

Woolman Hill Anti-Racism Remonstrance

This work was birthed within the Nurturing Faithfulness cohort from 2022-23 representing 35 people and seven yearly meetings (New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM), New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM), Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), North Carolina Yearly Meeting (NCYM), Southern Appalachia Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) and Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM)). We are Quaker Voluntary Service staff (QVS), Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) members, workshop facilitators, writers, clerks, committee leaders and above all else: we are Quakers. We are not a decision making body and have not reached unity on this document.

The Nurturing Faithfulness community has experienced the impacts of racism within our group, we have wrestled with harm that was experienced during our 9 months together and are working to be faithful to our relationships which has meant tending with our grief, deeply listening to one another and being willing to be changed. We invite our monthly, quarterly and yearly meeting communities into this practice of faith with us.

This document was created out of community building and a lot of worship. This is not a complete or perfect list and waiting for the complete and perfect will keep us stuck. This is urgent to the life and future of the Religious Society of Friends, deepening relationships and returning to our Quaker roots of a social justice spirituality. We have a renewed understanding that racism is a violence that needs to be addressed within the blessed community of Friends. Quaker meetings have fallen short. We call on you to take action.

A vision for the Religious Society of Friends is one that is connected to our lives on turtle island, one that has an elastic relationship with time, that has open doorways – no barriers – people can always join us. One that is connected with our Quaker roots, truth and ancestral wisdom. We are ones who prioritize people and their spiritual lives over structures (such as meeting houses). We move through conflict and fear and are closer to ourselves, each other and God because of it.

Many friends are concerned with the word “demand”, they understand that the language comes from the legacy of social justice movements but don’t feel it is appropriate to demand anything from the Religious Society of Friends. It is being left in as an fierce act of love and as a call to love just as fiercely. It is being left in because it conveys the level of urgency that is appropriate for the concerns of our beloved community. This isn’t a guideline or theory of practice that we can push off any longer. We acknowledge this is not going to sit well with everyone. If you are feeling uncomfortable or resistant what is there for you to learn?

Committing to complete this list of demands will aid your meeting in being more relevant to people young and old supporting them to: feel more connected, experience deeper worship have more fun together, build stronger community, feel more love, feel more inspiration, be more welcoming, love each other better, experience deeper worship, inspire future generations and evolve guided by the divine.

We want to challenge and excite meetings within the Religious Society of Friends with the demands below.

List of Demands to Love Fiercely

1. **By the end of 2023**, the meeting will publicly enter a process of being transformed by racial justice and update us on its progress through this list so that we can all learn from each other.
2. **Read/watch/listen*** to anti-racist media and create programming or opportunities to connect about it.
3. **Meeting for worship with attention to business** engages in discernment about what meetings want their culture to look like moving forward. Work through White Supremacy Culture* article by Tema Okun and wrestle with white supremacy culture in the meeting.
4. **Reparations.**
 - a. Building relationships with local indigenous tribes*, attending public events and paying a land tax.
 - b. Build relationships with Black communities* and collaborate with ways to provide support.
5. **Have 40% of the meeting engage in faithfulness groups*** where Friends identify how they are led in their racial liberation work.
6. **Have at least two Friends from each monthly meeting** apply to the 9 month Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism (QCUR) Fellowship**.
7. **Commit to closing worship with freedom songs*** for one year.
8. **Create opportunities** for attendees of Meetings to build trust and relationship with each other (i.e. having meals together & social events).
9. **The first 8 demands should be seasoned** with your meetings to discern what God/Spirit is asking of you and your meeting.

The following are people who have elected to sign their name and by doing so commit to doing the work in the spirit of this document.

Zenaida Peterson, Quaker Voluntary Service, Quakers Collaborating to Uproot Racism

Eva Whittaker, Beacon Hill Friends House, Three Rivers Worship Group and Friends Meeting at Cambridge

Karen Lockett, She/Her, Frederick Friends Meeting Frederick Maryland

Jennifer Hogue, Friends Meeting at Cambridge, New England Yearly Meeting

Janet Hough, Cobscook Friends Meeting (NEYM)

Campo Larrick, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Laura Hoskins, Putney Monthly Meeting Rachael Carter, Quaker Voluntary Service

Benjamin Warnke, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting

Amy Duckett Wagner, Fallsington Friends Meeting

Sal Emi Link, Mount Toby Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting

David Kunz, Frederick Friends Meeting Frederick Maryland

Anne Pomeroy, New Paltz Monthly Meeting, NYYM and Brooklyn Monthly Meeting
8 am worship

Beth Morrill, Hartford Monthly Meeting of New England Yearly Meeting

Karie Firoozmand, Stony Run Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Daquanna Harrison, Adelphi Friends Meeting

Katy McRae, New Haven friends meeting

Elviem (LVM), Shelton

Marcelle Martin, Swarthmore Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting