

# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter: Eleventh Month, 2023



Monthly Query: *How do we use the world's resources with care and consideration for future generations and with respect for all life?*

Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: *Come to Meeting with neither a resolve to speak, nor a determination not to speak, but rather with an attitude of expectant waiting and openness.*

## Contents

<a href="#">Upcoming Zoom Fora</a>	2
<a href="#">Upcoming Events</a>	2
<a href="#">How to Stop Funding Fossil Fuels, Thurs, Nov 2, 7 pm</a>	2
<a href="#">A Faith-Based Look at a Post-Roe Future, Nov 4-5</a>	3
<a href="#">IFC Talk at Carol Woods, Mon. Nov 6, 1:15pm</a>	4
<a href="#">Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry Pecan Sale, Order by Nov. 6</a>	4
<a href="#">Memorial Service for Bonnie Ludlow, Sat. Nov 18, 2pm</a>	5
<a href="#">An Invitation from Durham Friends Meeting, Sat. Nov 18, 5:30pm</a>	5
<a href="#">Announcements</a>	6
<a href="#">Approved Minute on Conflict in Israel and Palestine</a>	6
<a href="#">Quaker Organizations Call for a Ceasefire</a>	7
<a href="#">Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Statement on Israel-Gaza</a>	7
<a href="#">Follow-Up to Forum on Wealth Building in Marginalized Communities</a>	8
<a href="#">InterFath Council Committee Is Seeking Volunteers</a>	8
<a href="#">Zoom Tech Hosts Wanted</a>	9
<a href="#">The IFC Pantry Needs Food Items</a>	9
<a href="#">Visiting the Meetinghouse During Covid</a>	9
<a href="#">Newsletter &amp; eNews Reminder</a>	9
<a href="#">Recurring Events</a>	10
<a href="#">Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm</a>	10

<a href="#">Pendle Hill Worship via Zoom, Daily, 8:30-9:10am</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Personals</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Apartment for Sublease, MLK Jr. Blvd</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Business Meeting Minutes</a>	<a href="#">13</a>



## Upcoming Zoom Fora

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

**November 5:** Firearm Violence: Personal, Spiritual, and Scientific Perspectives. Facilitator: Kate Fitch

**November 12:** On Speaking from the Silence. Facilitated by the Ministry and Worship Committee

**November 19:** MFWB

**November 26:** CYRE: Thanksgiving Forum

---



## Upcoming Events

How to Stop Funding Fossil Fuels, Thurs, Nov 2, 7 pm

[Register here](#)

The Durham Friends Meeting's Earth Care Witness Committee (Quaker) invites you to a Zoom moderated forum on Thursday, November 2, 2023, 7-8:15 PM about how we, as individuals and as faith communities, can help push back against climate change through our financial decisions. Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle is co-sponsoring the forum.

Jennie Ratcliffe, the author of *Nothing Lowly in the Universe: An Integral Approach to the Ecological Crisis* will speak to:

- the spiritual ground of our concern about the climate crisis,
- current and planned fossil fuel investments around the world, and
- why individually divesting from fossil fuels, supporting divestment campaigns, and reinvesting in environmentally responsible funds, are among the most effective environmental actions we can take.

Dale Evarts, formerly of EPA's climate and international group and currently active in climate activism, will cover:

- examples from financial institutions to corporations that fund and support the fossil fuel industry,
- practical tips on how individuals and congregations can divest our financial assets (credit cards, bank accounts, investments) from the financial institutions that fund fossil fuels, and
- ways to sign up with national movements aiming to enlist hundreds of thousands of people in this effort.

All participants are encouraged to read over [A Guide to Fossil Fuel Divestment and Reinvestment](#) before or after the presentation. These resources direct you to all the tools and information you need to get involved! This guide was prepared by Jennie Ratcliffe and members of the Earth Care Witness Committee, Durham Friends Meeting, updated in September, 2023.

Got money? Join us! [Register here](#).

---

## A Faith-Based Look at a Post-Roe Future, Nov 4-5

Thanks to a Passion Driven Ministry grant from The Presbytery of New Hope, the Church of Reconciliation invites you to a symposium on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, and to a special Sunday morning class and worship service on Sunday, Nov. 5th.

Saturday morning's keynote speakers include the Rev. Katey Zeh, Executive Director of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and author of *A Complicated Choice: Making Space for Grief and Healing in the Pro-Choice Movement* and Jina Dhillon, Policy and Advocacy Manager with Ipas, an international nongovernmental organization that focuses on work with partners around the world to advance reproductive justice by expanding access to abortion and contraception. In the afternoon, participants will learn from local experts from Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic, Pro Choice North Carolina, and the Orange County Health Department. Small group discussions throughout the day will support self-awareness and skills-building for effective advocacy. Seats are limited and registration is required. Coffee and pastries will be provided in the morning and lunch will be provided. Childcare is available on-site as an option through the registration process.

On Sunday, Nov. 5, the Church of Reconciliation welcomes back Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters, Professor of Religious Studies at Elon University, a feminist and Christian social ethicist, past President of the American Academy of Religion, Southeast Region, and the author of *Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice*. Toddie will deliver the sermon during the 11 a.m. worship service. During the Adult Sunday School class held at 9:30

a.m. before the worship service, Rev. Allen Brimer will explore theological issues related to abortion with a local Rabbi.

Register here! <https://bit.ly/3RI9APk>

Lunch confirmation - there will be vegetarian and non-vegetarian options provided at no cost. If your dietary needs require something more specific, please feel free to bring your own lunch (labeled) and we can store it in the church refrigerator. Please bring a water bottle if that will be your beverage of choice for the day!

Childcare confirmation - Ages and names of children, any important details. Please note that to accommodate potential food allergies, we ask families to bring any food that their child will consume. We will provide water and encourage water bottles.

Contact Carolyn White with questions. 919-475-3625

---

## IFC Talk at Carol Woods, Mon. Nov 6, 1:15pm

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

On Monday, November 6, the Interfaith Council for Social Services (IFC) leadership will speak at Carol Woods as part of their Peace and Justice Series there. You are invited to attend!!! Talk begins at 1:15 pm in the Assembly Room. Parking is out front. Please bring a mask! For questions, please contact Betsy Brinson at [brinson422@comcast.net](mailto:brinson422@comcast.net) or cell 804-836-2669.

