

## Annual Report 2020

May, 2020

Since our last report, in March of 2019, the Peace & Justice Committee has been busy. We conduct open meetings each month at the rise of late Meeting on second Sundays. We conduct 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:** This year, the Meeting approved a revision to the way that we apportion benevolences. The revision was generated with extensive input from many Friends. The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will take direct responsibility for oversight of our five largest, legacy benevolences. These benevolences will receive 79% of the amount reserved for Peace and Justice Benevolences. The remaining 21% were discerned (and will be discerned annually) by the Peace and Justice Committee. P&J will continue to meet the following guidelines for their benevolence decisions as stated in previous P&J reports: "Meeting benevolences MUST be either (a) Quaker-affiliated organizations, or (b) local organizations that reflect our Meeting's values and with which members of the Meeting are closely involved."

**Bahamas.** Tim Fogarty, for the P&J committee, facilitated a donation by the Meeting to support individuals devastated by Hurricane Dorian.

**FCNCL.** The committee joyfully supported the creation this year of the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation under the care of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. FCNCL will focus its efforts this year on electoral reform, access to quality healthcare, environmental protection (includes climate change), and criminal justice reform. We are grateful to Karen Porter for her leadership.

**Solar Panels.** The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business has approved a committee proposal to set up a cross-committee investigation of the possibility of installing solar panels on the Meetinghouse and the Schoolhouse. We are grateful for the leadership of Hank Elkins and Wendy Michener.

**Advocacy Teams.** Curt Torell and Tom Munk have created and led an FCNL Advocacy Team this year that has met multiple times with David Price, his staffers, and staffers for Senators Burr and Tillis. We are working on creating relationships with those staffers, recognizing that human connection is an excellent way to create positive change. This year Congress has passed several bills limiting the war-making powers of the President. Our work continues. Please let Curt or Tom know if you would like to join us.

Anti-racism. We have been holding in the Light ways to establish ourselves as an anti-racist meeting and that we continue to do this work as PFF/YM also look to work on this through their meetings.

We are particularly grateful for the services of Karen Porter, who clerked the committee for the first half of the year. With the joyful birth of her grandson, she has retired from the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Elkins, Tim Fogarty, Joe Groves, Wendy Michener, Naveed Moeed, Tom Munk (clerk),  
Ellen O'Brien, Karen Porter, Joyce Sandy