

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter

Twelfth Month, 2020

Monthly Query: *How do we look at the world around us and find the Light?*

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



NOTICE

All CHFM Quaker-related activities at the meetinghouse and in the school house have been canceled until later notice, pending reassessment.

The Building and Grounds committee has requested that those who rent on the premises find alternate options until we reopen.

Virtual Meetings

Meetings for Worship; Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business; and Weekly Forums:

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting has been using Zoom software as an online platform to hold Meetings for Worship; including meetings with attention to business, forums, social hours, and committee meetings. Friends are doing our best to sustain spiritual connections and support the life of the Meeting during the pandemic.

Ministry and Worship and the Zoom ad-hoc committee (zoom@chapelhillfriends.org) wish to make this experience as rich as possible. Even apart, we wish to come together in the Light. To aid this, we advise those attending of the following:

- On entering the Meeting for Worship via Zoom, everyone's microphone will be muted (you do not need to mute yourself on entry). We suggest remaining muted when not speaking to avoid background noise.
- If led to share vocal ministry, the "Unmute" button on the bottom left of the Zoom screen is pressed. When finished speaking, the "Mute" button may be pressed in the same location.
- We recognize you may need to move around and settle. If doing so Friends are asked to use the "Stop Video" option (bottom of screen next to Mute) – your name or profile picture will display until pressing "Start Video" again. This will minimize visual distraction for others,
- There is an option on the upper right of your Zoom screen to select "Speaker View" for a large window for the current speaker or "Gallery View" that shows small windows for all participants.

The Ministry & Worship Committee reminds Friends that our traditional Quaker practice in Meeting for Worship, in-person or online, is to refrain from sharing vocal ministry more than once in the hour to give others space for messages. Though it may be more challenging online, we strive to listen deeply in the silence and be open to the leadings of the Spirit that may move us to speak.

More information about Zoom is available on the Meeting's website:

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

The link to Zoom for the Forum and Meeting for Worship is sent weekly via the listserv. If you wish to visit with us for the first time or are a regular attender but do not have access to the listserv please contact us at zoom@chapelhillfriends.org. Comments are warmly appreciated at the same email address. See you online!

Upcoming Zoom Forums

December 6 - Seasonal sharing of music, stories, etc. Please let Tom Munk know if you are interested in sharing. (munk.tom@gmail.com)

Parallel Meeting at Home, Sunday, 11am-12

Many of us on First Day are doing what one Friend called "simultaneous sitting" and could be called *ethereal* worship - that is, we are sitting in our own homes having worship between 11 and 12, calling to mind other Friends, but not taking part in any techno forum. We miss the benefit of wider ministry, but can add that angle in our own way. It can be quite magical.

Remember the OCC Children

Asta Crowe shares with Friends:

This message came from Melissa Radcliff at Our Children's Place. It's a nice way if you would like to brighten the day for some of the men at OCC, gifts for their children over the holidays. Contact Melissa -- see below. Asta

"We've been given [Our Children's Place} the go-ahead to organize holiday gift giving for the children whose fathers are at Orange. Details are still being worked out. If you're interested in buying a gift for one of the children, please let me [Melissa Radcliff] know (mradcliff@coastalhorizons.org). The chaplain is about to start signing up the men and their families."

Visiting the Meetinghouse During Covid

Building and Grounds shares with Friends:

As you know we've curtailed use of the meeting house during the pandemic. Occasionally, people have, and needed to, gone into the meeting house to support the few essential tasks of the meeting. We appreciate that those visits have been brief and infrequent. We do ask though that anyone that needs to go into the meeting house to please notify John Hite, by phone or text, prior to going. Thank you.

Food Delivery to IFC While Meetinghouse is Closed

The meeting's IFC committee has devised a plan to make Friends' donations of food items to the IfC more convenient. You can find a [list of recommended food items](#) on the IFC website (and you can purchase food online).