---

## Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry Pecan Sale, Order by Nov. 6



Support Orange County Prison Ministry and our friends at Orange County Correctional. Proceeds from the sale help to pay the salary of the [OCC prison minister](#) who is not an employee of the state.

1 Lb Bag / \$15 Per Bag

Orders are due by November 6

To order online, go to <https://aoprisonministry.org/support-aopm/pecans/>.

AOPM would prefer that you use online ordering, but you can also print out [this order form](#) and mail a check to Alamance Orange Prison Ministry, PO Box 9932, Chapel Hill, NC 27515.

- Orders will be available for pick up on November 18 from 9am to 12 at First Baptist Church of Hillsborough, 201 W. King St.
- **However**, If you want to pick up your order at the Chapel Hill Friends Meetinghouse on **Sunday, November 19**, then:
  - When checking out online, add a note to the effect that the order will be picked up by someone from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. (If ordering by mail add a similar note to your order form)

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Order notes (optional)

**Will be picked up by someone from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting**

- **Email Richard Miller** of the Transition and Support Committee [miller.richardc@gmail.com](mailto:miller.richardc@gmail.com) asking that he pick up your order for you in Hillsborough and bring it to the Meetinghouse for pickup on Nov. 19.

The pecans are good, fresh and wonderful for eating raw, baking, sugaring, or any other format you can think of, and they make good gifts. They are too good for the squirrels!

For more about Orange County Prison Ministry, go to their website at <https://aoprisonministry.org/>.

---

## Memorial Service for Bonnie Ludlow, Sat. Nov 18, 2pm

A Memorial Service for Bonnie Ludlow will be held November 18 at 2 pm in the Meetinghouse. This will be a blended service available also on Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent in a subsequent email around November 15. A reception will follow.

---

## An Invitation from Durham Friends Meeting, Sat. Nov 18, 5:30pm

Stone Soup for everyone! Noon til 5:30pm on Saturday, Nov 18th at [Bluestem Conservation cemetery](#)

Please bring some vegetables or beans for the soup or bread to share if you are able.

\* There is no kitchen, so please bring soup contributions peeled, cut, ready to be cooked. \*  
Also, please bring your own chair, cups, dishes, etc.

We will be in a beautiful wildflower meadow that is focused on conservation, so please consider carpooling when possible.

I have been there and it is AMAZING! For anyone worried about the 'cemetery' part, we will be in the front and you do not need to walk through the burial areas unless you want to. And even then, it is easy to miss them as they are such a part of the landscape.

This event is open to ALL. Please share with all of your Friends and friends.

If you have questions, contact Jennifer Killen at [jenkillen2@gmail.com](mailto:jenkilken2@gmail.com) or 919-749-5416.

---



## Announcements

### Approved Minute on Conflict in Israel and Palestine

The following Minute was approved by Chapel Hill Friends Meeting at a called Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, October 29, 2023.

The Minute was shared with: FCNL, AFSC, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship, President Biden, Senators Tillis and Budd, Rep Foushee, Rep Jeffries, Senator Cardin, Rep McCaul, Rep Meeks, and several news sources (News and Observer, Daily TarHeel, New York Times: though it may be too long) Hard copies, as well as emails, were sent.

You are encouraged to share the minute widely and do your own advocacy for peace around the world.

#### **Minute concerning the conflict in Israel and Palestine**

Every life is precious, whether this human being, this father, child, mother, brother or sister, is Israeli, Palestinian, Ukrainian or Russian. As Quakers and members of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, we know this to be true. Life is sacred. We also know that history proves that retaliatory violence is a failure (e.g., wars of retribution in Iraq and Afghanistan). Violence unleashes more violence. Only peace with justice will establish a lasting peace where all people can live sustainable lives, including economic, environmental, religious freedom and human rights.

We condemn the violence unleashed by Hamas, and we denounce the retribution of the Israeli Defense Force on Gaza. What happens when the death and destruction on both sides have worn themselves out? What is the plan for ensuring peace going forward? The combatants see only the immediate righteous chaos; not what follows, not what will bring an end to the brutality and oppression that are the legacy of war. Our hearts grieve: There are no winners.

We urge our government not to add to the violence; we deplore sending military supplies and weapons to the region.

We commend the ongoing peace efforts in the Middle East. The international diplomats and government representatives who are going about the process of seeking peace deserve our support and our prayers. They are not only focusing on the immediate crisis, but also on establishing a long-term peace. We add our voices to the many who advocate humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza as they seek to escape, indeed, seek to survive the immediate crisis.

We urge our government to call for an immediate ceasefire, immediate and adequate humanitarian aid, and negotiations for a long-term peace.

As Quakers, we believe each life is sacred.

Approved by Chapel Hill Friends Meeting in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business,  
October 29, 2023

Ann Miller, clerk

---

## Quaker Organizations Call for a Ceasefire

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

Stop the violence and allow humanitarian access to Gaza — this is the strong call from Quakers from around the world in a statement issued this week.

The Quaker United Nations Office was among signatories to this statement, along with Quaker organisations that work on the ground in Palestine and Israel.

“The Israeli government must grant access and safety to the U.N. (United Nations) and humanitarian agencies to fulfill their duties. Instead of further bloodshed, we need immediate humanitarian access for Gaza and adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law,” reads the statement.

To read the full statement, [click here](#).

---

## Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Statement on Israel-Gaza

Ann Miller shares with Friends:

Following is a link to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s statement and links to resources that may be useful. Of note is an AFSC Meeting for worship on 10/27 10-11 with attention to peace in Israel and Palestine.

<https://www.pym.org/philadelphia-yearly-meeting-response-to-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>

Good to know lots of people of faith are trying to make the voice of peace be heard.

---

## Follow-Up to Forum on Wealth Building in Marginalized Communities

For those who attended the Sept 24th forum, or are interested in how debt exploits the most vulnerable amongst us, below are the organizations our speakers represented:

Whitney Barkley-Denney  
Center for Responsible Lending  
302 West Main Street  
Durham, NC 27701  
Website: <https://www.responsiblelending.org/about-crl>

Carl Rist (formerly of)  
Prosperity Now  
1200 G Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005  
Website: <https://www.responsiblelending.org/about-crl>

And those interested in helping relieve local medical debt, the largest cause of personal bankruptcy:

Jubilee Baptist Church (2025 Ephesus Church Road Chapel Hill NC 27517) is hosting a family-friendly event October 14 from 4-7pm to raise funds to relieve medical debt in Orange and Durham Counties. Every dollar raised will cancel \$100 through the purchase of discounted debt, using RIP Medical Debt, a nationally recognized 501-(c)-(3) charity.

