

Peace and Justice Forum SCYM 2019

Peace and Justice Forum met on Friday, April 19th. Approximately 25 were in attendance.

The agenda included:

1. A request for support of a minute on immigration from Santa Fe, New Mexico Friends Meeting
2. A request for support for a minute on climate change from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.
3. A request concerning anti-racism efforts by meetings from Bayou Quarterly
4. Contribution requests from the Quaker Institute for the Future and Texas Impact

1.

Minute on Immigration Approved by Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers) November 18, 2018

Equality, community and integrity are foundations of Quaker belief. Therefore, as immigrants and refugees in our community encounter trials such as family separation, incarceration, internment and deportation, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting is called to put these beliefs into action. We will support these neighbors in their daily lives, providing aid, companionship, friendship and safety in whatever ways we are able. We affirm the right of refugees from all types of violence to apply for asylum in this country, including those whose lives are threatened by gang violence, rape, and domestic violence and abuse. We affirm the right of those seeking asylum to be treated with respect, dignity, and due process during the application procedures. We call upon the government of the United States to honor its legal obligations under the Refugee Act of 1980 and the 1967 United Nations Protocol on Refugees to provide protection to those who qualify as refugees. We recognize that our national immigration system is in dire need of attention, funding and fixing. We advocate for local, state and national policies that live up to our values, calling for meaningful, lasting immigration system reform.

Forum members recommend endorsing the statement of the Santa Fe, New Mexico Friends Meeting with a minute of support from SCYM.

2.

There was much discussion of the climate change statement from Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. It was decided that. Although it has value, it was meant for other Quakers and would not be conducive for other uses, such as legislative efforts. It was recommended that a minute on climate change be developed between now and Representative's meeting in November by members of SCYM that is programmatic, multifaceted and focused on effective action. Three

Forum members volunteered to be on this committee, if approved. We would like for there to be more.

3.

Request from Bayou Quarterly

Racism and xenophobia have been part of the United States culture from its very beginning, and its effects permeate both our personal attitudes and every level of policy making. The Civil Rights movement began a process that is still far from finished. Subsequent efforts by the Latino community and Indigenous groups called our attention to other effects of this problem.

Friends General Conference has been engaged in their own internal process to discern and address unrecognized racist culture and communicate that to its member meetings. Part of that includes a “Yearly Meeting Work on Racism” page <https://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/yearly-meeting-work-racism> which is described thus: “Many of our Yearly Meetings are engaged in the work of challenging racism. This resource provides documents describing work around racism and diversity currently being undertaken by Yearly Meetings.”

Bayou Quarterly requests that South Central Yearly Meeting gather information about what member meetings are doing to challenge racism and share it both within the Yearly Meeting and the larger Quaker community via Friends General Conference “Yearly Meeting Work on racism” page and in other ways

Example from Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston: Once a month First Day School presentation/discussion on White Privilege and 2019 Spring Retreat facilitated by Cherry Steinwender, Executive Director of Houston’s Center for Healing of Racism
<http://www.centerhealingracim.org/>

Forum members supported the request of Bayou Quarterly that meetings share with SCYM their anti-racism efforts and add these to the FGC page for that purpose.

4.

After a presentation on The Quaker Institute for the Future and learning that SCYM has supported this organization for a few years but not financially, we agreed to give them \$100 of our \$200.00 discretionary fund with the understanding that we will revisit this amount next year.

Forum members agreed to add a one-time contribution of \$100 to the already allotted \$200 for Texas Impact with the understanding that we will revisit the amounts given to interfaith organizations next year.

Respectfully Submitted, Paula Keeth, Clerk of Peace and Justice Committee