

Bellingham Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Called Meeting for Worship for Business, Sunday, June 7, 2020

Attending: Janine Bruton, J. Lee Cook, Joanne Cowan, Mimi Freshley, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Jinny Hall, Lorina Hall, Mary Hansen, John Hatten (clerking), Virginia Herrick (recording), Steve Hutchens, Rolland Lee, Lynne Lohr, Larry Thompson, Leanne Truong.

Began with silent worship at 11:15 a.m.

Report read aloud by Joanne C., who is clerking the working group:

Racial Justice Working Group Report

The Committee has met twice using Zoom, seeking clarity on how to bring forward a Quaker-minded process to address the current nationwide upheaval around racial injustice and racism in policing. We ask ourselves, “What does love require of Bellingham Friends in this moment?”

In these first two meetings, we have envisioned a two-hour community forum via Zoom or other online platform for listening and discussion, paneled by community leaders from advocacy groups, and civic and law enforcement organizations.

We feel the immediate need for this event. However, the steps to create it are numerous. First, we believe Meeting must be aware of our planning ideas and grant us permission to proceed beyond exploratory contacts. Next, with Friends’ approval, we hope to begin discussion with collaborators about who to include in our panel, what questions to set the panelists, and other logistical details.

So far, we have reached out to Whatcom Peace and Justice Center, Whatcom Human Rights Task Force, Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, Black Lives Matter, the Bellingham Tenants Union, and the Racial Justice Coalition, for cosponsoring and collaborating. We intend to reach out to Community to Community, the ACLU, the NAACP, and the Restorative Justice Coalition, also. We intend also to approach various individuals for panel participation and have a rough draft of possible queries. Once things are more defined, we thought of approaching other faith groups with the invitation to cosponsor.

We know this report must seem vague, but we are in the early stages of planning.

What questions does Meeting have? What ideas can you add?

Our next Zoom meeting is at 10:30 a.m. Monday (tomorrow) June 8. We welcome interested Friends’ participation.

A Friend reminded Friends of subcommittee issues of the past. There was a subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns which included people outside of BFM, and which made no reports to MfWfB nor asked approval for its activities from the Meeting. This caused consternation and strife in the Meeting.

Clerk noted that unlike that subcommittee, this is an independent working group of concerned and committed Friends who are reaching out to collaborate with like-minded organizations and bring together advocates and civic and law enforcement leaders to discern

how our whole community can move forward. It is not a subcommittee, and will report directly to the MfWfB.

The first goal of this group is to set up this forum. We're asking the Meeting to authorize this group to interface with other groups in the community to cosponsor or cohost this event that Joanne described.

Another Friend from the working group noted that this initiative is to meet this moment, but we do see this as an initial action, not a sole action or activity.

A Friend expressed immense enthusiasm for the working group's proposal. Other Friends agreed.

Joanne explained that so far, various members of the group are contacting different organizations and individuals in the community, checking to see if they are already planning something similar that we could support, and then describing our idea and asking if they are interested in being involved.

Other Friends from the working group emphasized openness to hearing input from others in Meeting now or in the future. Allen Stockbridge offered to be the contact person for anyone in Meeting who wants to share some ideas about how to proceed. The group is open to new members, too.

Friends approved the working group's direction, and agreed that in the interests of meeting this moment, the group is authorized to proceed with setting up this forum. Any future initiatives from the group would need to come back to MfWfB.

A Friend suggested that the working group keep Friends updated via the e-News, as its work proceeds.

A Friend noted that this group was conceived at our second hour a week ago as an outreach to Bellingham Police Department to hear about policies and practices re: law enforcement. Friends from the working group explained that that is still an essential part of the forum, but we also want to investigate other ways our community can become anti-racist, other than in the area of law enforcement.

The E-news editor noted that a supplemental E-news has gone out two weeks in a row. He reminded Friends that the deadline for the regular weekly E-news is 8 p.m. Tuesday.

A Friend asked if there was any word from the children of BFM, and how all the upheaval around racial injustice in policing that is sweeping the nation is affecting them. Other Friends suggested that the Racial Justice Working Group reach out to Children's Program. A member of Children's Program who has been meeting with the children weekly promised to bring it up with them and hear their thoughts.

The meeting ended with silent worship at 11:35 a.m. A few Friends remained on the call and enjoyed some social time until 12 p.m.