Jubilee Church website: <https://www.jubileebaptist.church/about-us>  
RIP Medical Debt website: <https://ripmedicaldebt.org/>

---

## 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.

---

## 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).

---

## The IFC Pantry Needs Food Items

Carolyn Stuart shares with Friends:

The Inter-Faith Council pantry continues to need donations of food items. Please think of the IFC as you do your grocery shopping! The basket in the meetinghouse foyer is available to receive your contributions on First Days. We are no longer offering last-Wednesday food donation pickups, as Friends tend now to either support the IFC through financial contributions or bring food items to the foyer on First Days.

Thank you.

---

## 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.

---

## 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. Please put "**for eNews**" in the subject line.
- The deadline for the monthly print Newsletter is on the *last Sunday of the month*. Please put "**for Newsletter**" in the subject line.

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).

---



## 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.

---

### 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/?bbblinkid=21029074&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."

---

## Pray for Peace - From Friends House Moscow

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.

---



## Personals

### Apartment for Sublease, MLK Jr. Blvd

Hi all! I am studying abroad this spring so I am subleasing my 1 bed/1 bath in a 4 bed 4 bath unit in Lark Apartments. The 5th floor apartment is fully furnished and all utilities are included except electricity. There is a large living room, kitchen, and laundry in the unit. Other amenities include a direct campus shuttle, gym, pool, and study rooms. Lark Apartments are an easy walking distance to campus and Franklin Street. Option of an official well-lit parking spot (viewable from the room). Looking for another female student who is clean and respectful.

\$950/month without parking or \$1050 with reserved parking spot

Dates are flexible (late December or early January until the end of May). Please reach out with any questions if you are interested!! [sophiajanekf@gmail.com](mailto:sophiajanekf@gmail.com).



# Business Meeting Minutes

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
Minutes**

**9 am Sunday October 15, 2023**

**Online via Zoom**

**Ann Miller, Clerk, and Susan Inglis, Recording Clerk**

In attendance: Jeff Brown, David Waterman, Monteze Snyder, John Pilgrim, Jennifer Leeman, Tom Munk, Julia Cleaver, Susan Newcomer, Tom Ludlow, Alice Carlton, Dave Curtin, Hank Elkins, Jan Hutton, Susan Newcomer, Tori Toles, Quaker Harmon, Carolyn Stuart, John Hite, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Tom Ludlow, Wendy Michener, Ken Grogan, Dottie Henninger, Buzz Borchardt, Rebecca Estes, Carolyn White, Julia Cleaver, Allie Scales, Peter Malone, Paul Munk, Colleen Fey, Shanna, Emilie Condon, Nancy Milio, Ann Miller, Susan Inglis

1. Opening worship and query – clerk Query: What does simplicity mean to me?
2. Clerk: Welcome, recognition of first-time attenders, review of agenda.
3. Minutes of the September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) were considered and approved.
4. Monteze Snyder shared the Treasurer financial reports for FY 2022-23. They are attached here as Appendix 1. Monteze responded to questions. With discussion Friends accepted the report with great appreciation.
5. David Waterman presented the Finance Committee annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 2. David responded to questions and Friends accepted the report.
6. Wendy Michener presented the Peace & Justice Committee annual report. It is attached here as Appendix 3. Friends accepted the report with appreciation. Learning that today is the 250th anniversary of Spring Friends Meeting and that Wendy is attending, Friends instructed her to deliver our Meeting's congratulations to that Meeting.
7. Jeff Brown presented the Ministry and Worship committee report on the recent Clerks' retreat. It is attached here as Appendix 4. Friends accepted the report with appreciation to Ministry & Worship Committee.

8. Jeff Brown was to have presented the Ministry and Worship committee annual report, but this item of business was held over to next month.

9. The Clerk offered time for other concerns of members, seasoned or not, to be identified only and simply heard or referred. Several Friends spoke:

Carolyn White said she is heavy hearted in this week of war. She referred Emma Hulbert's FCNL piece, noting that we are pacifists but not passive, and raised the query: Where does that leave us? She asks that we look into our hearts and find what public statement we can make.

Hank Elkins noted a concern for all of us in the coming election: there is much talk of affordable housing, but nothing about accessibility.

