partner with Binkley Baptist Church and other faith-based communities to help rectify the injustices of money bail disrupting the lives of poor people. The bail system particularly impacts people of color, and though not legally guilty, the poor may have to spend long days in jail. Those detained in jail pre-trial are more likely to be sentenced to prison and more likely to accept guilty pleas simply to get out of jail. Spending even two or three days in jail can mean losing your job, custody of your children, your home, and impact your whole future.

What does being an Orange County Bail/Bond Justice Project partner mean?

- Partnership adds our Meeting's name to the list of faith-based communities who see this as an important moral issue.
- Partnership gives us an opportunity to assist in court observation, support defendants in getting to court (e.g. telephoning or texting court date reminders and providing transportation, if needed), and educating the community and other NC counties on bail justice issues.
- Though not essential, some Friends may be led to support the Revolving Community Bail Fund financially. Financial support can help make a difference in how effective the Project can be.

For more details, go to www.ocbailbondjustice.org

Therefore, we recommend that Chapel Hill Friends become a partner in this work for justice.

Respectfully submitted,

The Transition and Support Committee and the Peace and Justice Committee