Minutes for regular MfWfB 6/14/20

~approved 7/12/2020~

Opening worship began at 12:10 p.m.

Attending: Janine Bruton, J. Lee Cook, Joanne Cowan, Aurora Fox, Mimi Freshley, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Lorina Hall, Mary Hansen, John Hatten, Virginia Herrick (recording), Steve Hutchens, Dorrie Jordan, Rolland Lee, Joan Ofteness, Mary Ann Percy (clerking), Susan Richardson,

1. Opening worship
2. Clerk's statement on clerking - Good afternoon, Friends; thank you for joining us today.

As I'd shared with you last month, it will be my practice to share a "moment or two of Light" each month--a special kindness, insight or beauty in our community during the previous month. I continue to encourage you to share with me—an email or a text — such experiences that you observe among members of our community. This month I would like to appreciate our new **Racial Justice Working Group**--and in so doing recognize and appreciate our Meeting community for recognizing the necessity and deciding so quickly (truly warp speed for Quakers! :-)) to establish this group, and for the clearly Spirit-led work that group has already undertaken. Other moments of Light: Friends' remembrances of former BFM member Marty Walton after her passing recently; nourishing phone calls among Friends during the week; and the news from our Treasurer about the hundreds of dollars in donations coming in for our BFM Food Bank Benefit Drive. Thank you Friends!

I ask again Friends follow our practice of listening fully, with open heart and mind to each Friend's vocal ministry. Please raise your hand or if you're not on video, to say "Clerk please" in order to speak, only after the Friend speaking has finished, please wait to be recognized before speaking, and remember to avoid repeating what another Friend has already offered. Unfortunately, with the Zoom program, it doesn't work for us to stand to deliver ministry, so we will need to discern even more carefully if what we feel compelled to share is from the Spirit. Please take care to allow silence after each person speaks, preserving the "worship" in our Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business. Thank you, Friends.

Lastly, I'd like to share wise words from Barry Morley's PH Pamphlet "Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting:"

"Sense of the meeting is a gift. It came to the Quakers through their commitment to continuing revelation. They discovered that the Light which had come to teach the people could lead them to revealed corporate decisions. The Quakers cherished the

gift. They handed it down as a spiritual heirloom from generation to generation, even as the Jews hand down their covenant with God.

“Partly because of its rarity, sense of the meeting is a gift of enormous worth, more valuable, perhaps, than any other Quaker gift or practice. Quakers are not the only people who worship in silence. They are not alone in waiting for continuing revelation by attending to the Light within. Other people besides Quakers give testimony to peace and live in simplicity. But where, except among Friends, has the practice of discovering the sense of the meeting become so entrenched? I expect it can be found somewhere, for profound spiritual understanding is not rationed. Some aboriginal peoples have practiced it. Nonetheless, sense of the meeting is both a true rarity and a rarity of truth.”

Thank you Friends

3. Review minutes:

- A. Review of last month's minutes from MFWFB 5/3/20 (approved with minor copyedits)
- B. Review of minutes from called MFWFB 5/17/20 (approved with minor copyedits)
- C. Review of minutes from called MFWFB 6/7/20 (approved with minor copyedits)

4. Member concerns (none)

5. Review of agenda (approved)

6. Items for worship and action

A. Worship & Ministry report by co-clerk Dorrie Jordan

- 1. Advices and Queries for June 2020: From NYPM Faith and Practice

Seek to be formed by a practice of silence, as a foundation for a mindful life.

Do we seek to be formed by a living silence? How are our lives shaped by the practice of stillness?

Do our hearts dwell in the silence beneath everyday business?

- 2. Second hour schedule for June:

June 14: Meeting for Worship for Business

June 21: Reflections on Fathers, facilitated by Don G.

June 28: Worship sharing on Advices and Queries for June

July 5 : Virtual Potluck

July 12: Meeting for worship for Business

- 3. Our annual camping trip has been cancelled and the deposit refunded.
- 4. Ministry and Worship is in the process of reviewing our job description.

Next meeting: June 29 at 9:30 am.

Worship & Ministry - discussion

Item 2: E-news editor asked to be notified about who will facilitate Worhsip Sharing June 28.

Item 3: Clerk noted that while some campgrounds have reopened, group campgrounds are still closed. W&M asked to consider whether we would want to do this, should group campgrounds be reopened.