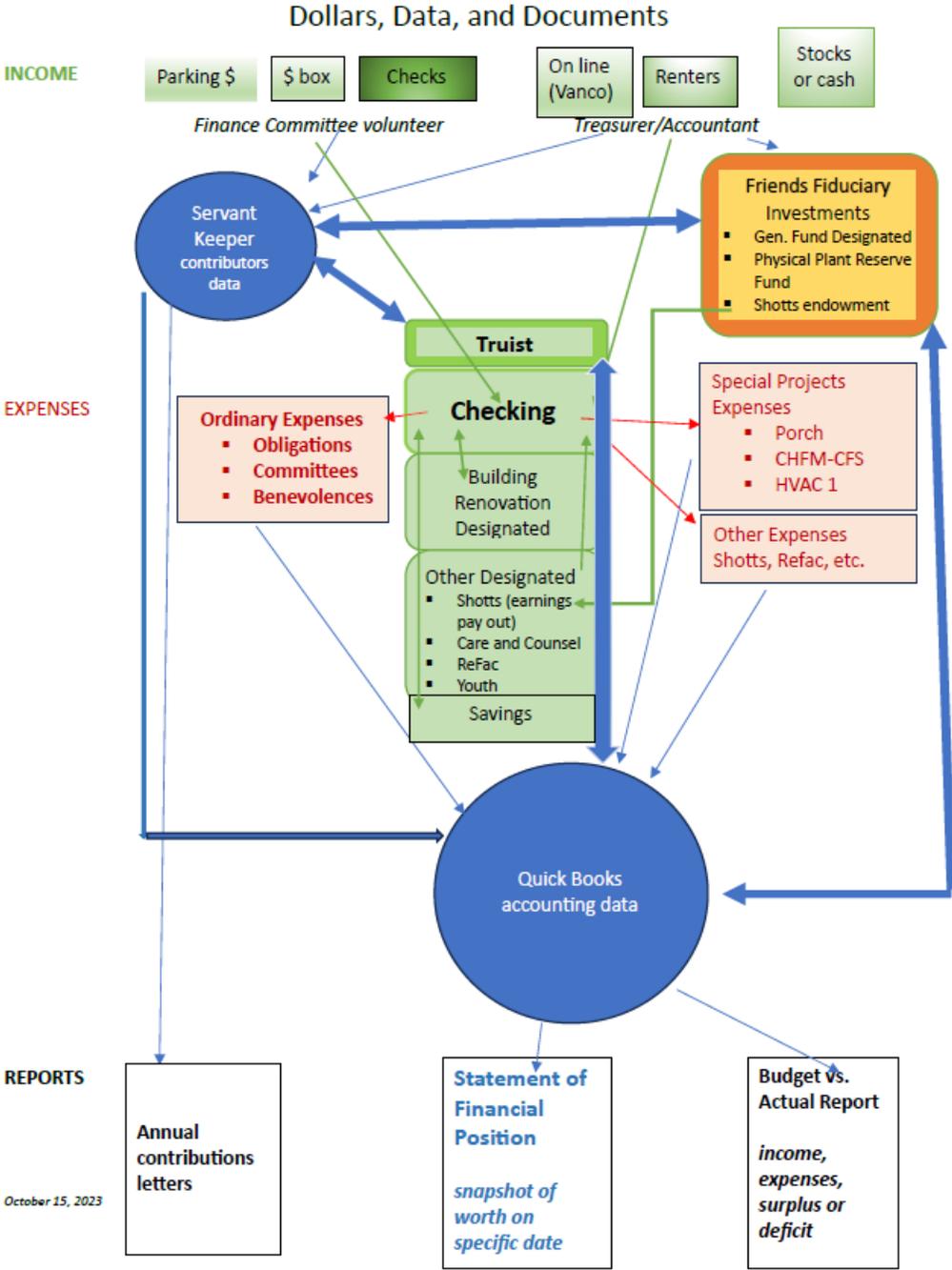
Tom Munk noted how useful the FCNL website is for each of us as individuals – for info and for taking action.

10. Clerk reminded Friends that our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on 11/19/2023.

The meeting closed with Announcements and then worship in a virtual closing circle.

- Piedmont Friends Fall Gathering is 10/28/23 11-330 pm including a tour of the International Civil Rights Center & Museum—Shotts Fund will cover the cost for CHFM attenders
- School of the Spirit Contemplative Retreat, 10/26-29
- the NC Peace Booth at the NC State Fair needs volunteers to staff it 10/12-22/23
- the Spiritual State of the Meeting discussion is scheduled for Saturday, 11/11/23 by Zoom.

Appendix 1  
Treasurer financial reports for FY 2022-23



# Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

## Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2023

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1-Checking Truist-2699	1,366.30
1. Unrestricted Checking 8698	60,420.70
2-Savings Truist-9737	56,136.74
3-Designated Renova Truist-4039	31,228.76
4-Designated Funds Truist-4593	1.49
Care and Counsel Support Funds	7,887.39
ReFac Support Funds	2,321.05
Shotts Leadership Support Funds	3,649.65
Youth Service Support Funds	4,116.25
<b>Total 4-Designated Funds Truist-4593</b>	<b>17,975.83</b>
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$167,128.33</b>
Other Current Assets	
FF- General Fund Designated	39,850.96
FF- Physical Plant Resrv Fund-D	38,026.71
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$77,877.67</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$245,006.00</b>
Other Assets	
FF- Shotts Endowment Rst	38,685.84
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$38,685.84</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$283,691.84</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	553.71
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$553.71</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$553.71</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$553.71</b>
Equity	
FF Unrealized Gain/Loss	22,706.54
Opening Balance Equity	134,376.03
Unrestricted Net Assets	96,517.41
Net Revenue	29,538.15
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$283,138.13</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$283,691.84</b>

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting**  
**Budget vs. Actuals: FY\_2022\_2023 - FY23 P&L**  
 July 2022 - June 2023

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	84,379.31	67,736.00	124.57 %
Parking space rental	4,860.00	4,734.00	102.66 %
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$89,239.31</b>	<b>\$72,470.00</b>	<b>123.14 %</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$89,239.31</b>	<b>\$72,470.00</b>	<b>123.14 %</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
FDS Coordinator/Childcare	7,274.40	7,500.00	96.99 %
Insurance	7,491.00	6,110.00	122.60 %
Software License Fee	1,128.88	1,000.00	112.89 %
UBIT and Stormwater	1,122.49	2,000.00	56.12 %
Utilities	5,298.05	5,300.00	99.96 %
Zoom operator		2,400.00	
<b>Total A-Obligations</b>	<b>22,314.82</b>	<b>24,360.00</b>	<b>91.60 %</b>
<b>B-Committees</b>			
Building and Grounds	8,298.77	8,500.00	97.63 %
Care and Counsel		110.00	
Meeting for Suffering		200.00	
<b>Total Care and Counsel</b>		<b>310.00</b>	
Children's/Youth Religious Ed	427.48	500.00	85.50 %
Communication Technology	2,634.59	5,400.00	48.79 %
Finance	1,869.20	1,300.00	143.78 %
Contingency Fund		300.00	
Credit Card Fee	78.79	450.00	17.51 %
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>1,947.99</b>	<b>2,050.00</b>	<b>95.02 %</b>
Friends Transition & Suppt-Yoke	596.65	600.00	99.44 %
Hospitality	80.13	415.00	19.31 %
IFC	150.00	50.00	300.00 %
Library	200.00	370.00	54.05 %
Ministry and Worship	442.69	1,000.00	44.27 %
Nominations		40.00	
Peace and Justice	594.15	500.00	118.83 %
National Quaker Service	900.00	900.00	100.00 %
<b>Total Peace and Justice</b>	<b>1,494.15</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>106.73 %</b>
Publications and Communications		100.00	
<b>Total B-Committees</b>	<b>16,272.45</b>	<b>20,885.00</b>	<b>77.91 %</b>
<b>C-Transfers to other accounts</b>			
Returning Citizens		200.00	
Youth Service Trip		1,000.00	

