

Fayetteville Friends Meeting, Fayetteville, NC

We humbly request that you read this statement in full, consider sharing it thoughtfully and prayerfully among your meeting or congregation, and choose whether to join in taking this stand alongside us if you feel led to do so. Thank you.

Minute of Intent to Protect

As human beings we are all children of God and recognize that among us are many dear friends, family, neighbors, coworkers and others who are immigrants in this country or otherwise marginalized. Some of us have achieved citizenship, some have green cards, some have visas, some are in pending status or similar legal limbo, and others still lack official documentation. Often, this variety of circumstances exist within a family, and the resulting vulnerabilities can be very real, complex, and difficult.

As faith communities inspired by a common sense of divine standards in goodness and compassion, we join in publicly stating our intent to peacefully yet determinedly defend the defenseless and vulnerable in their need. In all morally upright and ethically sound matters we will continue as faithful Americans to cooperate with our government and receive all government agents in goodwill; however, if a case arises of persecution, oppression, or forcible removal of immigrant populations from among us, we will weigh human authority against our leadings to submit to Divine Authority regarding disgraces against the humanity of those in our community. As and when the situation calls for action, we will readily provide shelter, cover, aid and advocacy for our beleaguered neighbors.

We earnestly hope that such a preemptive posture as represented by this minute may prove unnecessary. Yet behind our hopes and prayers, and even as we operate from a general stance of political neutrality, we yet agree to stand ready together to physically assist those persons who may seek our help, to facilitate legal assistance as far as possible, to persistently petition legislators, to send delegations and speak with key government officials, and/or to publicly denounce inhumane government policies which would aim to tear apart immigrant families or inappropriately harass harmless people. We hereby state our intent to take these and similar peaceful actions as such needs may arise.

Remembering that we are all flawed and oft-mistaken human beings, we take this stand not from a spirit of pride or conflict, but in a soul-searching hope for an American future of harmony, peace on earth, and goodwill toward everyone.

Note: All congregations, faith group leaders, and representative individuals who wish to support each other in this public effort may sign and return a copy of this to:

Fayetteville Friends Meeting
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) 223 Hillside Ave
Fayetteville, NC 28301

We may also be reached via email at NCQuakerPSA@gmail.com.