

## Reports from Friends Organizations

### Friends United Meeting Report to North Carolina Fellowship of Friends

The COVID-19 pandemic is touching the lives of the global FUM family in multiple ways. During these days of uncertainty, we draw inspiration from the words of Jesus when he calls the apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. He offers this promise, *“And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20). For centuries these words offered Jesus’ disciples inner strength to respond to crises with faith, hope, and courage.

Friends United Meeting is holding these words of assurance as we embody our mission in this age. While the coronavirus is disrupting our normal routines, FUM’s staff have worked remotely to provide uninterrupted service to our members and ministry partners. Most significantly, we are continuing our commitment to connect the global family of Friends during this crisis and we are increasing our support for our most vulnerable communities.

One of the ways we are keeping Friends connected is through prayer. Currently, FUM is hosting international prayer gatherings on Zoom and WhatsApp to learn how the coronavirus is impacting our members in Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, North America, Palestine, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya. Ron Bryan, presiding clerk of FUM writes, *“It is powerful praying as a global community, to listen to the cares and concerns of people from around the world, and pray together with one voice.”* It is a blessing to witness how prayer centers us in Christ’s presence and calls us to selfless compassion and service.

#### **2020 Triennial**

Because of international travel restrictions, the Executive Board agreed to cancel the 2020 Triennial in Kenya, with the hope of rescheduling it for June or July 2021. FUM staff have worked to cancel triennial events and vendors, along with issuing refunds for those who registered. We are thankful to Friends who donated their refunds to FUM to mitigate our financial losses.

#### **Personnel Updates**

This year FUM is facing staffing transitions. We are currently searching for a bookkeeper for the Africa Ministries Office. Additionally, Ben Snyder and Julie Rudd are leaving FUM to focus on their pastoral callings, and Eden Grace has offered her resignation. After 16 years of faithfully serving FUM, Eden feels it is time for a change. FUM will take this opportunity to align staff responsibilities to better serve our constituents and mission.

#### **Thank You**

FUM is thankful to the North Carolina Fellowship of Friends who give generously to support the mission and ministries of FUM. Our current priorities include raising support for the ministries of Robert Wafula, principal of Friends Theological College, and Oscar Mmbali, pastor of Belize City Friends Church. Thank you for your prayerful support and generosity. May God continue to bless you and protect you!

Grace and Peace,

Kelly Kellum, General Secretary

## Friends Committee on National Legislation

Dear Friends,

We hope this note finds you safe and doing all you can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In just a few short weeks, this pandemic has changed our daily lives—here in the United States and around the world. It will touch every one of us. And in this time, our worship, our daily practice, and our community of Friends becomes ever more vital.

We write today to let you know that we are holding you in the Light as you discern what is possible in bringing together your yearly meeting. We have now completed one virtual gathering of 500 young people and are taking steps to prepare for prevention and protection of ourselves, our loved ones, and our community as a primary responsibility. We are also continuing to advocate for essential public policies to assure that those who are vulnerable because of health or income status will receive the care they need.

While our physical presence at your yearly meeting is not likely, we all stand ready to assist in any way that we can – with prayers, discernment and virtual engagement. In the last few weeks, we have found much energy among Friends to be together in this new virtual reality.

Attached you will find the 2020 Friends Committee on National Legislation annual program report to yearly meetings. The report summarizes FCNL's activities and highlights our priorities for the year. We hope you will share this report with your member meetings by publishing it in documents and/or in the minute book you share with your Yearly Meeting.

FCNL is a Quaker organization whose governance (General Committee) is appointed by yearly meetings, and as such, our work reflects our deep connections within the Friends community. The General Committee's oversight and spiritual stewardship guides the world we seek to build together, as does the insight of local meetings and churches in helping to shape FCNL's legislative policies and lobbying priorities.

Please be in touch with Diane directly at [dianerandall@fcnl.org](mailto:dianerandall@fcnl.org) if you have questions about FCNL's work, or this report.

With gratitude,



Ron Ferguson  
Clerk, General Committee



Diane Randall  
General Secretary

## Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL)

FCNCL focused on four goals: (i) creating an FCNCL infrastructure; (ii) discerning Quaker-value-based policy priorities; (iii) crafting communication paths for alerts when advocacy opportunities arose; (iv) developing a network of alert recipients.

