

Homewood Friends Meeting
Peace and Social Justice Committee
September 9, 2018

Agenda

Worship
Introductions as needed
Minute taker
Minutes/
Agenda Review

Items available:

Agenda of HFM meeting 2/11/18
Annual Report to Business Meeting for 2017
Minutes (draft), BQPJC meeting August 19, 2008
Agenda, BQPJC Retreat held in June 2018
Putting racism on the Quaker table
Voices of the Holy Land (VFHL) film series
FCNL re advocacy teams (nuclear war), family separation, Yemen
HFM Peace & Justice Web Page content

Called Topic: relationship between HFM PSJ and SR/BQPJC

Related: Orientation to Peace Committees memo;
Roster of committee members

Ongoing Business: Decisions needed? Updates?

1. VFHL – begins September 23. Moderators, and publicity required.
2. Baltimore Ceasefire -
3. Homewood Budget preparation

And?

Announcements of upcoming Quaker and Related Peace Events/concerns

Closing Worship

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MINUTES (draft)

Present were Jo Brown, Kathryn Munnell, Louise Hopkins, Jody Hopkins, Exsul van Helden, Barbara Bezdek, Debbie Cooper
Regrets: Rosetta Graham, Phil Furnas.

After reviewing the suggested agenda we opened with a period of silent worship, out of which people spoke to our principal query, How are we called to live the peace testimony, and to do so collectively as the Homewood peace committee?

Barbara asked us to reflect on what is meant when one speaks of the committee “working on” an issue.

Reflections shared:

- Wouldn't it simplify, clarify, and strengthen our witness to the testimony if we were to focus on just one shared objective.
- Didn't we decide 2 years ago to focus on the City, building peace here, with Black Lives Matter and Baltimore Ceasefire, court watch/bail harms and vigil all forms for living out that concern.
- Do we see as a coherent part, the revised monthly meeting holding In the Light people affected by murder in Baltimore
 - To 'do' includes educating ourselves, connecting with care, and the Shine the Light meetings connect statistics, stories and the names of affected individuals

Possible new Peaceable City convocation or discussion series this fall or winter, with and beyond our Meeting.

2. How does this discernment relate to Meeting regularly with Stony Run as the Baltimore Quaker Peace & Justice Committee?

a. We did not resolve this issue very far. We affirmed that we want to meet regularly as the Homewood committee with the above view of our work. We feel that, giving hearts and time to the above Homewood focus, we do not have the person power or bandwidth for the several other matters that arise on joint committee agendas. Yet several of us feel we gain in the spiritual richness of meeting with the wider group.

b. It was suggested that we try joint meetings quarterly. At least one Friend thought that might be insufficient. No resolution was reached.

c. **We agreed** that the Homewood Peace & Justice Committee will meet on second Sundays at 1 pm, following on from the Meeting holding in the Light those touched by murder.

3. Baltimore CeaseFire weekend in November.

We turned next to planning for the November Ceasefire weekend.

- a. **We agreed** to dedicate the Friday vigil to build awareness about Baltimore Ceasefire movement, with cider and cookies/donuts, a new banner and signs.
- b. Looking ahead to February weekend: potluck or open house, around the topic of ways to make building peace a daily discipline. Ideas included assembling tips, tools, choice points Peace readiness, Peace playfulness, word choice/usage.
 - Might we engage Young Adult Friends?
 - Show Erica's TED Talk, involve the Baltimore Ceasefire youth ambassadors
- c. Barbara will ask Admin Committee to reserve the dining room for Feb 1 2019 after the vigil.

Reminders: both Jo and Kathy will be away for a few weeks, returning mid or late October. Film Series, Voices from the Holy Land, begins September 23. Two films set at Homewood, 9/30 and October 14 (other congregations are sponsors and film sites too – see the whole list in Announcements). Spread the word and try to attend.

We ended with a brief period of silent worship at 2:15.

Recorded by Barbara Bezdek