

# Peace and Social Order Committee Report to Representative Committee 2019

## **SUMMARY**

We are an active, vibrant, caring committee that seeks to discern the current needs of PYM's monthly meetings regarding peace and social concerns. We hope that meeting representatives will share with their meetings that PSO is interested in learning more about the various aspects of monthly meetings' peace and social witness. In particular, do you have questions, problems or ideas that might benefit from other meetings already engaged in such work? Also, we would like to learn more about how various meetings are addressing homelessness in their communities as we hope to network (monthly meetings) work on this issue at PYM. We hope to lift up the voices of social justice witness done by multiple meetings not usually highlighted at PYM. We hope to foster continued collaboration of those doing similar social witness. We encourage your communication with our committee members.

## **Priorities**

The world is deeply in need of spiritual witness and testimony to counter the bifurcation of society, and to rectify the centuries of white Christian supremacist logics embedded in society's matrix of educational, political, and economic policies that have created rampant systemic injustice including economic/racial injustice. Racism was constructed at a time when knowledge formation was controlled by the Christian church, and carried out by church structures and proclamations known as the foundations of international law and later embedded into secular law. Rather than fleeing the association with historical Christian oppression, or current use of Christianity as a tool for oppression, progressive religious voices are needed more now than ever to be a voice of conscience in solidarity with communities bearing the brunt of systemic injustice and multiple intersecting oppressions. Every meeting we tackle the ever-present tension of how to address root causes and simultaneously address the needs of those most impacted, which might not address the root causes but nonetheless changes the quality of life of a few individuals living in our neighborhoods.

## **Changing the Culture of PYM and the World**

Peace and Social Order would like to see a collaborative, cohesive effort at impacting effective change. Fostering multicultural awareness and sensitivity to other ways of worshipping augments our understanding of God's voice in the world. Fostering intergenerational awareness provides opportunities for change involving the social media skills and spontaneity of youth, with the measured discernment process of elders, moving beyond doing things the same way as always has been done. Is it not a good time for a new (continual) reformation to embrace the richness of pluralism in community? Quakerism is an experimental/experiential spiritual path. Who's to say when the experiment is done, and we have arrived? How can we continue to evolve and adapt including learning from outreach, specifically to people of color and Spanish speakers? Listening and learning from our neighbors most impacted by systemic injustice as well as doing social justice witness on behalf of certain issues has the potential to transform individuals. These same people need our community to bear witness to their spiritual formation and growth that we might too grow and be transformed.

For more information on income inequality. Please visit <https://quakersagainstequality.com/> and <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/the-racial-wealth-gap-what-california-can-do-about-a-long-standing-obstacle-to-shared-prosperity/>

The Committee consists of Linnea Hanson, Graciela Martinez, Ann Baier, Zae Illo (formerly David Breitzmann), Stephen McNeil, Brian Johnson and Shannon Frediani (Clerk).