

Peace and Social Order Committee Report to Annual Session 2019

Summary

- Please send up to date contact sheets from your monthly meeting to the assistant of the clerk to facilitate better communication.
- Please network and utilize resources available through AFSC, FCNL and FCLCA to have Friends be a more cohesive and prominent voice amplifying social justice messages.
- We encourage meetings to initiate education about our own miseducation that omitted embedded white supremacy.
- We hope that meetings will reflect on their own structures to realign how power and resources are configured.
- Engage requests from Friends Organizations to fund the future of Friends as a voice of conscience in our state, nation and political sphere by networking with others outside of our faith.
- Focus on building sustainability and resiliency through being more cohesive and inclusive.
- Please distribute the 2019 infographic which was based on direct communications with Monthly meetings and through reading the State of the Meeting reports. Available on the website.

We continue to be aware that there are multiple pressures on Friends within PYM internally and externally

- Capacity struggles
- A need to continually spiritually deepen, understanding religious education as preparation for social justice activism or at least as a companion, while also acknowledging the spiritual formation that occurs while doing social justice.
- Fostering multicultural awareness and sensitivity to other ways of worshipping and doing activism to augment our understanding of God's voice and witness in the world.
- Many monthly meetings are grappling with how to best support the unsheltered in their neighborhoods while maintaining good relationships and safety issues with neighbors.

How is Spirit moving among us?

Thematically Spirit is asking us to address economic injustice, housing needs, immigration and displacement through community centered approaches and accompaniment. We want to thank the many Friends following the leadings of Spirit providing social witness on these issues.

Friends, whether AFSC, FCLCA or PYM, we as a whole are at a crossroads. We are an aging out, white majority population in a larger white majority population projected to be white minority by 2046- in about another 25 years. Tremendous track records of success and continual advocacy work do not make up for the need for increasing and diversified donor base as well as clear decision making underpinned by anti-racism/anti-oppression work.

We need to launch an all-out effort to reeducate ourselves to meet the needs of our times deepening in our own faith while also being open to learning values systems of those bearing the brunt of systemic oppression to enhance our social witness.

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