

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: Twelfth Month, 2025



Monthly Query: *How does my Quaker faith help me remain hopeful?*

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: *Turn attention inward and listen in the silence for what the Spirit may reveal.*

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## Monthly Calendar

First Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:15 - 9:15 am - <b>Early worship in the meeting room</b></li> <li>• 9:30 - 10:30 am - <b>Forum via Zoom</b></li> <li>• 11:00 am - 12:00 - <b>Worship in the meeting room</b></li> <li>• 11:00 am - 12:00 - <b>Online worship via Zoom</b></li> <li>• After meeting - <b>Potluck in the schoolhouse</b></li> </ul>
Second Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:15 - 9:15 am - <b>Early worship in the meeting room</b></li> <li>• 9:30 - 10:30 am - <b>Forum via Zoom</b></li> <li>• 11:00 am - 12:00 - <b>Blended Meeting in the meeting room and via Zoom</b></li> </ul>
Third Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:00 - 9:00 am - <b>Early worship in the meeting room</b> (reverts to 8:15 the following week)</li> <li>• 9:00 - 10:30 am - <b>Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business via Zoom</b></li> <li>• 11:00 am - 12:00 - <b>Worship in the meeting room</b></li> <li>• 11:00 am - 12:00 - <b>Online worship via Zoom</b></li> </ul>
Fourth Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as Second Sunday - <b>Blended Meeting</b></li> </ul>
Fifth Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as First Sunday, but without potluck</li> </ul>



## Upcoming Zoom Fora

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/forums.html>

**December 7:** TBA - Peace & Justice Committee

**December 14:** The Lambs War and nonviolent conflict

Presented by C. Wess Daniels, Rogers Director of Friends Center and Quaker Students at Guilford College

**December 21:** Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (no forum)

**December 28:** Worship sharing on Joy and the Holiday

- What about the holidays helps us feel so joyful in spirit and connected to others and the divine? What can we do or change in our daily lives to help make the rest of our days equal to the holidays in our joy, peace, and connection to the spirit?
  - How can we intentionally cultivate joy, generosity, and consciousness of the divine in day to day life as we do during Christmas and other holidays?
- 



## Upcoming Events

### Work Morning ~ Building Community ~ December 6th

Come and join the fun! Help us spruce up the grounds at the CHFM Meetinghouse on Saturday, December 6th 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM. We can use everyone's help. Please bring your rakes, loppers, shovels, gloves, garden tools, etc.

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### Quaker Study Tour to Bolivia, Jan. 7-20

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

The Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, BQEF, is organizing a Quaker Study Tour to Bolivia from January 7-20, 2026. We are excited to offer this special "connections" tour, where we will visit a

wide variety of projects, supported by Quakers from the North. Our goals are to foster relationships of solidarity, to learn, to share, and to celebrate work that reflects our collective Quaker values. Please submit the [Expression of Interest Survey](#) if you are interested; please contact Pam Schwingl ([pschwingl82@gmail.com](mailto:pschwingl82@gmail.com)) for a detailed written description of the trip.

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## Piedmont Friends Retreat & Annual Sessions, June 5, 6, 7

Piedmont Friends will be meeting for the 2026 Retreat & Annual Sessions at Haw River State Park, June 5, 6, 7.



As we prepare for this expanded gathering, we are inviting all Piedmont Friends meetings to participate in the planning and to recommend a Friend from their meeting to serve on the Retreat Planning Committee.

The Committee will meet periodically on Zoom to plan for

- Retreat theme, focus and queries
- Adult, Youth and Young Adult Programming
- Accommodations and meal arrangements with Haw River State Park
- Coordinate with the Clerking Committee the Annual Sessions
- Retreat flyer, communications, registration

Information about the Retreat and Haw River State Park, including some pictures from an initial site-visit, is available on our website at:

<https://www.piedmontfriends.org/2026-retreat-annual-sessions/>

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## CFS Beloved Community Offerings this Coming Spring

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

From Carolina Friends School Beloved Community Institute:

### UPCOMING WELLNESS AND TRANSFORMATIONAL TRAVEL-LEARNING PROGRAMS

Registration opens soon!

- **Coastal Journey**, a six-day racial justice trip to Savannah and Charleston. **Early March 2026**
- **Quaker Journey**, a weeklong visit to the 17th-century roots of Quakerism in the breathtaking Lake District of Northern England. **2-9 August 2026**

You can see links for these and additional offerings at [www.cfsnc.org/AdultEnrichment](http://www.cfsnc.org/AdultEnrichment).

