

Care & Counsel Annual Report: December 2022 through December 2023

The Care & Counsel Committee, composed of members of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, is responsible for pastoral care of the Meeting's members and attenders. The committee assists families requesting memorial services under the care of the Meeting and forms clearness committees for marriage under the care of the Meeting. Care & Counsel serves on clearness committees for those seeking membership and forms clearness committees for personal discernment and support committees, as requested.

Care and Counsel contributed to the overall well-being of the Meeting in numerous ways. The formation of small groups (along with Ministry & Worship) began in January of this year and was successfully completed. We also provide leadership of Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The Committee presented a forum on the topic of Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light in May.

The Meeting lost many dear Friends over the past year. Memorial services under the care of the Meeting were held for Cindy Bowen and Bonnie Ludlow as well as the interment of Lois Ann Hobbs and Alice Woodbury's ashes in the memorial garden. We also mourn the loss of Alwyn Moss and Bob Simmons this year. The Committee is grateful to Dottie Heninger for the eloquent memorial minutes written for these Friends.

Due to a fall by a member in the meetinghouse, we asked Marie Dagger of the Orange Co. Department on Aging to visit and advise us on fall prevention. It's a free service available to those living in Orange Co. Marie Dagger's report was sent to the Building & Grounds Committee.

Over the past year, Care & Counsel has been involved in a number of support or clearness committees for personal discernment, four of which are ongoing. The Committee met with Marya Plotkin and Michael Hanson who married under the care of the Meeting on July 22, 2023. The Committee participated in membership clearness committees for six new members. The Committee cares for numerous other Friends facing a variety of challenges. In addition, we asked that Ministry & Worship Committee add to announcements information about the committee as a special effort to include those attending Zoom Worship and worship at Carol Woods in understanding that help is available through C&C. It is Care & Counsel's desire that our work be grounded in love, and that we care for each other as this work unfolds.

Respectfully submitted: Alice Carlton (clerk), Lynn Drake, Gwynne Pomeroy, Ann Miller (ex-officio), Tom Munk, Bonnie Raphael, Leslie Rountree and Carolyn Stuart.