~Treasurer noted that the payment to the State Parks Department for the group campground had not come through the Meeting, and asked that in the future Meeting expenses come to the Treasurer to be paid.

Other:

~A Friend asked W&M to consider when we can begin meeting in person again.

A member of W&M asked to hear from Friends regarding this.

~Several Friends emphasized that we need to keep a virtual option for Friends not comfortable meeting in person, even if W&M recommends that meeting for worship be available in person again. A question was raised about what the guidelines are for Churches under the state's Phase II.

~Clerk asked W&M to labor with this before July MfWfB and bring a recommendation.

~Issue of meeting in person also comes up in association with Finance Committee report, re: rent costs.

B. Racial Justice Working Group report, given by clerk Joanne Cowan

We've met twice since our last report, for total of four meetings. Three new members: Aurora Fox, Laurie Glenn, and Steve Hutchens. Other members: J. Lee Cook, Joanne Cowan, Dorothy DeFremery, Mary Hansen, John Hatten, Virginia Herrick, Daniel Kirkpatrick, and Allen Stockbridge.

Working to establish panellists and some queries to help guide the presentations and discussion.

Our working time and date for the forum, 7-9 p.m. June 24. Looking for help with the Zoom online forum tech skills. Possible help from WPJC and/or WDRC.

Panellists so far:

Flo Simons, Deputy Chief of Bellingham PD

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Shirley Williams, White Swan Environmental, a member of Lummi Nations

Rosalinda Guillen, Community to Community

We're seeking a fifth panellist to speak from the perspective of Black advocacy in Bellingham.

WDRC, WPJC: both willing to help with publicity and possible tech help, but not to cosponsor.

RJC: Interested in providing a panellist. Not sure about cosponsorship.

Next meeting: Monday, 3 p.m.

Racial Justice Working Group - discussion

Friends expressed appreciation and support for the work of this group under time pressure to respond to the current movement locally and nationally. A Friend asked why we were unable to find cosponsors. Friends on the committee explained that because we were moving quickly, and no other organizations we contacted initially were working on anything similar, we moved forward. But then, by the time WPJC, for instance, got the proposal to the board of directors, they felt we had already progressed to the point that they wouldn't have much opportunity to be involved in planning, which they want to do if they are cosponsoring. The group still plans to seek other churches interested in cosponsoring.

C. Pastoral Care Committee report, given by clerk Mary Hansen

- Support to Friends. Pastoral care committee continues to offer support to individual Friends during this difficult time.
- Listening group. The one listening group that was under the care of the Pastoral Care Committee has completed their work. Participants expressed feeling that the group was helpful.
- Listening project. To elaborate on an item from our report last month--We will be following the model of that successful listening group by reaching out to individual Friends in our community and providing an opportunity for listening regarding the stresses they may have experienced in our community over the last few years related to an attender having been accused, charged and convicted of a sexual offense. We have spent time clarifying that process, to be sure it will afford a true listening opportunity, so the speaker has confidence that they are heard and know that their remarks are confidential. By doing this we hope to provide some clarity and information to Meeting of the variety of experiences and feelings of those in our community (without attributing the specific words or statements to the individual who made them). We continue to refine the details of this process and hope to reach out soon.
- Clearness committees. We have helped to facilitate clearness committees when requested.

Pastoral Care Committee - discussion

~Listening Project. A Friend asked how the results of the Listening Project would be reported. Pastoral Care clerk said the responses will be summarized and reported as part of the Pastoral Care Committee report to MfWfB.

~Another Friend asked if the Listening Project could include written responses. P.C. will take that request under advisement.

D. Nominating Committee Report

Don Goldstein, member, gave the report

June 14, 2020, BFM, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

1. We ask Friends to accept for seasoning the nomination of Kristen McLewin as our representative to the Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting Continuing Committee.
2. We ask Friends to accept for seasoning the updated job description for Nominating Committee. Item A. 5. is new:
 5. When Nominating Committee is planning to nominate one of its members to another role in Meeting, it will check that leading with Worship and Ministry before making the nomination.

ACTION: Kristen McLewin's name as rep. to PNQM Continuing Committee is accepted for seasoning.

ACTION: Updated Nominating Committee job description is accepted for seasoning.

E. Finance Committee Report

Larry Thompson, clerk, gave the report.

