

## RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

### CHEADLE HULME MEETING

Sunday 5 February 2017

Friends present: 9

- 1. The world situation.** An abridged version (press release) of a statement issued by Meeting for Sufferings yesterday has been read in our opening worship as follows.

Quakers stand alongside victims of racist policies

Quakers in Britain have responded to the global unease about recent political developments around the world with a clear statement asserting that, "Humanity needs leaders of integrity and conscience, ready to be held to account by individuals and institutions, national and international."

In the statement made today (Saturday 4 February) by their representative body, Meetings for Sufferings, Quakers say, "There can be no peace without justice; no love without trust; and no unity without equality. Our faith urges us to welcome the stranger as our equal and friend, feed those who are hungry and shelter those who are homeless, needy and frightened.

"Alongside Quakers in the USA, and their American Friends Service Committee, we stand with those whose lives are blighted by racist, discriminatory policies and those whose faith is denigrated by association with a tiny violent minority."

We agree to send the press release to local churches. We encourage members of the meeting to send a copy of the statement to meetings in the United States with which they have contact with our greetings. We ask Evelyn Ingram to have a posted printed with words from the statement for outside the meeting house. Friends are encouraged to use this statement when discussing the present situation with friends and acquaintances.

[The full statement is reproduced at the end of these minutes.]

- 2. Readings.** Paragraph 5 of *Advices and Queries* has been read in Meeting for Worship. *Advices and Queries* were also used in the meeting for worship last Monday when we hosted Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme.
- 3. Intervisitation.** We ask Rachel Mulliner to visit Wilmslow Meeting during February and Taylor Giacoma to visit Marple Meeting during March.
- 4. East Cheshire Meeting, February Business Meeting.** We appoint Taylor Giacoma, Susan Clark, and Alan Ingram to attend East Cheshire Area Business Meeting to be held at Cheadle Hulme on Saturday 11 February.

We have confirmed the arrangements for the meeting.

- 5. Quaker and Local Projects Fund.** . Further to Minute 5 of our last meeting, a meeting to determine the distribution of the Quaker and Local Projects Fund was held on Sunday 11 December. At the beginning of 2016 there was £598.69 in the fund and during the year the income was £1,168.96. During the year we agree to contribute £100 to Woodbrooke towards the costs of this year's Swarthmore Lecture, £200 to the Area Meeting Peace Strategy Group towards the costs of the exhibition in Macclesfield and associated events and £232.50 to Friends World Committee for Consultation. We also make a regular annual contribution of £50 to Quaker Disability Action. This left a balance of £1,185.15 in the fund.

We agreed to send £100 to each of the bodies which we regularly support: Cape Town Quaker Peace Centre, Northern Friends Peace Board, Quaker Council for European Affairs, Stockport Refugee Support Group, Ulster Quaker Service Committee and Wellspring Stockport. In addition we agreed to send £100 to each of Brummana High School, the Peace Museum in Bradford and the Chelwood Food Bank. This left £285.15 in the fund.

- 6. Library budget.** A year ago we agreed a budget of £200 for 2016 from the General Purposes Fund for books for the library and authorized the librarian to make purchases up to this amount. This was to be revisited after a year. The actual figure for 2016 was £117.43. We agree to continue the annually budgeted amount of £200 and this practice of how it is to be utilised going forward.
- 7. Overseers budget.** A year ago we authorized Elders and Overseers to use funds from the Life of the Meeting Fund to help support Friends attending courses or conferences. This was to be revisited after a year.
- 8. Tea, coffee and biscuits.** It has been suggested that we should buy supplies from a fair trade supplier. This can be done through the United Reformed Church. We authorise Christine Wilson to do this. We thank Christine for arranging refreshments after meeting.
- 9. Midweek meeting for worship.** We agree to review the midweek meetings for worship in June and will continue with them until then.

(signed) Peter J Eccles and Taylor Giacoma, co-clerks.

## **Statement issued by Meeting for Sufferings on 4 February 2017**

'We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity' (Margaret Fell, writing to Charles II in 1660). Quakers in Britain see these values now under growing threat around the world, not least from recent developments in the United States of America.

We condemn all acts of government which set people against one another; which discriminate against people because of who they are or where they were born. We reject policies which condone suspicion and hatred; which turn away those who need and depend upon our help. We were not put on Earth for this, but to be a people of God, to live in harmony with each other.

There can be no peace without justice; no love without trust; and no unity without equality. Our faith urges us to welcome the stranger as our equal and friend, feed those who are hungry and shelter those who are homeless, needy and frightened.

Alongside Quakers in the USA, and their American Friends Service Committee, we stand with those whose lives are blighted by racist, discriminatory policies and those whose faith is denigrated by association with a tiny violent minority. We pray for the courage and steadfastness that will be needed as we uphold our testimony of equality, justice, peace, sustainability and truth. For us, prayer is inseparable from action.

Humanity needs leaders of integrity and conscience, ready to be held to account by individuals and institutions, national and international. We pray for those in positions of power. We call on them, as public servants, to work with all of good faith to build the world we seek, to fertilise the soil in which the tender shoots of peace, love and unity may flourish.