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## Quakers in the World

### Flame Tree Story - Podcast + Event, Wed. Dec. 3, 5:30 pm

Whitney Fry shares with Friends:

#### STORYTELLING EVENT

[Flame Tree Story](#), a new small business launched by Whitney Fry, and [Story First Design](#) will host our second public storytelling event at Pour Taproom in Durham on December 3rd at 5:30pm. We'll gather on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to listen to stories of belonging. Whether you're part of the disability community, contribute to disability services, advocate for disability rights, or simply long for greater connection in our community, join us! And please spread the word! Stories from this event will feature in future episodes of the Flame Tree Story podcast (see below).

#### PODCAST

Flame Tree Story launched a podcast: [What We Do - Who We Are](#). Stories that amplify connection by exploring identity, purpose, and possibility. Each episode features stories from live community and workplace storytelling events, exploring the interconnectedness of what we do and who we are. The first episode, featuring stories from our World Humanitarian Day storytelling event in August, highlights stories of connection across borders. [Take a listen](#) wherever you get your podcasts — and if it resonates, please follow, share, and leave a review! The Flame Tree Story podcast is produced by Story First Design.

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### Join Voices for "A Christmas Carol" Concert, Sat. Dec 13 and Sun. Dec. 14

**Save the date for Saturday December 13, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 pm. The concert will be in Moeser Auditorium at UNC-Chapel Hill!**

Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Evelyn Fendler-Lee, and Lori Khamala from CHFM are all part of the Voices chorus.

This holiday season, Voices is excited to partner with WUNC's Catherine Brand to bring audiences on a musical journey through Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The concert, narrated by Brand and arranged by two-time Grammy nominee Benedict Sheehan, will feature over 140 community members as singers and soloists.

Newly-inducted Louisiana Music Hall of Fame honoree and Voices' Artistic Director Stephen Futrell will lead the festivities. Tickets for Voices' A Christmas Carol concert can be purchased for \$20 or on a pay-what-you-can basis (with kids attending free!) at <https://www.voiceschapelhill.org/our-season/tickets/>.

Don't say "Bah Humbug"— we'll see you there!

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## Important Announcement

A Note of Gratitude and Invitation to Support CHFM

### Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514



Dear Friend,

We are deeply thankful for your presence and participation in the life of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, and for your past financial support. Your gifts help sustain our shared spiritual community and the many ways we seek to live our faith in the world.

In recognition of *Giving Tuesday* (December 2<sup>nd</sup> this year), we invite you to take a moment to reflect on your contributions to CHFM this fiscal year (that is, since July 1, 2025)

As of October 31, 2025, we had received 22% of our needed contributions for this fiscal year. We are well behind where we were at this time last year.

Your donations make it possible for our Meeting to thrive. They fund the work of our committees, and they cover ongoing needs such as utilities, insurance, childcare, and essential administrative functions. When sufficient funds are available by our decision point at the end of March, we are also able to fund benevolences—financial support to national Quaker organizations, local nonprofits that CHFM helped establish, and other groups with whom we share common values and commitments.

We recognize and honor the differences in financial capacity among Friends. Every contribution, in any amount, is most welcome!

**Would you contribute today to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting?**

Click the [donate button](#) on the home page of our website or write a check to: Treasurer, CHFM, 531 Raleigh Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

With thanks and warm wishes for the holiday season,

The Finance Committee

Julia Cleaver (Co-Clerk), Evelyn Fendler-Lee, Tom Ludlow, Lynda MacKichan, Wendy Michener, Susan Newcomer, Mansir Petrie, Monteze Snyder (*ex officio*) and David Waterman (Co-Clerk).

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## Announcements

### Seeds of War - Seeds of Peace (Forum Follow-Up)

Wendy Michener shares with Friends:

We had a wonderful Forum presented to us by Raleigh Friends who have been considering right action in today's world, working from the example of John Woolman. Attached are the documents which they have created and shared with us.

They and our P&J committee ask Friends to consider if CHFM shall sign on to a Call to name the events in Gaza a genocide.

[Quaker organizations discern genocide is occurring in Gaza and urge courageous action | American Friends Service Committee](#)

Raleigh Friends said that they were pushed to do their work by our own quick response to the destruction in Gaza in Oct 2023.