<b>Total C-Transfers to other accounts</b>		<b>1,200.00</b>	
	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>% OF</b>
<b>D-Benevolences</b>			
Legacy Benevolences	17,380.00	19,454.00	89.34 %
M&W Benevolences	1,400.00	1,400.00	100.00 %
P&J Benevolences	5,171.00	5,171.00	100.00 %
<b>Total D-Benevolences</b>	<b>23,951.00</b>	<b>26,025.00</b>	<b>92.03 %</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$62,538.27</b>	<b>\$72,470.00</b>	<b>86.30 %</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$26,701.04</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
Misc Income (including FF contribution)	10,275.01		
Designated Building Renovation	26,308.25		
Designated Interest income	2,780.25		
Designated Shotts payout	1,557.04		
<b>Total Misc Income</b>	<b>40,920.55</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$40,920.55</b>		
<b>Other Expenditures</b>			
<b>Special Projects</b>			
Porch Project & CFS -CHFM engineering studies	31,739.74		
HVAC 1 (Building Renov)	3,922.00		
<b>Total Special Projects</b>	<b>35,661.74</b>		
Returning Citizens (ReFac)	246.70		
Shotts Leadership	2,175.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>\$38,083.44</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>NET OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,837.11</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$29,538.15</b>		
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$26,701.04</b>		
Porch Project & CFS -CHFM engineering	-31,739.74		
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>-\$5,038.70</b>		

Appendix 2  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**

**Introduction**

**The Finance Committee** has responsibility for stewardship of the financial resources of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, which allows the Meeting to continue its work. The goals of the Finance Committee are to support this stewardship by:

- a) Maintaining a balanced budget;
- b) Supporting the work of vital committees and providing support for designated Quaker organizations and other local entities approved by Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (benevolences);
- c) Providing and monitoring the level of savings for routine and unanticipated repairs for our facilities and flexibility to cover contingencies; and
- d) Maintaining sufficient assets and savings to meet future needs.

**The Treasurer** provides oversight of the financial health of the Meeting, maintains records of the financial transactions of the Meeting, and provides quarterly and annual reports to the Meeting for Worship and Attention to Business. While the roles of the Treasurer and the Finance Committee have been defined separately, we have in practice worked collaboratively. The Treasurer serves as an *ad hoc* member of the Finance Committee.

**Activities of the Finance Committee in 2022-23**

Our routine activities included:

- Fundraising, collection of donations, and paying of Meeting obligations;
- Maintaining accounting of income and expenditures, the Meeting's bank and investment accounts, and the financial reserves for use in case of emergencies.
- Preparation of the Meeting's Annual Budget beginning in Spring of 2022. As part of this process, committees provided requests for funding of their planned activities for the upcoming fiscal year. Benevolence requests were also submitted by relevant committees. As usual, the budget was reviewed by MWAB in May and approved in June.

Among non-routine activities, we

- Identified sources of funding for three special projects and coordinated with Building and Grounds and the Schoolhouse Ad Hoc Committee for procurement and payments for them: 1) reconstruction of the porch, 2) engineering study for our HVAC system, and 3) engineering studies for the foundation of the Schoolhouse building.

- Discovered external fraudulent use of funds in our checking account, and worked with Truist Bank to restore our funds. Although our Meeting did not suffer any financial losses, the fraud, among other things, disrupted multiple banking transactions and connections with our software and other external financial institutions over a period of months, at considerable time cost to the Treasurer and the Clerk of our committee.
- Increased the wages of the Religious Education Coordinator and the Child Care Assistant to the current [Orange County Living Wage](#) level.
- Accepted the decision of our Treasurer, Maura Murphy, to resign as of July, 2023 after more than ten years of service. Maura served as both accountant and Treasurer for her entire tenure.
- Separated and redefined the roles of the Treasurer and accountant. (see Appendix for details)
- Conducted a search for an accountant knowledgeable about nonprofits and hired Peggy James, CPA.

As usual, The Treasurer reported to the Finance Committee monthly on income and expenses and worked with the Committee in the preparation of the 2022-2023 fiscal year report, the quarterly reports to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The Treasurer kept on-going records to assist in our task. We now use Quick Books online to track our finances and log contributions through Servant Keeper in conjunction with VANCO for our on-line contributions.

This past year, Maura was instrumental in dealing with Truist about the fraud, defining the roles of Treasurer and accountant, and interviewing and hiring the new external accountant. We thank her for working beyond her time commitment of June 30<sup>th</sup> to facilitate this transition and the lingering issues with Truist.

### **Commentary on FY2022-23 Financial Results**

In this section, we lead up to our conclusion that the Financial Health of Chapel Hill Friends, though not great, is good.

As we learned from the Treasurer's report, the Meeting's total ordinary income of \$89,239, including contributions of \$84,379, enabled (after subtracting our operating expenses) a positive net operating income of \$26,701 for FY2022-23. This outcome is a tribute to the generosity of contributors in our Meeting.

On the operating expenditure side, actual spending of only \$62,538 compared to budgeted spending of \$72,470 was in large part due to underspending by our committees. The rest of that

gap was primarily made up by savings resulting from our continued reliance on an unpaid volunteer zoom operator and an inadvertent underpayment of benevolences in FY2022-23.

Turning now to non-operating income and expenses, a further display of contributors’ generosity is the \$26,308 in donations to the Designated Building Renovation Fund in FY2022-23. These gifts provide resources restricted for use on the planned Building Renovations and HVAC projects, which in 2022-23 totaled \$3,922.

Beyond the usual operating expenses, however, we incurred some other substantial bills, notably \$27,851 for the porch project, and \$2816 for engineering studies for the Schoolhouse. All of our total net income--plus some savings—was thus required to cover these other non-operating expenses—thus our overall FY2022-23 deficit of \$5038.

The Statement of Financial Position document provides a snapshot of all the Meeting’s assets and liabilities on a given day, thus permitting comparisons of overall fiscal health of the Meeting from one year to the next. Due to accounting issues affecting the reported cash assets in the June 30, 2023 Statement, however, we focus here on FY2022-23 changes in our Friends Fiduciary (FFC) investment accounts. In the last few years, these investments have accounted for about 40% of our total financial assets. (FFC is an investment non-profit which was founded by Quakers in 1898. It offers “socially responsible investment management consistent with Quaker values.”)