1. **Financial Statements:** Committee reviewed the balance sheet and income statement through May 31, 2020 (attached). The stock market recovery in late spring has restored to date about 60% of the losses caused by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Total assets are \$270,904 compared to \$247,781 a year previously. Regarding the Income (financial activity) statement, contributions are running about 4% ahead of budgeted revenues recognizing that we do not yet have an amended budget related to the majestic move. Expenses are running \$2,165 under budget YTD resulting in an YTD surplus \$2,571.
2. **Review of Job Descriptions:** As requested by Nominating Committee, the committee reviewed and made minor changes to the Treasurer and Committee job descriptions.
3. **Finance Committee Membership:** The committee urges the Nominating Committee to add a fourth member to bring us up to normal size. A specific suggestion has been made.
4. **Rental Expense:** The Treasurer notes a lack of documented clarity about the timing of rent payments to Explorations and the Majestic leaving the meeting at risk of paying double rent. A request for guidance has been made.

Discussion

~Committee clerk noted that a number of Friends who pledged new or increased donations in anticipation of moving to the Majestic have already begun making those donations. The increase isn't enough to cover the cost of the new rent, once we move, but it contributes to our current surplus.

~Treasurer expressed appreciation to Friends for coming through with donations even though we are not meeting in person.

~Committee clerk noted that our expenses are very low, year to date, as there have been no childcare expenses.

~Treasurer reported we have paid May and June rent to Explorations at the usual rate of \$600/month, even though we have not met there since March. Our belongings are still stored there, though.

~Meetinghouse Liaison reported that Explorations has agreed to allow us to continue to store our belongings there indefinitely, at \$100/month, starting in July. It is between us and the Majestic when we move over there.

~Meetinghouse Committee will be meeting June 22, and will seek to resolve some of these questions.

~A Friend urged Meetinghouse Committee to arrange with Majestic that we not begin paying rent until we are able to meet in person. If there is an increase in COVID-19 cases in the fall, that could delay in-person Meetings for worship.

~A Friend who works in healthcare urged the Meeting to err on the side of caution, in terms of meeting in person, even to the point of waiting until there are vaccines available, given the number of Friends who fall into high-risk categories for serious illness from COVID-19.

~A Friend asked whether we have had any pressure from the Majestic to move forward.

~A member of Meetinghouse and Finance Committees reported that we have not heard from the Majestic.

~A Friend noted that there are still a couple of outstanding items on the rental agreement that Friends wanted to negotiate with The Majestic.

~A member of Meetinghouse Committee reported that the Intergenerational High School is not going to rent the Majestic, so we are back to just needing to work directly with the Majestic and the other church, rather than with a potential future master-lease renter.

F. Job Description for Family Promise Program Coordinator proposed by Joan Oftness, the current coordinator

Description

The Bellingham Friends Meeting Family Promise Coordinator acts as a liaison between BFM, Interfaith Coalition's Family Promise Program, and the hosting congregation for which we are a support congregation. Currently this is Christ the Servant Lutheran Church.

Purpose

The purpose of this position is to keep BFM current with the status of the Family Promise Program and coordinate Friends who are trained Family Promise Volunteers regarding their service during the host weeks.

Responsibilities

1. Oversee Family Promise Volunteer training and background checks for interested BFM members and attenders. Offer one-on-one training as needed to recruit new volunteers.
2. Communicate with host congregation's Volunteer Coordinator re: scheduling during hosting weeks, which occur four times a year.
3. Communicate important information from the host church and Interfaith Coalition to BFM FP volunteers.
4. Monitor the host week schedule, recruit volunteers for vacant slots, and act as the contact person if a BFM FP volunteer cannot fulfill his or her obligation.
5. Attend Interfaith Coalition Family Promise Volunteer Coordinator meetings on a monthly basis and Special Family Promise Events as they occur.

Policies/Practices/Guidelines

1. Work to ensure that BFM FP volunteers have positive experiences during host weeks by eliciting and responding to feedback.
2. Keep channels of communication open between the BFM coordinator, the host congregation coordinator, and the Family Promise Program Director for Whatcom County.
3. Relay all pertinent Family Promise information to BFM through Announcements at Meeting and the weekly eNewsletter.

Calendar

The BFM Family Promise volunteers provide support for the hosting church four times per year for a week at a time. The host church determines the specific dates for these weeks.