**Not Normal Tuesdays** boycott

also here is the link to the flyer

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oKvropRS59aBYtt8HLiN6YXF-p1UaYNez7QWIXCA4tA/edit?usp=sharing>

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## Recurring Announcements

### InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers

We invite anyone interested in becoming, or knowing more about being an IFC Committee Member to please contact Carolyn White.

We welcome volunteers to help with food preparation and service at ICF every second Thursday for lunch: 10a - 1p, and/or every second Friday for dinner 4p-6:30p. Volunteers are welcome for part of the shift, or the full shift.

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### Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted

Support Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's Zoom worship and forums by becoming a tech host. The role is much more simple than you would imagine. Trust us! We need your help and will train you. Please contact the Zoom Subcommittee if interested, or have questions: [zoom@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:zoom@chapelhillfriends.org).

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### Inter-Faith Council Pantry Needs Donated Food Items

Please consider IFC's needs when doing your shopping. There is a basket in the meetinghouse foyer for food donations. IFC has requested the following food items: coffee, hot chocolate, canned protein, canned pork and beans, canned soup (not vegetable), boxed cereal, cake mixes, instant foods, ramen noodles. Thank you!

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### FRIENDS, PLEASE LIMIT YOUR WEEKDAY MEETINGHOUSE VISITS.

The CFS Early School teachers, parents and guests have priority use of the meetinghouse parking lot from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Friday throughout the calendar year. If you must visit the meetinghouse during weekday hours, please alert John Hite, the Meetinghouse Resident, at least one day ahead. Email: [johnthequaker@gmail.com](mailto:johnthequaker@gmail.com) or call: 919-929-5377.

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## Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org).

- The deadline for weekly eNews is *Wednesday* 5 pm.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last day of the month*.

To unsubscribe, email to [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) with the subject line, Unsubscribe.

**Note:** If you think that you haven't received your weekly enews or monthly newsletter, it helps to add [news@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:news@chapelhillfriends.org) to your contacts. Otherwise it might go to your Spam folder (and likewise for other chapelhillfriends.org mailing lists such as pfym@chapelhillfriends.org).

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## Recurring Events

### Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Join us when you can for as long as you wish - from your own home.

Do you have a name or a group of people to add to - or remove from - the list of those we will hold in our hearts and prayers? If so, please send to: [prayers@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:prayers@chapelhillfriends.org). The list of names to be held in the Light will be renewed each month. Names must be resubmitted each month to be maintained on the list. We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

This virtual prayer service continues under the care of the Care and Counsel Committee and each week, a committee member will collect and post the names that are submitted and will read them aloud during the time of the service.

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## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine. Thursdays, 5:30pm

You are invited to join Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel at 5:30 p.m. ET / 2:30 p.m. PT.

Join on Zoom:

<https://afsc-org.zoom.us/j/85831333364?pwd=VEtPTUZuYk5hTHV2OGs1VzRkY0ZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 858 3133 3364

Passcode: 759311

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## Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am

Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center is now opening their daily morning worship to everyone, by way of Zoom or phone. A lovely opportunity for gathered worship every morning. "A handful of Pendle Hill residents continue to gather daily in the Barn – from 8:30am to 9:10am Eastern Time – expanding the 90-year-long tradition of daily worship here on campus. Beginning the week of March 16, 2020, we started an experiment of opening the circle of worship to YOU in your home. You can join us here via Zoom."

<https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/?bblinkid=210290749&bbemailid=19903873&bbejrid=1408822779>

**Note:** The above link takes you *not* to the meeting but to a page of general instructions. Look for the sentence "You can join us via Zoom **here**, or by clicking on the image below."

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## Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow, Daily

Link to the Daily Meeting for Worship for Peace sponsored by FHM/FHMSA: (Friends House Moscow)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4165005614?pwd=NUtieEtqbDBYbjBrcGdMMzBKQ3drQT09>

Meeting ID: 416 500 5614

Passcode: 182805

The room opens at 8:45am Pacific time (10:45 EST); worship begins on the hour and ends an hour later. After worship there will be time to share brief thoughts that did not rise to the level of ministry. You may also want to rename yourself indicating your geographic location. There will be no audible indicator when one enters or leaves, and everyone will be muted on entry. Please leave yourself muted unless giving ministry.

Ministry may also be shared in the chat, but it is not the place for private conversations. If you are new to Quaker unprogrammed worship and wish to talk with someone about it, send a message to the host and someone can join you in a breakout room.

