Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
JANUARY 14, 2018

17 Friends were present.

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

- Meeting agreed to Financial Stewardship's proposal to increase the annual contribution to Financial Stewardship by $210, increase the annual contribution to the Fund for Support by $200, and decrease the annual contributions to Spiritual Nurture and Care and Community by $50 each. The total increase to the annual budget is $310.
- Meeting agreed to host the Sanctuary Committee's proposed showing of the film, "Documented," on March 3 at 7:00pm.
- Meeting decided to hold over the issue of private use of the meeting house in the March Meeting for Discernment.
- Meeting agreed to hold a worship sharing session in the next Meeting for Discernment to identify Meeting's preferred legislative priorities for the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

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.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
March 11, 2018

20 Friends were present.

The following decisions were made based on the 'sense of the meeting':

- Meeting recorded the membership of Lisa Allen following the report of the Clearness Committee clerk, Howard Brod.
- Meeting agreed to reduce Religious Education teacher salaries to zero in the remaining annual budget for 2018. The teachers have agreed to continue on a voluntary basis.

The remainder of Meeting for Discernment continued the previous month's worship sharing on the topic of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) legislative priorities for the next two years.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
April 8, 2018

18 Friends were present.

The following decisions were made based on the 'sense of the meeting':

- The Promote Awareness Committee received the support of the Meeting to develop one-time curriculum about Quakerism for the Lifelong Learning Institute, an educational organization based in Chesterfield serving the 50+ community. The Committee will bring content back to the Meeting.
- The Peace and Social Action Committee will report to the Friends Committee on National Legislation the Meeting's leadings for the 2019-2020 Congressional legislative priorities:
    - Work to end gun violence and to promote funding for education and research to address root causes of violence
    - Advocate greater access to services for people facing mental illness
    - Promote an educational system that makes our youth happy, healthy, and capable of seeing human dignity in all in addition to educated
    - Pursue policies that promote and respect the rights, safety, and dignity of all people regardless of citizen status
    - 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
    - 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
    - Promote policies that reduce economic inequality and poverty; encourage fair compensation for workers and health care for all.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
May 13, 2018

17 Friends were present.

The Meeting engaged in worship sharing in preparation for the Spiritual State of the Meeting report. No decisions were made.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
June 10, 2018

9 Friends were present.

The following decisions were made based on the 'sense of the meeting':

- We approved the *Spiritual State of Meeting Report for 2017* with minor revisions.
- We considered the *Meetinghouse Use Guidelines* and agreed to bring to Meeting for Discernment all requests for use of the Meetinghouse from groups not sponsored by someone associated with the Meeting.

(There were no minutes from July 2018, perhaps because Meeting for Discernment didn't meet)

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
August 12, 2018

12 Friends were present.

The following decisions were made based on the 'sense of the meeting':

- Meeting agreed to allow the for-profit "Mini-Treat" group to use the facility under the terms of our rental agreement.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
September 19, 2018

18 Friends were present.

The following decisions were made based on the 'sense of the meeting':

- Meeting agreed that the Promote Awareness committee should research the possibility of providing content for the Radio WRWK station and a NPR day sponsorship.
- While Meeting rejects hate in all forms, it decided not to post the "Hate Has No Home Here" sign outside the meeting house because of its negative phrasing. Meeting agreed to make the question of creating a more positive sign a matter for a future Meeting for Discernment.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
October 14, 2018

14 Friends were present.

The following decisions were made based on the 'sense of the meeting':

- Meeting agreed to post a "Love Thy Neighbor (no exceptions)" sign on Huguenot Springs Road.
- Meeting approved using Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's Memorial Garden guidelines with revisions, as follows:
    1. Only cremated remains of recorded and non-recorded members and their immediate families are permitted.
    2. Ashes may be scattered in the ground or in those surrounding woods belonging to the meeting.
    3. No individual memorial stones or plaques are permitted.
- Meeting approved establishing an ad-hoc committee to determine necessary record-keeping practices and physical changes needed to create the Memorial Garden.
- Meeting decided not to post VICPP's proposed call for comments on Medicaid policies in the Quaker Town Crier.
- Meeting decided to post a general reminder in the Quaker Town Crier about the existence of Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) should Friends wish to engage with these organizations.
- Meeting agreed that a brief post in the Quaker Town Crier about an open comment period on immigration policy changes is in keeping with our past discernment on the issue.

Midlothian Friends Meeting
Meeting for Discernment
November 11, 2018

14 Friends were present.

The following decisions were made based on the ‘sense of the meeting’:

- Meeting agreed that pets should be considered family members for the purposes of burial in the Memorial Garden.
- Meeting agreed that its goals for the Memorial Garden are that it be peaceful, accessible, permanent, and private.
- Meeting encourages Friends to explore the property and consider which spaces fulfill the stated goals.

There are no minutes for December 2018, presumably because of the holidays