Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
February 11, 2018

17 Friends were present. The majority of meeting took the form of worship sharing on the topic of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) legislative priorities for the next two years.

The legislative priorities established previously for the 115th Congress (2017-2018) are as follows:

- Promote peacebuilding, diplomacy and the peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict with an emphasis on the Middle East.
- Reduce military spending and armed interventions.
- Promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Advance equitable criminal justice systems that eliminate mass incarceration and support law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized.
- Pursue policies that promote and respect the rights, safety, and dignity of all immigrants, refugees, and migrants.
- Promote equitable access for all citizens to participate in the political process.
- Promote policies that reduce economic inequality and poverty; encourage fair compensation for workers and health care for all.
- Work to end gun violence.
- Witness and advocate on Native American concerns.
- Advocate for sustainable solutions to climate disruption and its consequences.

The following decisions were made after reaching the 'sense of the meeting':

- We are in unity with the first and second legislative priorities from 2017-2018, deleting "with an emphasis on the Middle East" from the second priority.
- Regarding the third priority, we support any Congressional efforts to create new checks and balances on the President's ability to order the preemptive use of nuclear weapons. We oppose any policy change or technological development that makes it easier to use nuclear weapons.