- **Organization and Infrastructure.**
  - On October 5, 2019 33 General Committee representatives from 13 Monthly Meetings met; Policy, Communication, and Nominating Committees were created.
  - Our Executive Committee includes: Vernie Davis and Helene Hilger, co-clerks; Deborah Britton, Recording Clerk, Susan Davis, Assistant Recording Clerk; Katherine Metzko and Pam Schwingl, Policy Committee co-clerks; Andrew Leslie and Christine Ashley, Communications Committee co-clerks; Dorothy Mason, Nominating Committee clerk; Zana Cranfill, Treasurer, and Marian Beane, PFYM liaison.
  - By-laws were approved in January 2020
  - In February 2020 we completed all steps to accept donations and make payments. Incorporated with the NC Secretary of State, we registered our TIN with the IRS and are a 501-c-4 nonprofit.
- **Outreach.** Yearly Meetings (PFYM, PFF, SAYMA, NCYM (Conservative), NC Friends Churches and NC Fellowship of Friends) and individual meetings were invited to participate and, most accepted. NC Friends Churches, who will discern if they will participate in FCNCL later.
  - Guilford QLSP is represented, and outreach continues to other NC Quaker organizations.
  - Meetings and individuals with interest but little capacity for active involvement are included in communications as requested. A Membership Committee will be convened in the near future.
- **Policy Priorities Discernment and Dissemination.** All participating Monthly meetings were asked to help with discernment to guide our advocacy work in 2020.
  - Friends from nine North Carolina Quaker meetings and organizations submitted leadings and concerns for potential advocacy.
  - The priorities discerned are: (i) electoral reform (independent commission to eliminate gerrymandering, voting rights); (ii) access to quality healthcare (Medicaid expansion and reproductive rights); (iii) environmental protection measures (conservation, air and water quality, environmental justice, and addressing the climate crisis); and (iv) criminal justice reform (end to ICE raids and ending the death penalty).
- **Communication.** We have an email address and a website ([fcncl.org](http://fcncl.org)) with a digital form for Action Alerts sign-up.
  - Over 50 participants receive Action Alerts, and new Alert recipients are being solicited.
  - A protocol for sending out alerts was developed that ensures oversight but fast action.
  - Action Alerts are also distributed via whole-meeting email groups, and others will be encouraged to use this or other methods to build our list of recipients.

- **Anti-Racism Minute.** We approved an anti-racism minute and committed to ask ourselves in committee decisions and in General Committee the query: “How does this decision support FCNCL in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community and in supporting anti-racism policies and regulations in state government?” as decisions are contemplated.
- **Lobbying Visits.** Visits to NC legislators are conducted to help us get briefings on likely legislature actions, and a “leave-behind” FCNCL handout was created to inform legislators about our work.

## **Quaker Lake Camp Report for NCFE 2020 Annual Sessions**

Quaker Lake Camp had an exciting and fruitful 2019. In the spring, elementary students enjoyed the Flashlight Egg Hunt and middle school students enjoyed Spring Camp. We also served 665 campers and volunteers during Summer Camp. We are always blessed with the right college students who make up the summer staff, and this year was no exception. Their desire to share the love of Jesus with campers is inspiring and a reminder of why QLC exists.

The Pumpkin Festival brought more than 3000 people to Quaker Lake including 230 dedicated volunteers. Fall field trips are another means of outreach for QLC. We saw over 1,000 kindergarten students for pumpkin fields trips, and over 200 third and fifth graders came for science/nature field trips. We also had 100 high schoolers visit for a day of teambuilding. These outreach activities are invaluable in introducing the community to what QLC has to offer.

We finished out the year with a special Candlelight Christmas Service. Over 100 people attended this beautiful event that includes music, a short message brought this year by a former staff member, and open worship. Afterward, we had a time of fellowship with hot chocolate and smores.

Quaker Lake celebrates 70 years of camping in 2020 as the first camp session was held the summer of 1950. As part of a yearlong anniversary celebration, we revived the Woman’s Retreat, and it was held on March 7. Over 75 ladies participated and many upcoming summer staff and former staff helped provide interesting sessions for participants.

The rest of the year has been challenging and certainly not the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration we had envisioned. The QLC Board and staff made the heartbreaking decision to cancel all spring and summer activities. We also have experienced a significant loss of income from rental group cancellations. Quaker Lake depends on income from facility rental by churches and other organizations to meet its annual budget. We have conducted extensive research into public health recommendations and have spent much time in prayer while making decisions regarding activities at QLC. This will continue as decisions are made for the remainder of this year and into next year. We appreciate your prayers on behalf of this ministry as well the financial contributions we’ve received to offset the budget shortfall. We ask for continued prayers as we seek His will for Quaker Lake. Anyone interested in making a financial contribution through the QLC Foundation may visit [www.quakerlakecamp.org](http://www.quakerlakecamp.org) for more information.

## **FEMAP** **(Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program)**

This report is to let you know that FEMAP is still operational. Although our doors have been closed, we have continued to share resources as opportunities have presented themselves. We have supplied hygiene kits for Open Door Ministries in High Point and shared fabric with folks making and distributing masks to those in need. To do this work, we have bought supplies to prepare these kits and projects.

