

Minute on Service to Those Experiencing Poverty

Cleveland Friends Meeting - October 2025

Cleveland Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) now undertakes, as a Meeting, to be of service to those experiencing poverty.

George Fox encouraged Friends to provide practical assistance, including food and other necessities, to those in need. He wrote, "You all are members of one body, the poor as well as the rich..."¹

We affirm the Quaker testimonies of Integrity, Simplicity, Peace, Community, Equality, and Stewardship.

As members and attenders of Cleveland Friends Meeting, we look to discern God's urgings for us. Therefore, being witnesses who have seen or known God's love for all people, we now, individually and together, undertake to be agents promoting the health, safety, and welfare of the poor.

We recognize the idea of being "poverty abolitionists ... sharing with other abolitionist movements the conviction that profiting from another's pain can no longer be tolerated."²

Each of our committees (Ministry and Care, Business Committee, Witness in the World, Hospitality, First Day School, and Library Committee) will have a key focus on our actions to assist those who are in need. We encourage individuals to attend to each one's own actions and ministry to those in need.

We want to show God's love for impoverished people ... in our neighborhoods, in the city, and the wider nation. We embrace the Zulu word, ubuntu "I am who I am because of who we all are."

May God's abundance be with us all!

¹ George Fox pamphlet To All the Magistrates of London

² Matthew Desmond, New York Times