1. Please bring food items to the meetinghouse porch on first and third Wednesdays of each month. Canned goods are to be placed in cardboard boxes labeled "IFC." Place bags of food in the plastic bin with a secure top. Members of the IFC committee will pick up the donations at 3:00 pm on first and third Wednesdays and deliver them to the Rosemary parking lot. This system will eliminate the need for individual Friends to drive to Rosemary street with food contributions, though you are still welcome to do that. The first day of food delivery to IFC from our meetinghouse porch will be Wednesday, June 17th.
2. Please do not leave food on the meetinghouse porch on days other than the designated delivery days - first and third Wednesdays. Bring your food donations prior to pick-up time of 3:00 pm.
3. From the IFC website, requested food contributions include pasta, spaghetti or pasta sauce, canned tuna or other meats, macaroni and cheese mixes, canned fruit, oatmeal, baking mixes (cornbread,

muffins) and crackers (saltines and others). Other items would be welcomed as well. Link for pantry needs: <http://www.ifcweb.org/needs#pantry>

Questions? Contact Carolyn Stuart (919.929.2287 or stuartc@elon.edu)

Recurring Events

Online Social Event, Thursdays, 7pm

Chris Stanley shares with Friends:

As we have been doing recently, we will have a time to gather and touch base to see how everyone is doing. Last week, we looked at Catherine Alguire's garden during the call. Feel free to bring pictures of your garden or current project to share. There is no agenda and it is just a time to see a friendly face and say hello. Join us, if you are interested. - Chris

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QuakerCraft Online Game, Sundays

Sam Leeman-Munk shares with Friends:

Hi everybody,

This email is about a Minecraft server that Finn and Henry have set up for us.

It is a peaceful server with no player versus player and no monsters, so it is appropriate for young Quakers. The server is available 24/7, but we particularly encourage people to log in at the same time so we can play together. This event started April 19 and happens every Sunday between 1:30 and 3:30.

We are playing Minecraft: Java Edition

<https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/store/minecraft-java-edition>

An account costs about \$27, but anyone who identifies as a child may reach out to Finn James, Tom Munk and me to get an account. For best results, include all three of us on the email so we can work together. Finn James runs the server, and once you have a screenname you can give it to him and he will give you access. For how to access the server, [click here](#).

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/assets/hospitality/quakercraft.htm>

DISCORD SERVER

We may be Quakers, but what fun is playing with friends if it's all in silence? I have set up a discord server for chatting while we play. This server will be your first lifeline when navigating the vibrant, potentially overwhelming world of MineCraft, so be sure to join!

<https://discord.gg/F2Jf9MQ>

For more detailed discord instructions, [click here](#) :

<https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/assets/hospitality/quakercraftDiscord.htm>

Sloth Radio Goes Online, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Kathleen McNeil shares with Friends:

Hi Friends/friends,

The First Day School Middle POD (the Sloths) will be sharing our Sloth Radio Hour every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 8PM. You don't need to be in the middle pod to join us. All are welcome. We are reading the first book of the Harry Potter series. We will read for 30-60 minutes depending on interest level. The program will continue to be on zoom at the same address.

[Zoom meeting link available]

Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, Wednesdays, 7-9pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 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 Lynn (linda.drake100@gmail.com) or Matt (matthiascdrake@gmail.com). We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

Pendle Hill Daily Worship via Zoom, Daily

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>

Guilford College Emergency

Lori Khamala shares with Friends:

Guilford College is in an emergency situation. Dozens of faculty, staff, and 20+ majors central to the College are being eliminated in an attempt to address a financial crisis. The Save Guilford College group is alarmed over the unilateral attempt to remake Guilford's identity and the lack of transparency demonstrated by the interim president and the Board of Trustees. If implemented, this strategy would deal a fatal blow to Guilford's holistic liberal arts curriculum and would undercut the Quaker values that are a core tenet of the college's identity.

The brutal cuts include the termination of more than 100 staff and faculty members (tenured and non), and the elimination of many of the College's core majors, including Economics, Political Science, Philosophy, Sociology/Anthropology, History, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Religious Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Community and Justice Studies, French, German, and Spanish.