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## Business Meeting Minutes

### **Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Minutes for November 16, 2025, online via Zoom**

Jeff Brown, Jennifer Leeman, Carolyn White, Lynn and Matt Drake, Kate Fitch, Betsy Brinson, Susan Newcomer, Quaker Harmon, Tony Hickey, Allie Scales, Carolyn Stuart, Deborah Gibbs, Tori Toles, Kuldip Kuwahara, Madelyn Ashley, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Hart Pillow, Astra Titus, Dave Waterman, Tom Ludlow, Rita Kuwahara, Haralamb Braileanu, Buzz Borchardt, Wendy Michener, Julia Cleaver, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Lloyd Kramer, John Pilgrim, Tom Munk, John Hite, Jan Hutton, Dottie Heninger, Gwynne Pomeroy, Marion Schoenbach, Pam Schwingl, Jasmine McKewen, Nancy Milio, Hank Elkins, Paul Munk, Ann Miller, Emilie Condon

1. We opened with worship and the query, “What am I grateful for, and how do I show my gratitude?”

Matt Drake expressed his gratitude to the Meeting for their support of him and Lynn.

2. Rita Kuwahara introduced her fiancé, Haralamb Braileanu, as a first-time attendee.

3. The Minutes of the October 2025 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with a correction to the minutes (a missing word) and a small correction to the numbers in the Finance Committee report.

4. Carolyn White presented a request to approve membership for Mark and Tori Toles on behalf of the Ministry & Worship Committee. She read short biographies for Tori ([Appendix A](#)) and Mark ([Appendix B](#)) and then presented the following minute for approval:

In June 2025, the Meeting received a request for membership from Mark and Tori Toles. In response to that request, Ministry and Worship Committee convened a clearness committee with the following members: Lynn and Matt Drake, Jennifer Leeman, and Tom Munk. After the clearness committee’s initial meeting, both Lynn and Matt experienced health problems and

asked to be replaced. M&W named Carolyn White to the committee. Following the second meeting, the committee came to clearness on recommending Mark and Tori for membership. Today, the Ministry and Worship Committee brings forward for the Meeting's approval this minute recommending Mark and Tori Toles for membership in the Chapel Hill Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Friends approved the minute with appreciation for Mark's and Tori's contributions to the Meeting. A welcoming committee was formed with the following members: Carolyn White (clerk), Carolyn Stuart, Madelyn Ashley, and Dottie Heninger.

5. Julia Cleaver presented a request to approve membership for Tony Hickey on behalf of Ministry & Worship Committee. She read a short biography ([Appendix C](#)) and presented the following minute for approval

**A Minute of Support for Tony Hickey's Membership at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting**

Our clearness committee met with Tony on two separate occasions. Members included Julia Cleaver (clerk), Monteze Snyder, Matt Drake, Gwynne Pomeroy and John Pilgrim. During the first meeting, we explored Tony's leading to Quakerism generally and to Chapel Hill Friends specifically. Tony recounted his long exploration of many faith traditions, both Western and Eastern. Several years ago, a friend suggested he might want to explore Quakerism. Tony did significant study of Quaker history, beliefs and practices and decided to begin attending Chapel Hill Friends 2 1/2 years ago. He quickly realized that he was a Quaker and has been attending regularly since, typically at early Meeting. After careful discernment, he requested membership and a clearness committee. During our conversations, we became clear that we are in **unity** that Tony is called to be a Quaker. Our second meeting focused on what Tony sees himself bringing to CHFM and giving to it. Tony is very interested in serving on the Carolina Friends School Board and has discussed that with others. However, because of CFS procedures, that cannot occur before the Fall of 2026. In the meantime, Tony is considering other possible avenues and is eager to become more involved. He is keenly interested in Quaker involvement in the wider world and may explore avenues for being more active in that himself. After careful discernment, the clearness committee is **united** in affirming that Tony has many gifts that he is very eager to share with CHFM. We look forward to welcoming him to membership in the meeting.

Friends approved the minute with appreciation for Tony joining our community. Plans to create a welcoming committee were delayed a few months due to health concerns that prevent Tony from being in-person in community with others.

6. On behalf of Care and Counsel Committee, Alice Carlton presented a request to approve the marriage of Rita Kuwahara and Haralamb Braileanu under the care of the Meeting. A clearness committee, including Alice Carlton, Bonnie Raphael, and Carolyn Stuart, met twice, once in person and once via Zoom and came to clearness on the marriage. Friends approved the marriage.