Table 1 provides details for the 3 FFC investment accounts held by the Meeting, each of which were 100% invested in FFC’s “Growth and Income Fund”, a diversified stock and bond fund. Overall growth was over 19%. All 3 of our accounts increased in value, led by a 10.6% increase in the Growth and Income Fund in which they are invested.

Table 1  
Changes of Value in the CHFM FFC Investment Funds 2022-23

Fund	30-Jun-22	30-Jun-23	% change
Shotts Endowment	36,454	38,685	6.1
General Fund Designated	26,910	39,851	48.1
Physical Plant Reserve Fund	34,375	38,027	10.6
Totals	97,739	116,563	19.3

The percentage growth in the 3 funds varies widely, however, first because all dividends are reinvested in The Physical Plant Reserve account and in the General Fund-Designated account, while all dividends are paid out to the Meeting for the Shotts account, leading to the relatively low growth in the principal held in that account. The much higher growth in the General Fund Designated account largely reflects another instance of generosity in the form of a \$9,908 stock donation in February 2023.

As for the 10.6% rate of return in the FFC's Growth and Income Fund, we are satisfied with that even though the S&P500 stock index rose by 17.6% over the same period. First, about 30% of the Growth and Income Fund is invested in bonds, whose prices declined substantially due to an increase in bond yields. Also, investment returns for so-called "Environmental, Social, and Governance" (ESG) stocks and bonds tend to be lower than for the broader market. Notably, for example, Friends Fiduciary does not invest in the oil and gas industries, whose stocks rose substantially more than did the S&P500 over the FY2022-23 period.

As the Treasurers report has indicated, the Meeting has a policy objective, as it has in the past, of maintaining adequate balances in cash in its checking account to cover 2 months of its expenses, and enough in its saving account to cover one year of its obligations. These requirements were met during the FY2022-23 period. We currently have adequate funds in these accounts to meet the higher "obligations" category of our budget in FY2023-24.

### **Financial Health of CHFM**

Overall, the Finance Committee considers that the Meeting's financial health is **good**, and our financial positions are sufficient to address our obligations, currently planned repairs (HVAC 1), and the leadings of the Meeting in FY2023-24. A push for additional contributions in the later months of last fiscal year was necessary to obtain the level of contributions we achieved. We will require continued support for this year.

Building Renovations funds are sufficient to cover the completion of HVAC 1. We await cost estimates for additional stages of the HVAC work and resulting renovations of the upstairs. Potential contributions to the CFS foundation remediation project will also require further assessment and likely a separate fund-raising campaign.

While the Budget vs. Actuals report shows a total net income of \$28,760, most of these funds (\$26,308) are designated for Building Renovations. As a result of special projects for the porch

and CFS engineering studies, we have an overall deficit of \$5038 for FY 2022-23. We have, however, retained sufficient savings to cover this loss.

As noted above, Legacy Benevolences were unintentionally lower than planned in FY2022-23 due to errors in calculations. The Finance Committee proposes to allocate \$1,614 of our savings to restore the planned levels of donation to these organizations.

Finally, we point out that although we were able to provide only a partial picture of FY2022-23 changes in our total financial assets, the healthy growth of our FFC investment accounts during this period represents an advance in the long-term financial security of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

### **A Note of Thanks**

Finally, the Finance Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank Monteze for her years of service as Clerk of this committee. The amount of time and able effort she has devoted to this task, particularly during the past year, has been extraordinary. She took the lead in investigating and rectifying the fraudulent activity at Truist. Overall, Monteze has greatly contributed to our entire financial process.

The 2022-23 members of the Finance Committee were: Monteze Snyder (Clerk), Julia Cleaver, Tom Ludlow, Maura Murphy (Treasurer and ex officio member,) Mansir Petrie, Gwynne Pomeroy, and David Waterman.

### ***Appendix***

#### Statement on the New FY2023-24 Roles of the Treasurer and the Accountant

The Treasurer provides oversight on the financial health of the Meeting and is responsible for the following:

- Making regular financial reports to the Finance Committee and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
- Reviewing [financial statements](#) and matching them with the plans for the Meeting
- Coordinating and recording deposits of income to financial institutions with support from Finance Committee
- Providing year-end statements to contributors
- Maintaining Servant Keeper records of income
- Serving as the key liaison with the external accountant

- Responding to questions from Meeting members about expenditures and budgets
- Leading on problem solving related to financial matters
- Maintaining established policies for financial management of the Meeting
- Attending *ex officio* at Finance Committee meetings (usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

#### Accountant

The accountant will be engaged on a contract to provide the following services:

- Record and itemize deposits
- Post General ledger
- Reconcile bank statements
- Reconcile credit cards with receipts
- Prepare 1099s, W2s and W3s and submit electronically
- Prepare state sales tax refund returns
- Preparation of accounts payable checks
- Oversee payroll services with external agent
- Bookkeeping software generated monthly, quarterly and annual reports
- Special reports:
  - Provides Treasurer with detailed report on utility costs and water bill and county drainage fee amounts
  - Calculates the prior calendar year's football parking income to the IRS and pays the UBIT tax
  - Runs other special reports as requested.

## Appendix 3

### CHFM Peace and Justice Annual Report for 2022-2023

Peace and Justice is presently a small committee. We started out as 6 and we are now 3. Of the three left, 2 have full time jobs and all belong to 3-5 or 6 committees - in and out of Meeting. We need people. Nevertheless, we have been useful to Meeting.

Peace and Justice is responsible for most of the Meeting's Benevolences. 5 of these are "Legacy" - AFSC, FCNL, Inter-Faith Council, Carolina Friends School and Quaker House of Fayetteville need only be reviewed every five years. The remainder of the money goes to 3-5 groups. This year, the groups chosen were Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry, Peaceful Schools NC (out of Carolina Friends School), Friends House Moscow and ReEntry House Plus (serving men released from OCC). We have received thanks from the last two and also from NC Warn, FCNL, AFSC and Quaker House. Both NC Warn and FCNL are grateful for past support and have sufficient money for now.

### Working with other committees in and out of the Meeting

1. ARE agreed to give one Forum a month into the care of Peace and Justice. This is flexible and subject to ARE approval.
2. QEW on the issue of climate change. Wendy and Hank of P&J are also part of QWE so P&J has a direct link to work back and forth. P&J has shared sponsorship of Forums on the subject with QEW.
3. FCNCL is presently under the care of P&J. Work with FCNCL is done by individuals only.
4. Racial Equity Committee works independently under our care.