We encourage individuals, Meetings, and other institutions to take immediate action (the Board plans to meet as early as the first weekend in December, exact dates unknown), urging the Trustees to reject the proposed changes, increase financial transparency, and prioritize Quaker values.

- Please write a letter to the Board of Trustees ASAP --before Thanksgiving, ideally- opposing the cuts of staff, faculty, and majors,
- Please make a [financial pledge](#), and
- Please share this information with everyone you know

To get more involved: Fill out [this Google Form](#) to share how you want to engage and follow Save Guilford on social media: a. [Instagram](#) b. [Twitter](#) c. [Facebook](#).

Board of Trustees email addresses: ewinslow@brookspierce.com , nkquaintance@qwrh.com, ionenc@aol.com, ione.taylor@queensu.ca, Gilbert.Bailey@e-hps.com, balrac@verizon.net, terry.graedon@gmail.com, hopkinsdj@yahoo.com, CMirabelli@hcven.com, danmosca@bellsouth.net, braiford@nc.rr.com, anntraper@gmail.com, charlotteroberts@charter.net, beth@wvllp.com, suzanne.whitmeyer@gmail.com, Fred.Taylor@mjxam.com, jwegner@email.unc.edu, dvciiii@aol.com, marley.davis@officeteam.com, hickman@hickmananalytics.com, jonwood@bellsouth.net

Attention Quaker Newcomers: Silence & Light eRetreat

Jan Hutton shares with Friends:

From November 15 to December 18, 2020 (skipping the week of Thanksgiving), Friends General Conference offers Silence & Light for Quaker Newcomers eRetreat, inviting you to explore and practice the experience of Quaker worship and silent waiting -- an inward encounter with our Inner Teacher who leads,

guides, and transforms us every day. This session is offered for people who are curious about Quakers or new to Quakerism and will explore the basics of Quaker theology and practice. Financial grants are available from the Shotts/Leadership Development Committee (look for Shotts on this page: <https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/committees.html>).

For information on the eRetreat, click here: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/spiritual-deepening-eretreats-silence-light-quaker-newcomers>.

Adult Young Friends Meet via Zoom

Alice Carlton (CHFM rep to PFYM) shares with Friends:

The first meeting of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Adult Young Friends (AYF) went well with eight in attendance and more coming. They decided to meet every First Sunday of the month at 5:30-7pm via Zoom.

Contact Faith Josephs (faith.josephs@gmail.com) for the Zoom link for the December 6, 2020 meeting 5:30-7pm.

Note: The following announcement appeared previously in eNews:

My name is Faith Josephs and I attend Charlotte Friends Meeting. At Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting this summer I noticed there were a handful of other Adult Young Friends and thought it could be neat to get together over zoom to get to know each other. I've had the opportunity previously to be a part of some very powerful and supportive groups of Quaker peers my age (I grew up in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting then went to Guilford College) and I would love to create that sort of community among Adult Young Friends in the Carolinas.

Winter Clothing for Men in Need being Served by IFC

Carolyn Stuart shares with Friends:

Do you have men's winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves and socks that could use a new home? Please consider making a donation to men without homes who are being served by the Interfaith Council. Bring clothing to the meetinghouse porch on Wednesday, December 2 or Wednesday, December 16. Containers will be provided to collect the clothing. Any men's size would be useful. Members of the meeting's Interfaith Council Committee will collect the clothing at 3:00 pm on these dates and take them to the IFC. Questions? Contact Carolyn Stuart (stuartc@elon.edu) or Carolyn White (chwhitencrr@gmail.com).

Addiction, Homelessness, and Incarceration: Faceless No More

Asta Crowe shares with Friends:

Mark Hall, whom many of us know from his visits when he was incarcerated at OCC, has formed an organization -- Addiction, Homelessness and Incarceration: Faceless No More (www.facelessnomore.org) -- "AHI advocates for them and shares their stories, working with individuals and organizations in North Carolina and beyond." He has recently partnered with the Human Kindness Foundation (<https://www.humankindness.org/>) to further expand the educational and outreach work of of the "Faceless No More" organization. Please go to the November and December newsletters to get more information about their work and Mark's goals. You can contact astacrowe@gmail.com if you have questions (which she may not be able to answer, but will try!).