Discussion: Friends suggested changing the word "church" to "faith community" or "congregation" in several places. Joan agreed to make those changes.

ACTION: The job description was accepted for seasoning.

G. Safe Quaker Community Committee Report, read by member Dorrie Jordan

Safe Quaker Community Ad Hoc Committee report
6-14-2020 BFM Meeting for Worship for Business

1. We have become aware that the confidentiality guidelines for our Meeting, which were approved last August, failed to address the circumstance of an individual being charged in the legal system, making the accusation a matter of public record. We propose the following changes (in blue) to the Guidelines on Confidentiality, and ask Friends to accept them for seasoning:

In all work before committees of Bellingham Friends Meeting involving personal matters or concerns of individual members and attenders, committee members shall use the utmost care in granting and maintaining confidentiality.

Confidentiality is defined as follows: Confidentiality is a state of trust in a relationship, between individuals and in community. Violating the trust harms the relationship and creates obligations to accept responsibility for the breach and to repair the harms it caused. *Friends should be wary of asking for or granting unconditional confidentiality, understanding that while Friends, if asked, will make every effort to keep private all information of a sensitive nature, changing circumstances may render secrecy to be harmful to individuals involved or to the community as a whole.*

When a question of confidentiality versus disclosure arises, any Friend *asking for* confidentiality as well as Friends *asked to provide* it, whether as an individual or a committee, might consider at least the following queries:

“When we serve on committees, do we exercise discipline if we confide in our partner, friend, or family member?”

“Is anyone's safety at risk? If so, how is that person's safety best assured – by what degree of confidentiality and what degree of disclosure?”

“Is anyone's psychological well-being at risk? If so, by what degree of confidentiality or disclosure is that person's well-being best protected?”

“What is the need of any individual or part of the community to know certain information? Is that need of greater importance than the need for confidentiality that some other individual or group has?”

“How are the needs of the whole meeting be met (or not met) by granting confidentiality?”

“If there is a need for the community as a whole to know something of the matter, how it's processed, or its ultimate resolution, can publication of what needs to be known be done in a way that respects the individual's need for confidentiality?”

“What record of this matter would serve both the needs of this meeting and the individuals involved?”

Criminal conduct or the accusations of criminal conduct present particular challenges. Any person involved in a situation that involves the criminal justice system may require emotional, spiritual and/or economic support. Quakers have a long history of being fined or imprisoned for acts of civil disobedience in support of justice and peace. In these cases, a person will likely wish their situation to be broadly publicized.

But a person who has been accused, charged or convicted of criminal acts that carry social stigma, will be aware that other people knowing of their circumstances could result in shaming and ostracizing, and result in the loss friendships, acquaintances, employment and other opportunities. Because of plea deals, the final outcome of a legal proceeding may be quite different than the initial accusation or charge. And, regardless of outcome, the simple act of an accusation or charge being filed will be enough for many people to shun the accused or demand action to keep the accused from coming to Meeting. For this reason, it is important to weigh the benefits of confidentiality against the risks to our Quaker community and the community at large.

If a person has been accused, charged, arrested or convicted of a crime and it has been reported in a newspaper, or by the judicial system online, or in any other form where the general public might read or hear about it, it will not be considered a confidential matter within Bellingham Friends Meeting. Every effort will be made to be respectful and supportive of everyone involved, and to provide whatever spiritual nurture is requested and possible. In keeping with Friends testimony of integrity, and in recognition that keeping secrets can be toxic to our community, if there is a public record of criminal

charges or conviction that Friends are aware of, it may be important to share the information. While it's possible for an individual Friend to bring a concern directly to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Friends are encouraged instead to bring such concerns to any member of Worship and Ministry or Pastoral Care Committee. The two committees will worshipfully discern how best to respond to the information received.

The Meeting must always act to protect vulnerable individuals. When we become aware of an accusation, charge or conviction of someone who is attending or wants to attend Meeting, a decision needs to be made in relatively short time about whether circumstances necessitate notifying some or all members and attenders of the Meeting. While we want to provide a safe place for everyone to find connection with Spirit and a supportive spiritual community, whenever we are aware that someone has been accused, charged or convicted of a crime, it is our responsibility to assess the risk to our community that person poses by participating in our shared worship and other Meeting activities. Because of the wide variety of crimes that exist, it is important to distinguish between them. Is the accusation or charge a consensual crime like gambling or prostitution or a so-called victimless crimes like the possession and use of illegal drugs; or a property crime like shoplifting or embezzlement; or a violent crime including domestic violence, assault and rape; or neglect, physical or sexual abuse of children or others unable to protect themselves? Not all crimes necessitate a communication to the Meeting as a whole, but others clearly do.

