

Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee (Job Description) 2015

PURPOSE

I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all war.
-George Fox, 1651

The Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness Committee's primary function is to facilitate Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting's public witness for peace, justice, and environmental concerns. We use as a guide Friends' peace testimony that speaks to eradicating the causes of war. "Based upon love and concern for the wellbeing of all, Friends work for reconciliation and active nonviolent resolutions of conflict." (PYM Faith and Practice, 2001) We recognize that care for the natural world has become a natural extension of the historic Quaker concern for peace and justice. We acknowledge that Earthcare Witness is a key concern of SCMM.

The Committee serves the meeting as a center where, within the context of the historic testimonies of Friends, concerns and leadings for witness are received, considered, and seasoned through a process of discernment to help weigh their appropriateness for action within the Meeting.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hear concerns of individuals within the Meeting on matters of the Peace Testimony, concern for Harmony with Nature, and social issues.
- Be aware of peace, environmental, and social justice concerns that are raised in other forums within Meeting, including Meeting for Worship, Business Meeting, Adult Education Sessions, Retreats, and other Meeting venues.
- Listen for promptings of the Spirit for how we are called to witness on matters of peace, social, and environmental concerns.
- Through a process of discernment, season proposals for witness by the Meeting within the Committee, and bring written recommendations to Meeting for Business for consideration.
- For activities that become part of SCMM's corporate witness, the Committee will facilitate this witness by providing leadership and support for action. This may include but is not limited to involving members and attenders in developing a strategy for carrying out the witness, and helping to organize cooperative activities, such as: collections, letter writing and other advocacy, demonstrations, vigils and other types of group witness around particular issues.
- Organize and/or sponsor educational programs and discussion forums related to particular peace, social and environmental issues that are open to SCMM members, attenders and others.
- For activities undertaken by individual members or attenders, provide ideas, information and links to resources, support, and feedback that may be of use in implementing their activities.
- Provide oversight for the Dime-A-Gallon Dream Fund. This includes informing meeting members and attenders of the project and dispersing any funds collected by the project in accordance with the current guidelines approved by PESW.
- Read and respond to Advices and Queries as directed by Worship and Ministry, and present a response at Meeting for Business.

- Review the committee's job description every two years.

NATURE & FREQUENCY OF ACTIVITIES

The full Peace, Earthcare & Social Witness Committee usually meets monthly, and is open to any members/attenders of Meeting.

TERM

Committee members serve for two years beginning June 1 through May 31, with the possibility of re-nomination for additional years. Because of the broad scope of this committee it is recommended that the committee have co-clerks and include approximately 10 regular members, including the Meeting representatives for AFSC, FCNL, FCLCA, and PYM-UWN.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS

Any SCMM members and attenders with an interest in working on issues of peace, social, and environmental concerns are eligible to serve on this committee.

REPORTING

The Committee reports regularly about its activities to Business Meeting and about witness opportunities, and other information on peace, social and environmental issues and activities with the larger SCMM community via the Meeting Newsletter, regular postings on the Meeting website and list serve, and other means.

LIAISON

- The Committee extends its witness for peace, social, and environmental concerns through communication and cooperation with other groups such as other Monthly Meetings, Quarterly Meeting, PYM Peace & Social Order and PYM Unity with Nature Committees, as well as selected religious and secular groups engaged in related activities.
- The Committee includes several members who are SCMM's representatives to such organizations as: Friends Committee on Legislation of California, Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee, and PYM-Unity with Nature. These members are responsible for keeping PESW informed about activities of the group they are involved with that are relevant to the functions of PESW.

TRANSITION

In May or June, new members are invited to attend a transition meeting where they are welcomed to the Committee and members who are leaving are recognized for their work. New members will be given copies of the Committee's job description, responsibilities, and Committee procedures. In the case of new clerks, prior to the transition meeting, the outgoing clerks will meet with the new clerks to orient them as needed to the committee's work, summarize committee activities from the previous year, give a status report on the budget and all ongoing activities and projects, and transfer any files or other materials that may be of use to the new clerks. (Approved by Strawberry Creek Meeting for Business on September 14, 2014; reviewed and approved as is by PESW July 26, 2015)