Continue to Next Page for Minutes of Monthly Meeting For Worship With Attention to Business

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes, 9 am, Sunday, November 15, 2020 via Zoom

Chris Stanley, Clerk; Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk

Attendance: Alice Carlton, Chris Stanley, Buzz Borchardt, David Curtin, David Schneider, Jasmine McKewen, Jan Hutton, Tom Munk, Dottie Heninger, Rufus King, Ann Miller, Faye Stanley, Hank Elkins, Lois Ann Hobbs, Kurt Hein, Gwyn Hein, Hart Pillow, Jeff Brown, Ken Grogan, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Ben Ray, Tom Ludlow, Julia Cleaver, Carolyn White, Michael Jokinen, Monteze Snyder,

Tom Fogarty, Gwynne Pomeroy, Bob Durovich, Cecilia King, Jennifer Leeman, Deborah Gibbs, Lloyd Kramer, Carolyn Stuart, Emilie Condon, Madelyn Ashley, Curt Torell, Pam Schwingl, Rich Godfrey, Richard Miller, Tom McQuiston, John Hite, Betsy Brinson, Wendy Michener.

1. Opening worship and query: How do I strive to achieve harmony and balance between my inner and outer commitments?
2. Welcome and review of the agenda.
3. The minutes of the October 18 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were approved with one correction.
4. Jan Hutton reported on the activities of the Ad Hoc Zoom Committee. It was formed in March 2020 under the care of the M&W Committee, initially co-clerked by the M&W co-clerks and met weekly. (Appendix 1). A question was raised about the difference in using a mobile device for Zoom. The Zoom instructions will be updated. We accepted the report with gratitude.
5. Lynn Drake presented the annual report from the Mary and Claude Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Funds. (Appendix 2). These grants are not need-based. We accepted the report with gratitude.
6. Rufus King presented his letter requesting support as a conscientious objector. Rufus' letter expressed his appreciation for growing up in the CHFM community and for the love and support he received here and how that experience had led him to the realization that he could not participate in war in any way. His declaration reminded many in our Meeting of the Quaker values that we share and how they must profoundly influence our actions in the world. Many comments of appreciation were shared as well as an invitation to consider joining the Meeting. This letter and a transcript of the comments will be stored in the Meeting's lockbox. We accepted his letter with great appreciation. (Appendix 3).
7. We continued to discern our decision about the Rooftop Solar proposal.
 - A. Chris summarized the Zoom meeting that was held last Monday with Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) and Carolina Friends School (CFS). Those representatives present from CFS were open to this project but had not taken it yet to CFS as a whole. The request of CFS was that they continue to pay the amount they currently pay for energy.
 - B. Thursday night there was a Zoom threshing session where a wide range of thoughts and feelings were expressed.
 - C. Mike Jokinen reported from the Finance Committee. (Appendix 4.) They spent a long time on this question and appreciate the labor of the Rooftop Solar Committee. The Finance Committee reported that they do not recommend borrowing money for the rooftop solar project. Since the NC regulatory agency for solar energy has announced that rebate requests will be accepted in both January and July of 2021, the Finance Committee does not recommend

spending money for that application at this time and suggests we do further investigation into a possible capital campaign before proceeding.

D. M&W shared its statement of priorities (Appendix 5.)

A long discussion ensued without unity being achieved.