The wedding is planned for February 14. A wedding committee has been formed and includes Alice Carlton, Bonnie Raphael, Carolyn Stuart, Jennifer Leeman, Gwynne Pomeroy, Wendy Michener, and Dottie Heninger.

7. Kate Fitch, clerk of Adult Religious Education Committee, presented the committee's annual report ([Appendix D](#)). The Meeting accepted the report with gratitude for the richness of the forums, the work of the committee, and Kate's leadership.

8. Dave Curtin, clerk of Library Committee, presented the committee's annual report ([Appendix E](#)). Questions were raised about plans to renovate the library and a desire for renovation planning to resume. Friends with input on renovations were invited to complete a survey (see link below). The Meeting accepted the report with appreciation for all the work the committee does, much of which is behind the scenes.

Library survey link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevR2aSs5uJkc4TxZxJE9ddb9TwM9HFqOiGRj0MDUK1hs4jkA/viewform>

9. Jeff Brown, Meeting Clerk, brought forward two individuals to serve on the Naming Committee. The role of this committee is to identify at least two new people to serve on the Nominations Committee. The Meeting approved Ann Miller and Carolyn Stuart to serve on the Naming Committee.

10. The next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on December 21, 2025.

11. Announcements: Piedmont Friends are inviting a Chapel Hill Friend to join the planning committee for the annual retreat June 5-7. Quaker Harmon has agreed to provide technical support. Please let Jeff Brown if you would be willing to join the planning committee.

12. We closed with silent worship.

Jeff Brown, Clerk, and Jennifer Leeman, Recording Clerk

## Appendix A: Tori Toles Request for Membership

### Biography: Tori McClaran Toles

Tori grew up in Hawaii, as did both of her parents. She is the youngest of 4 siblings – 2 of whom still live in Hawaii.

After graduating from San Francisco State University, she joined the Peace Corps and spent 2 eye-opening years in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, then called Zaire.

After the Peace Corps, Tori lived in Washington, DC where she worked at Joseph's House - a Ministry connected to the Church of the Savior. Joseph's House was a hospice for unhoused men dying of AIDS. There she met Sister Mary Daniels whose deep faith and love for others made such an impression on her that she decided to become a nurse. She moved to New York City to go to nursing school and met Mark.

Tori and Mark moved to Hawaii to be close to her family, and where she always wanted to return. Their daughter Katie was born there.

When Katie was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, the family moved to North Carolina (about 18 years ago). Tori continued nursing at UNC, and finished her career as a school nurse in Chapel Hill. Happily, Tori and Mark see Katie relatively frequently as she now lives and works in New York City.

## Appendix B: Mark Toles Request for Membership

### Biography: Mark Toles

Mark Toles was born in Lubbock, Texas in 1963 and his brother John Toles was born in Bastrop, Louisiana in 1964. Mark and John's parents, Don and Marie Toles divorced when Mark and John were little, and they were mostly raised by their mother's mother - Elvy Pettiss.

Mark loves the seasons, the woods, and literature. He graduated from the University of Texas Austin with a degree in English in 1988. A few years later, Mark met Tori and in 1995 they got married.

Mark and Tori have one daughter, Katie Toles, who is now 28. Mark and Tori love their time together, time with Katie, their house in Chapel Hill, taking walks, and visiting with friends and family.

Mark works as a nursing professor at UNC Chapel Hill, where he is a researcher in geriatrics. As time has passed, Mark has begun to deepen

his connection with others, especially Tori, Katie, John (his brother), his friends, and members of the CHFM.

## Appendix C: Tony Hickey Request for Membership

### Biographical Sketch

I was born and grew up in Herefordshire in the west of England, on the Welsh borders. I trained as a pharmaceutical scientist and moved to the US 40 years ago to work as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Later I moved to my first faculty position at the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

I have been happily married to Lesley (Marson) for 37 years (we have known each other for 45 years). We have two daughters. Helen, the oldest, is a dance instructor and lives in Raleigh and Ruth is a sales person and lives in Gilbert, Arizona.

I came to the School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina in 1993 as a professor, educator, and researcher and served in this role until 2010. During this period, it was my pleasure to teach pharmacy professional students and graduate students working on drug delivery systems. My research interests were in inhaled therapy for a variety of lung diseases. In 2011 I moved to RTI International as a Distinguished Fellow where I continued to conduct research and development of novel therapies for tuberculosis. Along the way I founded several companies that were based in RTP. I formally retired in 2024 but retained emeritus positions at UNC and RTI. I continue to serve on several scientific and editorial boards and volunteer for different local and national organizations. I hope to be able to actively serve CHFM in the future.

