

Dear Community Leaders,

The Anti Racism Committee (ARC) of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is committed to a *Change the Name* project which seeks to remove the vestiges of racism from street names throughout Chapel Hill. We believe that the honor of a street name given to past slaveholders continues the negative impact of their words and deeds in our everyday lives. As caring residents who believe in equality for all, we seek instead to honor those whose very lives are examples of the positive values to which we all aspire.

The *Change the Name* project started with Cameron Avenue, named for Paul Cameron, a slaveholder of 900 slaves, on 30,000 acres in this area. Many of the slaves owned by Cameron were the earliest builders of the campus of the University of North Carolina. A replacement name, Pauli Murray Avenue, was chosen based on research and informal canvassing of black and white residents of Chapel Hill. Pauli Murray grew up in Durham. In spite of being a top student, she was denied entry to UNC because of her color. This first black woman to achieve a Doctorate of Law from Yale worked with Thurgood Marshall on *Brown v. Board of Education*, and spent a lifetime tearing down barriers blocking access to the American dream for so many. Later, as the first black female priest of the Episcopal Church, Murray came home to give her first sermon at the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill. We invite you to learn more about both Pauli Murray and Paul Cameron at a Chapel Hill Friends Meeting forum on September 12, 2021. Please join our virtual gathering from 9:30 to 10:30 at <https://zoom.us/j/96090762961?pwd=cjJWcG5ObXITMnZOQTdLVk55TUFIz09>.

The change from Cameron Avenue to Pauli Murray Avenue is not a "one and done" undertaking. Chapel Hill has many connections to champions of civil rights whose achievements deserve recognition, and many streets which carry the names of those representing the wrongful oppression of innocent human beings. It would speak volumes if Chapel Hill chose a pattern of lifting up those who fought tirelessly for equality and justice.

We envision a local coalition of faith-based and secular organizations that would be instrumental in engaging the community in the *Change the Name* project. This group would select and prepare for submission the names of other worthy Chapel Hill individuals, garnering the support and participation needed to make proposals to the town council.

Here is the link to a survey to determine your interest in taking part in this coalition to change street names in Chapel Hill. We hope you, and your organization, will join with us in this important and meaningful work.

(Link to survey to be here; See attached survey below to review questions.)

Please return the survey on or before November 1, 2021.

In community,

The Anti Racism Committee of
The Chapel Hill Friends Meeting?

Proposed Survey Questions

1. Does your organization support the change in Chapel Hill street names from former enslavers to those with uplifting ideals which unite the community?

YES NO

2. Will your organization represent this viewpoint at the public hearing of the Chapel Hill Council which by law must follow a successful Cameron to Murray change petition?

YES NO

3. Is your organization interested in forming and joining a Change the Names Coalition which will select the new street names for existing streets named after enslavers?

YES NO

4. Will your organization be open to work with the residents of the selected streets to make the proposed changes a reality?

YES NO