8. The next MWAB will be 9 am Sunday December 20, 2020.

9 Closing worship, virtual circle, preparation for 11 am Meeting for Worship.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Zoom ad hoc Committee report, November, 2020 (Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business)

The Zoom ad hoc Committee, also known as the Zoom Working Group, was formed in mid March, 2020, under the care of the Ministry and Worship (M&W) Committee. Its express purpose, at that juncture, was to transition meeting for worship online as a result of the COVID-19 shuttering of the meetinghouse. The initial members were the then-co-clerks of M&W, joined by others who had a working knowledge of Zoom and/or digital technology. Due to our steep learning curve, the Zoom Working Group met weekly, in addition to after each week's meeting for worship. The after-worship meeting now occurs only as needed, but the weekly meetings continue. Minutes from weekly meetings are provided to M&W as well as requesting their ongoing guidance with regard to Zoom concerns that may impact meeting for worship. The term "tech hosts" was coined for those working group members who were stewards of the zoom process while online.

Shortly after the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFMs) went online for worship, the Adult Religious Education Committee (ARE) transitioned forum programming to its usual spot, prior to worship, also online. Zoom working group members then became tech hosts for ARE forums as well. Concurrent to the events of going online, it became clear that many Friends and attenders were not yet familiar with Zoom technology (rather like the initial members of the Zoom working group!) Simple graphics were created for downloading, using, and troubleshooting Zoom. The CHFMs website homepage has links to these graphics. These graphics were also shared with Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM), Eno Friends Meeting, and the national Facebook page "Quaker Expressions: best practices." Additionally, several members of the working group continue to provide phone assistance to Friends and attenders who have Zoom issues. CHFMs purchased an annual Zoom Pro account in June so programming could be switched from the private member account being used until that point in time. In October, CHFMs purchased a second host license for the first Zoom Pro account. The Zoom Working Group facilitated the Children and Youth Religious Education Committee's (CYRE) transition from private member accounts to the use of the second CHFMs license for their programming.

A virtual online calendar was created to indicate tech host slots that needed filling, focused on Meetings for Worship, Forum, and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. It became clear that the time burden on Zoom working group committee members to tech host all of the above mentioned events was untenable. With a particular focus on tech hosting Forums, a training document was created and an invitation for new tech hosts was disseminated in the meeting. 7 CHFMs members volunteered, two of whom already had excellent zoom skills. Five Friends experienced a two-part training, and have for the most part, taken over

Tech Hosting duties for Forums. Until each tech host volunteer is comfortable in their role, they are accompanied by a member of the Zoom working group to provide any needed support while online. Each forum tech host makes contact with the moderator of the weekly forum to assess possible tech needs. One of our Zoom Working Group members is an ongoing liaison to ARE for any issues that may arise.

With the support of the Publication and Communications committee (P&C), a CHFM Zoom Folder was created in Google Docs. This folder is replete with Zoom meeting minutes, ongoing information on hybrid meeting equipment and costs, tech host training instructions, the M&W closer statement, and instructions.

This ad hoc committee has been a work in progress and continues to be so. Thus far, the Zoom working group has provided the Zoom infrastructure for the 3-day PFYM annual meeting in August. Zoom working group members have tech hosted the annual Clerks Retreat, Spiritual State of the Meeting, and are prepared to do the same for other annual CHFM events. This includes supporting an interactive online Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service, which is under the purview of M&W. Zoom ad hoc committee members continue to schedule online meetings for various committees and have been requested to schedule ongoing meetings for several small interactive CHFM groups. The Zoom working group also provides an ongoing and active interface with both US and UK Quakers during COVID-19, with a particular, but not sole, focus on Zoom. For those who use Facebook, Quakers created several sizable private groups to share information about our collective Zoom journeys during Covid 19. Thus far, these groups include: “Quaker Expressions: best practices” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/quakergatherings/?ref=share>) and “Quaker Communications and Outreach (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/QuakerComms/?ref=share>).” An additional Facebook resource is “Zoom Faith” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/zoomfaith/?ref=share>), the sharing of Zoom questions and experiences among many different faith communities. The information and challenges of hybrid meetings gained from these pages, including hybridized worship structure, viable technical equipment and its costs, meeting room arrangement, and signage, are continually shared with M&W, the Finance Committee, as well as Building and Grounds, when appropriate.