My connection to the Society of Friends goes back to a period during my education in Birmingham in the UK and more recently to reconnecting with a Friend living in Washington DC. It has taken a lifetime to discern my connection, but I am grateful that the way became evident. I generally



attend early meeting, so it has taken a little time to meet folks on the occasions I attend 11am meeting. I realize I have many more people to meet and look forward to doing so in the coming months and years.

## Appendix D: Adult Religious Education Annual Report 2025

The Adult Religious Education Committee works to enhance the spiritual life of the Meeting community and to nurture the spiritual and intellectual growth of Meeting members and attenders. Our primary task is to provide weekly forums on different topics connecting us to each other, our Quaker faith and practice, and to our role in our community and the greater world. We consider suggestions for forum topics by committees, members, and attenders and generate ideas within the committee.

This year, after several years of continuing through the summer with a worship sharing series, we suspended forums during the summer months. We thank everyone in the meeting for their support and patience as we took much-needed time away.

Our goal is to provide a range of topics and, to help us with that balance, each first Sunday (9 forums) has been managed by the Peace and Justice Committee. From August 2024 to June 2025, other forums included (8) peace and justice, (2) environment and sustainability, (1) personal sharing, (1) community/Quaker organizations, (8) community nurturing, (3) Quaker history, and (9) faith and practice topics. Our community discussed peace in Israel and Palestine, immigration, and racial equality, experienced artistic and trans-inclusive readings of the Bible, and shared with one another on love, death, holidays, animals, and the election. Across 28 forums, 6 were sponsored by committees (other than P&J weekly forums) and 5 featured outside speakers.

We also supported Tom Munk and the Care and Counsel committee on the development of small groups for worship sharing, which met at least 4 times between May and June. Kate Fitch developed the geographic clustering algorithm for small group assignments and ARE developed optional queries for these worship sharing sessions, leaving Tom Munk and Care and Counsel to manage beautifully the coordination, communication, and reporting of small group activities. We are enormously grateful for this work, and the work of hosts and facilitators, to make these small groups a success.

Since March of 2020, forums nearly always have been offered by Zoom. This has allowed us to engage a wider range of outside speakers, including those shown in the attached list. Participation in these zoom forums has been robust, typically between 20 and 30 attending. We thank the Zoom Working Group for their steadfast assistance, and encourage members and attenders to consider joining the tech host group. Over the past year, we have offered more

blended forums with the support of John Hite and Quaker Harmon. While a Zoom format is preferable for most forums, we greatly appreciate that individuals interested in offering a blended forum have been very proactive in planning and coordination with all involved.

As part of this report, ARE would like to comment on our budget for honoraria. For many years, ARE has requested a \$100 budget for honoraria for outside speakers. Typically, this pays the fee for only one speaker per year, and this is often an underpayment of their usual fee. We think it is right to financially support the work of Quakers and others who are called to ministry and to that end will be requesting a larger budget in upcoming fiscal years.

ARE welcomes suggestions for forum topics as well as suggestions for improvement. We thank the committee clerks and Meeting members for their forum suggestions as well as their willingness to prepare and lead forums. The committee works with the Publications Committee and Ministry and Worship Committees to ensure that forums are announced in a timely fashion and we especially thank Buzz Borchardt for his kind persistence in this effort. Forums are listed in the newsletter, on the Meeting's website and announced at the rise of Meetings for Worship.

In August we welcomed new member Walter Hjelt-Sullivan. Continuing members are Kate Fitch, Campo Larrick, John Bell, Leslie Bassinger, and Calaway Rohloff. We would welcome additional members. Kate Fitch continues as clerk for her final year and notes that transition to a new clerk must occur in the next term year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Fitch

Forum name & description	Presenter/Committee	Category
Anti-Apartheid Pledge in Support of Palestinian Human Rights. Presenter: Allison Tanner from the AFSC (P&J/M&W sponsored)	M&W and P&J	Peace and justice
Reflections and Leadings from your Summer.	Calaway Rohloff	Community nurturing
Carolina Friends School Chapel Hill Early School	Caroline Carman	Community/Quaker orgs
George Fox's Teachings for Us	Panel & Worship Sharing	Quaker history/Faith and practice
Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty	P&J	Peace and justice
Food Issues and Climate Change: Tom Smith and Madalyn Finn	Tom Smith & Madalyn Finn	Environment and sustainability
Monteze Snyder Personal Sharing	Monteze Snyder	Personal sharing