Now as we look toward slowly increasing our outreach, we need your help again. There are several ways that you can contribute to the work of FEMAP. You can:

1. continue to collect items for the farmworker, hygiene, infant, and school kits. You will find the list of items needed for each kit on the back of this letter.
2. make your own kits gathering the materials and putting them in sealable plastic bags.
3. come to pick up projects to complete at home and return for distribution. We have plenty of yarn for hats and afghans, 30 some quilt tops that need to be tacked or quilted, quilt kits with the squares already cut with a suggested design, bears to stuff as well as anything else you would like to make from our generous supply of fabric.
4. donate money so items we do not have on hand can be purchased. Contributions can be sent to FEMAP, 606 Springfield Road, High Point, NC 27263.
5. any other way you feel called to be a part of this ministry.

We started receiving donations on a limited basis Wednesday, 7/8/2020 from 10am-2pm. Volunteers are there to process your supplies. Everyone should wear masks and keep 6' distance. Please plan to leave your contributions on the porch so they can be in the fresh air and eliminate any remnants of the virus. We are also providing you with work to take home with you using the same process. Just give us a call at 336-887-5488 and let us know when on Wednesday you are coming and what project you will take to complete. We will leave it on the porch with time for you to be safe in taking it.

**For the safety of all concerned, no one bringing donations or picking up projects will be allowed to enter the building. No mingling, No visiting, and No snacks.**

Thank you for your support in the past. See the back of this report to see details of our work this year. We look forward to the time when we can gather and work together again.

---- Becke' Jones

**- FEMAP Kits -**  
**(Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program)**

**Hygiene Kit**

1 tube toothpaste,  
1 toothbrush  
1 bar bath soap (antibacterial or Ivory)  
1 comb (wide toothed)  
1 washcloth,  
1 small towel  
1 bottle shampoo

**Infant Kit**

2 receiving blankets  
4 baby washcloths  
1 baby towel  
1 bar baby soap (or Ivory)  
1 small tube or jar petroleum jelly  
2 pairs infant socks or booties  
1 bottle baby shampoo

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Friends Material Emergency Assistance Program (FEMAP) has continued to supply organizations that provide help to people in need. Until March 2020, we were supplying kits on a regular basis to Family Services, Open Door Ministries, COATES, Northern Hospital, Tri-Area Community Health Center, Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry, Prison Ministry, schools in both North Carolina and Southwest Virginia as well as other organizations as needs arose. From January 2019 – June 2020, we supplied approximately 883 hygiene kits, 164 farmworker kits, 235 infant kits, and 260 school kits. In addition to the four types of kits, FEMAP supplies handmade infant kits, small bears, knitted toboggans for children and adults, crocheted and knitted afghans are also given to nonprofit organizations for distribution. **If you are aware of needs in your community, please let us know.**

The pandemic did cause some disruption in our work. But we are now receiving donations on a limited basis on Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm. (See other side for details.)

**School Kit**

4 unsharpened pencils  
2 spiral composition books (wide ruled)  
1 ruler (plastic or wood, inches and cm)  
1 block eraser  
1 small pencil sharpener

**Farmworker's Kit**

1 tube toothpaste  
1 toothbrush  
1 deodorant  
1 comb (wide toothed)  
1 box of band aids  
1 foot fungus powder or cream  
1 bandana or sweat band  
1 wash cloth  
1 small towel  
1 bottle OTC pain medication  
1 pair work gloves (Large size)  
1 shaving cream  
2 or more disposable razors  
1 bar soap (Antibacterial)

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FEMAP has been able to function due to the support of Friends Meetings in both North Carolina Fellowship of Friends (NCFE) and North Carolina Friends Churches (NCFC). Approximately 47 Friends Meetings supply kit items, handmade offerings, or financial donations. North Carolina United Society of Friends Women (NCUSFW) circles generously support FEMAP with financial contributions as well as collecting and donating kit items.

FEMAP Quarterly Meetings have only met twice during this period to report to attenders on the work of the program. Attendance from approximately 12 Meetings come regularly for business, fellowship, and a carry in lunch. Our Quarterly Meetings are held at Springfield Friends Meetinghouse across the street from the Allen Jay House where FEMAP is located.

**Please note that FEMAP is totally a volunteer nonprofit organization.** It could not function without its regular volunteers. The many hours each year spent putting together kits, cutting and preparing infant quilts for take home projects by home volunteers have resulted in close friendships among meetings.

**Remember to check out the other side of this report to see how you can help.**



# North Carolina Council of Churches

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With 18 denominations representing over 6,200 congregations in NC, the Council provides incarnational evidence of Christian Unity. By creating unity without expecting uniformity, member bodies collaborate on matters that contribute to the flourishing of God's creation.