Whenever an act of neglect, abuse or violence has been alleged or legally charged, the information will be shared with the Meeting at large at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. NPYM *Faith and Practice* advises that "it is essential for the meeting to identify sexual offenders promptly, so that it can maintain appropriate monitoring for the safety of all children and adults." Some suggested language: "With heavy hearts, and a reminder that the justice system is far from perfect, and that within that system, everyone is innocent until proven guilty, W&M is obligated to notify Friends that a Friend* was booked into jail on X charges on Y date. Please hold the person on whose behalf these charges were brought in the Light, and also the person accused." Pastoral Care and Worship and Ministry committees may decide to bring other information about members and attenders of the Meeting *if it is determined that such sharing is in the best interest of the Meeting as a whole*. If Worship and Ministry decides that sharing the identity of the accused individual at MfWfB is NOT in the interest of the Meeting as a whole, individual Friends who ask may obtain that information.

This process for discerning appropriate confidentiality is not meant to take precedence over state laws requiring the reporting of known or suspected emotional, sexual or physical abuse of vulnerable persons. Friends requesting confidentiality need to be aware that there are Friends in Meeting who may be legally unable to grant confidentiality on certain issues.

In general, *when confidentiality is granted*, no written or electronic documents containing confidential information should be retained by the meeting, committees, or committee members after their work on a confidential matter is completed.

Official reports from standing, ad-hoc or clearness committees read into the minutes and approved by the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, however, will be retained in BFM records. One clear exception is storage of an individual's requests for end of life medical and memorial decision-making, to be maintained by Pastoral Care Committee in a locked cabinet or storage box. The clerk will remind the Meeting for Worship for Business of these policies annually in June and in a written notice in the newsletter.

¹ Adapted by Bellingham Friends Meeting August 2019 from Burlington (VT) Friends Meeting, who adapted from Friends General Conference: *Resources for Fostering Vital Friends Meetings. Compassionate Use of Information-Confidentiality vs. Disclosure*. Portland (Maine) Friends Meeting, NEYM

2. We are still working on the guidelines for participation in BFM of people accused, charged or convicted of sexual offenses.

3. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 22 at 10:30 a.m.

SQCC Discussion

~Friends raised a concern about the use of the word "secrecy" in the suggested changes. SQCC will take these concerns under advisement.

~A Friend suggested that it would be good to add the word "tender" to the language regarding the need to be careful and thoughtful about promising unconditional confidentiality.

~A Friend noted that these guidelines don't say anything about reciprocity in confidentiality, but this Friend is aware of a number of cases where someone has requested confidentiality, but then didn't keep the matter to themselves, which led to problems with blame, as more and more people knew about the "confidential" matter.

~A Friend said "a concern" in this sentence is unclear: [While it's possible for an individual Friend to bring a concern directly to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Friends are encouraged instead to bring such concerns to any member of Worship and Ministry or Pastoral Care Committee.](#)

~A Friend thanked the committee for its work, expressing that this document will be of help to Bellingham Friends confronting these issues in the future, and it now invites us to think more deeply about the issues.

H. Report from FCNL Rep Lorina Hall

The priorities Bellingham Friends recommended have been submitted to FCNL.

The FCNL priorities for the 117th Congress have not yet been determined. They go through a process of looking at the reports from Meetings and churches all over the U.S.

Virtual attendance at the FCNL Annual Meeting is available this year!

November 12 – 15, 2020

<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/annual-meeting-and-quaker-public-policy-institute-2020-2521>

FCNL web address: www.FCNL.org

<https://fcnl.quorum.us> for online lobbying

(Thanks to Allen Stockbridge for his support with the priorities report.)

If you have any questions about FCNL, please ask! There's a lot going on, and it's a steep learning curve, but the FCNL Rep. is happy to share what she knows with Friends.

7. *Our Meeting for worship with attention to business closed with silent worship at 2:14 p.m.*