Additionally, arising from the COVID-19 challenge, there have also been 2 private Religious Education Quaker Facebook pages created: “Valiant Together: RE Support During Covid 19” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ValiantTogetherQuakerRE/?ref=share>) and “Quaker Parenting Initiative” (<https://quakerparenting.org>.) Both have been shared with CYRE.

In addition to researching and keeping abreast of Zoom technology, our ad hoc committee continues to thresh our capacity for Zoom responsibilities and tasks. Ultimately, one of our Quaker testimonies has been a very useful guide for our actions and commitments - Simplicity. We are best able to make discernments about action when looking through the prism of Simplicity. We would like to tender many thanks to Naveed Moeed for his early and vital support. Additional thanks to both Deborah Gibbs and Tom Munk.

Respectfully,

Jeff Brown, Buzz Borchardt, Quaker Harmon, and Jan Hutton (convenor).

Shotts Memorial and Leadership Development Funds Committee Annual Report 2019-2020

The Mary and Claude Shotts/Leadership Development Funds Committee oversees two funds to support the leadings of Friends, both members and attenders, to enrich and deepen their capacity for leadership within the Meeting, the local community, and the Religious Society of Friends. The Mary and Claude Shotts Memorial Fund, established in 1973 from funds donated by members of the Shotts family, provides financial support to enrich and develop the lives of individuals with a relationship to the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Grants from this fund are distributed from the interest earned on principal.

The Leadership Development Fund, established in 1982, provides grants to benefit the spiritual life of the Meeting through the enhancement of leadership capabilities in individuals. Grants from this fund are distributed from money carried over from prior years and from annual allocations approved by the monthly meeting.

Friends Fiduciary manages the investments for the Shotts Memorial Fund, and the current principal balance is \$36,791.45. From this fund, we received \$1,337 in interest income for the 2019-20 fiscal year. We dispersed \$615.00 for three grants. Our fund balance in our BB&T account at the end of the fiscal year 2019-20 was \$2,239.40, carried forward to FY2020-21.

This past year we have supported three friends through the Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Funds. Chris Stanley attended a clerking workshop at Pendle Hill, Claire Bates purchased art supplies for use as part of her "climate health" concert events, and Jan Hutton participated in online training for developing a set of skills and strategies that support positive dialogue, relationships, and understanding between groups or individuals. Our usual offers to support Meeting participants in attendance at the Annual Meeting of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and at the Friends General Conference Gathering and a proposed trip to Bolivia have fallen victim to the COVID pandemic. Many organizations that now offer virtual events have generously asked participants to "pay what you are able."

The Mary and Claude Shotts/Leadership Development Funds Committee encourages all Friends to continue to look for opportunities to expand their spiritual and leadership development skills. Current travel and face-to-face interactions may be limited but this is a time when other relevant offerings are available virtually. Funding is also available to support Meeting standing committees that are considering special programming or training opportunities. The process to apply for financial support from the Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Funds is on our committee page on the Meeting's website.

We appreciate the service and wisdom of Monteze Snyder who completed her term in June 2019 and welcome Jan Hutton who is returning to her service as a new member of the Shotts Memorial/Leadership Development Funds Committee.

The current members of the Committee are Catherine Alguire, Asta Crowe (co-clerk), Lynn Drake (coclerk),

Ken Grogan, Jan Hutton, Susan Inglis, and Roberto Quercia.

Appendix 3

Dear Chapel Hill Friends Meeting and whomever else it may concern,

I am writing to document my beliefs and feelings about selective service. I hope that this letter adequately explains my reasons for requesting your support in my position as a conscientious objector.

Born into the Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, to parents married under the care of the Meeting, I have been a Quaker my whole life. I grew up in the Meeting as an active participant and caring member. This community shaped me, modeling for me the values of peace, integrity and community - ethics that guide my life.

Quakers practice non-violence, and I continuously consider and integrate this belief into my life, as I mature. I'm a peacemaker; I do not like conflict. When I interact with another human, I attempt to do so with utmost diplomacy, respect and understanding. I'm not a fighter; I seek nonviolent solutions to every problem that arises. I see no gain from violence, only distraught misled emotions, piling up and fueling each other. I will not go to war, or kill, for a country that has every resource to approach any "Opposition" with open arms and attentive ears. War appears as an easy way out. Emotions and needs can be very strong at times, driving people to make rash decisions, but poor decisions do not condemn them to death. I believe in forgiveness and that there is always the option for a peaceful resolution, no matter the conflict.