### Forums -

1. Oct 2 - Stephen Zunes on Western Sahara which is one of two countries/peoples (Palestine is the other) controlled by a hostile neighbor and officially unrecognized as a country.
2. Oct 27 - Walter Nagle, surviving partner of Bayard Rustin, presented about the life and his memories of Bayard Rustin at CH Library to a welcoming, diverse group of people.
3. Dec 4 - Steven Laning brought his presentation about the current state of climate change on our planet
4. Dec 11 - Karen Porter: Friends House Moscow was described and the work they are doing (and still doing) in Russia. These include supporting Conscientious Objectors, refugees and orphans tossed from the childcare system. They also translate and publish Quaker books/pamphlets into Russian.

5. January 29 - Wayne Fineger - new Quaker House Director is introduced to CHFM.
6. March 12 - Mary Rider shared her journey on the US southern border observing the status of refugees and immigrants and visiting with people who have devoted themselves to helping them.
7. April 2 - Stan Becker and Richard Grossman on reproductive rights with Hank Elkins as moderator. Stan Becker is a retired professor of demography at Johns Hopkins University and a member of Baltimore's Homewood Meeting. Richard Grossman is a retired ob/gyn and member of Durango Colorado Meeting, who for over 30 years provided abortion in Colorado. The two spoke about the data on abortion over time and across our nation, observing that abortion occurs whether or not it is legal, and that when it is illegal, the maternal death rate increases. They answered questions concerning unwanted, unintended and unplanned pregnancies, which the poor and underserved are more likely to be dealing with. The data show that over half of women who obtain abortion already have at least one child. In the US, more than half of women having abortions use the so-called abortion pill rather than go to a clinic for a procedure. The discussion that followed in part related to the FCNL's recent query concerning whether the organization should respond to legislation related to abortion.
8. May 7 - Sally Robertson talked about the status of solar and wind power in NC, the political power and resistance of Duke Energy and a bit about what the Build Back Better bill has to offer NC residents.

Reproductive Justice and Abortion statement of Chapel Hill Meeting for discernment by FCNL

1. This was the most important issue to come to Peace and Justice in 2023. The time between Meeting being notified (in Meeting for Worship, not Business Meeting) and the FCNL deadline for delivery was 4 weeks. Not ideal for a Quaker Meeting to come to unity.
2. The Clerk of P&J had seen the Quaker process of discernment done very well and done badly within Chapel Hill Meeting over decades and had a clear idea of how that process was supposed to work. It is named here to put it into the record of our Minutes.
  1. At least a year, but often more of discussion and factual presentations
  2. Transparency and communication between committees working on an matter of importance to the Meeting and the entire Meeting as a whole
  3. People willing to listen deeply
  4. People willing and able to share their personal insights

5. Messages in MFW, E-News, Meetings and Forums called to allow 3 and 4 to happen within our community
  6. A spirit-led statement, well worked over in committee
3. We had one very important assist: the issue had been on the front pages of our nation well before June 24, 2022 when the Dobbs decision was handed down. The stipulation of a long, transparent consideration required by Quaker process was provided, gratis, by the Media, numerous state legislatures and the 2022 election cycle including who won races (the expected red wave was tiny) and the results of six state abortion referendums.
  4. Our second assist: several committees were actively helpful – ARE, QEW and Publications all stepped up. Publications was particularly important. QEW had a Forum planned, they handed that spot over to P&J and ARE was on board. Publications was asked to publish everything sent to them (transparency) and they did.
  5. At the initial MFW, the P&J Clerk described the process – a Forum on abortion followed by a Threshing session from which P&J would write a statement to be offered to MWAB in the month of April. This “program” was published again in the E-news along with the request from FCNL. A poll was taken in that same MFW as to likely attendance – 5 said yes to a weekday night, 5 to a Saturday morning. We did both.
  6. Two passionate people invited Stan Becker, a John Hopkins demographer and Richard Grossman, retired obstetrician and gynecologist, to create a Forum which was presented the next First Day. Some 20 people were asked to Clerk the Threshing sessions. People were afraid, but two were found who said yes. A Note taker volunteered. The Threshing sessions were textbook – much deep listening and sober, thoughtful, passionate speaking. The Notes were published immediately after each session. A statement was produced by one person at the end of the first session, refined in the second and then refined again in the regular P&J meeting. It was published in the E-News before MWAB.
  7. The statement was approved without change in MWAB. Several people spoke about the process and how they were affected by listening to each other.
  8. One addendum. CHFM people range from those who are deeply against abortion to people who consider it necessary to people who hold that it is natural, proper and righteous. All of them agreed on two things – that the life of the mother is the first consideration and that making abortion illegal is wrong.

## 9. **April Minutes 2023 - Appendix 3** Statement Resulting from Reproductive Justice and Abortion Policy Threshing Sessions

.Guided by our Quaker faith, we respect each individual's process of inner discernment and their right to make decisions of conscience about their healthcare, including whether to become pregnant, avoid pregnancy, or terminate pregnancy. We observe that bans and restrictions on abortion have violated the principle of equality of all people, as efforts to enforce these have resulted in criminalization, incarceration, excessive surveillance, medical neglect resulting in death or severe harm, and violations of privacy, specifically of people who can become pregnant.

.The Chapel Hill Friends Meeting agrees that universal access to affordable, effective, comprehensive health care, including age-appropriate sexual education, male and female contraception, and abortion, is an individual right and is necessary to allow all people to fulfill their potential. We oppose government efforts to ban or restrict abortion.

(Threshing notice is in the Fourth Month (April) Newsletter – the Statement can be found in the Fourth Month Minutes / Fifth Month (May) Newsletter 2023)

### Voter Registration

1. Called returning citizens to check voter registration status
2. Assisted returning citizens in registering
3. Quakers registered people on the UNC campus

### Palestine/Israel

A letter concerning Israeli/Palestinian violence was presented to Business Meeting which approved the letter to be sent to President Biden from Peace and Justice. Ruth Zalph did the delivery.

Refugee Assistance by CHFM was principally done by two (now former) members of P&J, Joe Groves and Leslie Bassinger.