Currently our staffed program areas are:

- **NC Interfaith Power and Light** is the only N.C. based statewide organization that works on addressing the ecological and justice issues of climate change as a faith-based initiative. Efforts include energy efficiency and conservation, increased renewable energy use, and collective low-carbon lifestyle changes. NC IPL programs encourage congregations, clergy, and denominations to know about and speak to the moral dimensions of climate change and environmental justice from a faith perspective.
- **Partners in Health and Wholeness (PHW)** provides tools to help faith communities form healthy habits including exercise, healthy eating, mental health awareness, and smoking cessation. Staff members in Asheville, the Triad, and Wilmington are available to help your congregation. We also have a staff member dedicated to education and advocacy around the opioid epidemic.
- **Racial Equity:** The North Carolina Council of Churches was founded in 1935 through the courageous leadership of Shelton Smith and other prominent faith leaders in N.C. who believed the unity of faith communities could overcome the injustice of racism. God laments, as do we, that it takes so much death and so many layers of injustice to move us forward so slowly, but at last the entire country appears to be focused on what our founders told them 85 years ago. Most importantly, the entire country is at last listening to black people and taking their claims seriously. In this spirit, the Council will be hosting a forum series beginning in October and continuing for 12 months focused on racial equity. For more information on our racial equity project and to access resources, visit our website at [www.ncchurches.org](http://www.ncchurches.org).

Currently, other areas of emphasis include racial equity, public education funding, gun violence prevention, the Raising Wages campaign, paid sick, family, and medical leave, money bail eradication, criminal justice reform, Medicaid expansion, redistricting reform, immigration, and the legislative advocacy that accompanies each of these initiatives.

We hope you will join us at our events in the coming months:

- Aug. 19: Voting our Values: Forum on Moral Health Policies - [Click here](#) to register.
- Aug. 21: Sacred Conversations: The Spirituality of Loneliness in Life's Second Chapter - [Click here](#) to register.
- Aug. 24: Be Happy Hour: Democracy, Values, and the 2020 Election - [Click here](#) to register.
- Aug. 26: Voting our Values: Forum on an Economy of Inclusion/Wealth Gap & Poverty - [Click here](#) to register.
- Sept. 2: Voting our Values: Forum on Loving Our Immigrant Neighbors - [Click here](#) to register.
- Sept. 9: Voting our Values: Forum on Democracy & Voter Rights - [Click here](#) to register.
- Sept. 15: Gun Violence Prevention Town Hall (Part I) - [Click here](#) to register.
- Sept. 16: Voting our Values: Forum on Restorative & Racial Justice - [Click here](#) to register.
- Sept. 22: Gun Violence Prevention Town Hall (Part II) - [Click here](#) to register.
- Sept. 23: Voting our Values: Forum on LGBTQ Rights - [Click here](#) to register.
- Sept. 30: Voting our Values: Forum on Global Common Good/Peace - [Click here](#) to register.

Jennifer E. Copeland, Executive Director

## Worthington Friends Meeting Kingston, Jamaica

*David and Shauna Goode continue to serve as pastoral ministers at Worthington Friends Meeting in Kingston, Jamaica (Jamaica Yearly Meeting). In a recent Summer Update, the Goode's reported the following:*

Blessings to all from Jamaica!

The time is hot, in Jamaica and the drought is continuing; although we had a nice bit of steady rain yesterday. We are both staying safe and hanging in there! We had originally planned to travel to the US for our annual home leave and to be there to welcome our newest grandchild (Matthew and Kayla). However due to the uncertainty surrounding the Coronavirus (in both countries), we have decided it would be in the best interest of all concerned to stay put in Jamaica for the time being so we have indefinitely postponed our trip. We do plan to reschedule once things seem to be safer.

Jamaica continues to gradually reopen the country and economy. We have been having in person worship for over a month now as well as continuing the live stream of the service. Tourists and visitors were permitted to come to Jamaica starting mid-June with restrictions and health protocols in place. The cases of Covid 19 have had mild increases, but there is a near 90 percent recovery rate and no increase in deaths. We are still under an 11:00 PM to 5:00 AM curfew and other restrictions on dining and entertainment venues. Masks are required in all public places as well as physical distancing.

We were able to get away to a friend's condo on the north coast for a few days in late June to celebrate our 37th anniversary (Although it was delayed for a week due to the Sahara Sands!). Thank you for your continued prayers for us, the church and for Jamaica; we continue to pray for the US and all the situations there. We would ask for your prayers for Matthew and Kayla as they await the imminent arrival of their daughter Everly. Prayers are also appreciated for Mikayla and Mandy and Chris and Ellis and Arlo.

We hope to be able to reschedule our stateside visit as soon as conditions improve and look forward to reconnecting with our family, friends and supporters. Thank you again for your love, prayers and support.

Dave and Shauna