Climate change worship sharing	P&J	Peace and justice
Worship sharing on the election: What are your leadings, big or small, about what you're being called to do?	Worship sharing	Community nurturing/social issues
Gratitude and Alternative Gift Mart	CYRE	Community nurturing
Race and Belonging	P&J	Peace and justice
Keeping the Lights On	Finance	Community nurturing
What holiday songs and lyrics hold special meaning for you and why?	Worship sharing	Community nurturing
Intent to Protect Threshing Session	P&J	Peace and justice
Nurturing love in the New Year	Worship sharing	Faith and practice
Chuck Fager: Tell it Slant	Chuck Fager and Emma Lapsansky	Quaker history
Preparation for Incapacity and Death	Care & Counsel	Community nurturing
Biography--A contemplation on the life of Jesus of Nazareth that imaginatively engages with Christian scripture to fill in the backstories of some of the people whose lives intersected with his.	Mimi Holland	Faith and practice
Joe Groves on Israel and Palestine	P&J	Peace and justice
Local Sharing Groups	Care & Counsel + ARE	Community nurturing/Faith and practice
How the Meeting's Library supports and enhances our Quaker Community—now and for the future.	Library Committee	Community nurturing
North Carolina Yearly Meeting and Slavery, 1755-1845	David Haines	Quaker history
Near Death Experiences	Leslie Bassinger & Alice Carlton	Faith and practice
Immigrant Experiences in Raleigh	P&J	Peace and justice
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Animals	Worship sharing	Faith and practice
Trans Readings of Ruth and the Rise of Lazarus	Campo Larrick	Faith and practice
Lobby Day at NCGA	P&J	Peace and justice/Environment and sustainability
Healing the Illusion of our Separateness	Niambi Jaha-Echols	Faith and practice

## Appendix E: Library Committee Annual Report (2024-25)

The Library Committee maintains and improves the Meeting's collection of library books, periodicals, pamphlets, and other resources to further the life of the Meeting and its participants. It annually reviews the collection and purchases new materials on its own initiative as well as considering requests from committees and individuals. It works particularly closely with the Ministry and Worship Committee, the Children's and Youth Religious Education Committee, and the Adult Religious Education Committee. Attendance at committee meetings is open to all.

The Library Committee has continued to see less use of the library in the last year compared to pre- Pandemic levels. We appreciate that the ventilation work in the Library itself has completed, and we now have access to all the books, magazines, and pamphlets. The Library Committee had discussed ideas for potential remodeling of the library when the pandemic brought the end to discussions. This should be revisited for additional review.

Highlights from the last year.

1. The library committee has continued to maintain the collection in "Library Thing", our online guide accessible through the library link on our web site, and we are working on ways to enter pamphlets and other publications that are not from Pendle Hill.
2. We did finally receive *Prisoners of Congress: Philadelphia's Quakers in Exile, 1777-1778*.
3. We will continue paying the archivist at Guilford \$150 per year to archive our records.
4. We are printing copies of the newsletter on archival paper for the next volume of our archive.
5. We processed several book collections that were donated, and offered books that were not needed in our library to members and attenders. The few books that are left will be donated to the Chapel Hill Public Library
6. We had a forum on Library use and also on a new group of short books on Quaker faith and practice called *Quaker Quicks* which we purchased this year. We also created an on-line and paper survey to gather input into what should be remodeled in the Library.
7. Shortly after the forum, Jesse Cushman approached the library and offered to purchase additional books because of money left to him by a friend(Georgia), to be used "for Quakers". He purchased \$250 worth of *Quaker Quicks* for our use.

Goals for the coming year.

1. We have had additional donations of several books and will be going through them and working on the non Pendle Hill pamphlets to make them more available.

We thank Linda Drake for her service on the committee, and welcome Herb Derby as a new member.

Please email [library@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:library@chapelhillfriends.org) if you have suggestions for purchases, subscriptions and the like.

Submitted respectfully by Allie Scales, Annalee Harkins, Dave Curtin (clerk), Herb Derby,

Jessica Harper, John Hite, Leslie Bassinger and Lloyd Kramer

**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

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