

Peace and Justice Committee Annual Report 2021

April, 2021

Since our last report, in May of 2020, the Peace & Justice Committee has been busy. We conduct open meetings each month at the rise of late Meeting on second Sundays. All Friends are invited to join us! 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.

We prepared statements for the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting to share with the world.

- a) A statement about school resource officers to the Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools
- b) A statement affirming the mission of Guilford College and holding them in the light as they sought to resolve critical financial issues.

We used the Meeting listserv to encourage and educate Friends leading up to the election

- a) How to cast their votes, as in all election years
- b) How to prepare for a possible coup d'etat in this extraordinary election year.

We are grateful for all Friends who did vote, and also that our electoral system did not fail.

Curt Torell and Tom Munk have led an **FCNL Advocacy Team** this year that has met with our Congressman, David Price, his staffers, and staffers for Senators Burr and Tillis. We are continuing to develop relationships with those staffers, recognizing that human connection is an excellent way to create positive change. With the Adult Religious Education Committee, we also brought Rep. Price to speak with us and answer our questions. We are hopeful that, because the work will be more bi-partisan, this will be the year that we end the 2002 and 2004 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force. The AUMFs have been used more than 40 times to justify attacks in 19 countries. Our work continues. Please let Curt or Tom know if you would like to join us.

Anti-racism. This year, moved by the world-wide uprising created by the killing of George Floyd and so many others, we took a number of actions:

- We created a statement on anti-racism. With several revisions, the statement was approved by the MFWB and is part of a new Racial Justice section on our website. We have populated the section with links to many other helpful material, including a resource list.
- To institutionalize our work, we created ARC, the Anti-Racism Committee, a subcommittee of the Peace and Justice Committee, supplemented by several other Meeting members and attenders. ARC surveyed Meeting members and attenders about their interests and commitments and suggestions for the Meeting regarding anti-racist work. The results suggested the creation of three sub-sub-committees, focusing on

education of our own CHFM community, reparations, and legislative action. You will hear more from this group. We invite meeting members and attenders to join the work.

Benevolences. We are continuing our work on benevolences and will report the results under separate cover.

We are particularly grateful for the services of Naveed Moeed, who co-clerked the committee for the first half of the year, for Tim Fogarty, who also worked with us for the first half of the year, and for Leslie Bassinger, who has done a great deal of work for the committee this year as an attender.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Elkins, Joe Groves, Wendy Michener, Tom Munk (clerk), Ellen O'Brien, Joyce Sandy,
Faye Stanley