The only position that I could take during a war would be as a citizen working to heal the relationship and provide stewardship towards a peaceful resolution. My aim would be to take care of the needs, from which the conflict is brewing, to quell tensions. Or, after the fact, to help heal "wounds". At the end of WWII, the Marshall Plan did this for the axis powers, leading them to a time of prosperity instead of poverty. Without actions of this nature, reducing reason for future conflict, there would be no hope. I will always be present and willing to do my part to maintain peace without violence.

Everyone on this beautiful planet has been made equally, and I would not be able to remove their life from this world. I could not be brought to tarnish something as sacred as Humanity. Each breath, heartbeat, blink, sneeze, and thought have a purpose. I want to understand how others think, feel and see. To kill a fellow human would be to go against everything that I believe. A man who is unwilling to listen and learn is his own largest threat. True peace is not achievable through violence.

As I have stated and will always hold to, I am opposed to participating in any and all war. I disagree with all aspects of war and violence, it's against my personal moral and ethical code. My religious beliefs guide me to the understanding that all beings have an equal light shining from them; I will not snuff out that light. With clarity of mind and soul I consciously object to taking part in any war.

Over the past 18 years, I have been able to look to this Meeting for support and nurture, even through the toughest questions and experiences. I ask for continued support as I respectfully decline being drafted into any active military or supporting role and request to be recognized as a conscientious objector.

Gratefully yours,

Rufus Carver King



Appendix 4

Finance Committee Report

We appreciate the extensive work of the Solar Rooftop Committee in preparing Solar Rooftop Proposal. We approached this project as one of several capital projects that may require use of our existing resources and additional funds in the next two years. From this perspective we reached the following recommendations:

1. The top priority for capital projects is to support and plan for our safe return to the Meeting House when this is possible.
2. We recommend that we not borrow to undertake capital projects.
3. We estimate that we have about \$59,000 available for capital projects. We agreed that these funds could be available for capital projects with priority on preparations for returning to the Meeting House.
4. We do not recommend payment of \$6850 for interconnection and application procedures in 2020.
5. If the MWAB approves the Solar Rooftop Project and/or other projects as a priority for a capital campaign in 2021, we recommend that a fund raising subcommittee explore the feasibility for a campaign at that time. This Committee would report to Finance Committee, and Finance Committee would advise the MWAB.

Appendix 5

Ministry & Worship Committee, Report to the November 15, 2020 MWAB

From the perspective of the spiritual life of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, the Ministry & Worship Committee is in unity with the following statement.

Priorities for the spiritual life of the Meeting center around Meeting for Worship and preparing the meetinghouse to be reopened when we are allowed to gather again. Such preparation will likely involve an investigation into the health of the air inside the building, consideration of alternatives to improve the air inside, and estimates of costs. Expanding gathering/sitting areas outside may also be considered. When we reopen, do we want Meeting for Worship to be available by Zoom as well as in-person? Ministry and Worship may investigate this combination. Initial estimates from other meetings for the needed audio-visual equipment to offer Zoom Meeting for Worship from the meeting room total about \$5,000.

Planning on renovation projects to reduce noise in the foyer (and in the central room downstairs), reduce crowding in the foyer, and improve access from the outside was interrupted by the March closing of the meetinghouse. The improvements are important for the on-going life of the Meeting. The planning should be resumed in 2021. Some of the costs will be relatively minor. Others, such as repairing the settling of the cement sections in front of the main entry, cannot be known until investigation is complete. Should we consider constructing a “welcome room” to solve the on-going problems of the foyer? That will include a significant increase in costs. An ad hoc committee approved by MWAB needs to recommend alternatives and costs.

Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to news@chapelhillfriends.org.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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