1. Last year, the Carol Woods Peace and Justice Forum asked the administration if it made sense to offer a house CW owns on Weaver Dairy Rd. as housing for a refugee family. The administration said yes and, working with Church World Service, we welcomed a Syrian family with 4 children, ages 8, 7, 4, and 2. Joe Groves from the CHFM Peace and Justice Committee has taken a lead role in the project with two other CW residents. Betsy Brinson and other Friends at CW have been deeply involved in work with the family.

2. The Carol Woods community—residents (over 100!), administration, and staff—repaired, cleaned, and furnished the house, cleared up the property, and welcomed the family. We've negotiated with the refugee agency, dealt with emergencies, contacted schools, doctors, agencies, and are doing English conversation classes. We have formed a partnership with Refugee Community Partnership in Chapel Hill for further support. The husband is working two jobs: full-time at Goodwill, and, 2 days a week, as a Carol Woods intern on a temporary, 3-month basis. We hope he can become full-time at Carol Woods.
3. Most importantly, Carol Woods has made an institutional commitment to working with refugees, with the Syrian father being the first step. Working with one family has led to institutional change.
4. Leslie Bassinger led on a second family. Samir Omary, his wife Reema and 8 month old daughter Aida are a refugee family from Afghanistan. They are currently living in Raleigh, NC and both Chapel Hill and Raleigh Friends Meeting have been in contact to provide support. A list of 13 "urgently needed" household items presented to Friends (thanks to the efforts of Friends John Bell, Vernie Davis, Mark Davidson, Lori Fernald Khamala, Tom and Jennifer Munk) is currently down to 3 items.
5. They are still in need of a firm queen size mattress, a food processor, and a pressure cooker. Diapers (Pampers Cruisers 360, currently size 4) and baby wipes are an ongoing need. Please contact Samir at 919-328-0906 if you have any of these items.

At some point, Samir may consider giving a Second Hour/Forum on his experiences and insights about the Afghan War. RFM will let us know when this is scheduled. The RFM Second Hour/Forum format is hybrid, allowing for both in-person and zoom participation.

Submitted by CHFM Peace and Justice Committee, Wendy Michener, Hank Elkins, Astra Titus

## Appendix 4

### Chapel Hill Friends Meeting Clerks' Retreat September 23, 2023, 9:30 AM Summary

Major strengths of our Meeting are our committee structure combined with our efforts to make committee work a valuable experience for all involved. The annual Clerks' Retreat is convened by the Ministry & Worship Committee as an opportunity for committee clerks and other members and attenders to review and clarify expectations, roles, responsibilities, and Quaker process.

This year, 16 Friends gathered in person on a Saturday morning, in the multi-purpose room with optional masking. Committees represented were Adult Religious Education, Building & Grounds, Finance, Children's and Youth Education, Nominations, Hospitality, Interfaith Council, Library, Peace & Justice, Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee, Transition & Support, Care & Counsel, Ministry & Worship, and Zoom Subcommittee.

After opening worship, Clerk of the Meeting, Ann Miller, read excerpts from "Listening Spirituality, Volume II" by Patricia Loring (attachment 1) for the purpose of building community in our Meeting. The text highlighted the value of committee work as a spiritual commitment, in humility and love. Engaging with others is an opportunity to grow in ability to wait on the Spirit. Loring emphasizes humble listening in respect, tenderness and love.

The session proceeded with three queries for small groups followed by sharing with the full group.

#### 1. In what ways do we support each other in our committee work?

Collaborating with committee members on an agenda is a beneficial step in preparing for a committee meeting. Co-clerking is a supportive way to approach sharing tasks and building trust. Taking turns, including rotating on and off service as clerk or co-clerk, helps build clerking skills and deepen committee experience among givers of time and service.

2. How can we make our committees a community in which each person feels accepted and nurtured; how do we welcome newcomers to the committee and nurture them?

Offer an orientation to new committee members, with past minutes, calendar, current membership and other information. Check in with committee members after opening worship to help build community within the committee. Be mindful of why we are coming together on a committee, in welcoming ways. Meet for coffee or the like to help nurture new members. Be open to new approaches.

3. How does time for worship in committees enhance my capacity for attentive, non-judgmental listening to others?

Leave more time for opening worship and inserting time for silent worship for particularly challenging agenda items. Refocus on active listening. Feel each other's Spirit. Strive for a balance between getting agenda items done and sustaining a worshipful, loving process. Be willing to hold over an item that needs more time.

Ann Miller also led a discussion of the basic logistics of committee clerking and Quaker process. In brief, clerks are servants, organizers, and communicators. Discussion touched on agendas, minutes, and committee calendars, worshipful spirit-led meetings, discernment including testing ideas, sharing responsibilities, use of Zoom, building community, and communication between committees.

An idea for discernment: committee clerks could make brief statements about their respective committees during gatherings such as potluck lunches as part of better communication of opportunities to give time and service to our Meeting community.

Jeff Brown

Carolyn White

Co-Clerks of the Ministry & Worship Committee

\*Readings: From “Listening Spirituality, Volume II” by Patricia Loring

“To serve on a committee is a commitment to the life and well-being of the meeting, whether or not it makes full use of our gifts or is invariably stimulating in its consideration of profound spiritual issues. As in the case of meeting for business, many matters are routine and don’t take us to spiritual depths. The spiritual commitment is precisely in the willingness to perform these unglamorous tasks, in humility and love, for the body of which we are part...Committee work can be a microcosm of our spiritual development or transformation in relation to other people. It challenges us to find ways of engaging with one another in love, in spite of boredom, exasperation or active dislike; to find and grow in the ways of proceeding with business without being manipulative or coercive;...to let go of seeking our personal agendas...; to grow in the ability to wait on those whose thought processes or discernment processes may move more slowly—possibly more deeply; to grow in our ability to wait on the Spirit, rather to be driven by a plan to manage the process.” p. 171

“We can renew our commitment to one another in the disciplined practice of humble listening to one another...to hear at the most profound level what is on one another’s heart, and to be heard. We listen—and are listened to—in trust that it’s natural and inevitable to differ and to be angry when we can’t have things as we think they should; and that differing need not alienate us from one another. We breathe deeply and allow ourselves to open to the truth of each other’s being in God beneath the words...Listening in this way opens us to a new respect, tenderness and love for the person...”. p. 57

**Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
531 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Resident: John Hite (919) 929-5377