

Peace and Justice Report to Annual Meeting

After a long hiatus the P&J Committee became active again at the 2024 Annual Meeting. The initial members were Claire Cohen (Pittsburgh), Don Buckingham (North Columbus), and Paul Heibling (Broadmead). Shortly afterwards, Mary Finney (North Columbus) and halfway through Phil Volk (Ann Arbor) became regular attenders and at the March Representatives Meeting, their service was formally acknowledged. We have met monthly by Zoom throughout the year.

We started out with reviewing the charge of the P&J Committee. After that we decided that our role is not so much to be just another P&J committee but mainly to facilitate and support the functioning of P&J committees and the peace work of MMs and worship groups under LEYM.

So we attempted to survey all meetings and worship groups in LEYM about their peace and social justice work and the functioning of their Peace and Justice committees. We only got a 30% response. From that response, a number of issues were raised. Based on the issues raised, we developed and held a two-part webinar works called "Stimulating Do-able Peace and Justice Work in our Monthly Meetings" which we held in April. The turnout was small, about 15 to 20 people; but the feedback from attendees was that the workshop was thought-provoking and inspiring. Both sessions were recorded and should be on the LEYM website for future reference for members of other Peace and Justice Committees and Meetings and worship groups without P&J committees.

Other actions we did were:

- Sending notification to MMs and WGs of Friends Peace Teams events and encouragement participation
- Sending notifications about World Peace Day in October and World Human Rights Day in December
- Followed with the Sanctuary Suits against the government
- Last minute events: Peace Vigil tomorrow, No Kings Demonstration Downtown Ashland, and asking the body to support Senate Bill 761 to set up a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools.

Finally, Don Buckingham is coming off the Committee and Paul Heibling is in a period of bereavement. So we will definitely be inviting more volunteers to serve to keep the Committee active.