

3/9/2025 Peace, Social, Environmental Concerns Committee (PSECC)

Sara Smith, Clerk; Sharon Kulik; Heidi Babb

Proposed Minute on LGBTQIA+-

ACTION- We bring the proposed Minute on LGBTQIA+ (which follows below) to business meeting for consideration which was held over from last month's business meeting.

Concord Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends affirms the following minute as our true testimony to our faith through the Living Spirit.

Friends experience the varieties of love and gender expression in our community as gifts of God. We are all children of God, and we all have equal potential to reflect the Divine Light in our lives. The Light of the Living Spirit is present in all beings and we lift up that Spirit in all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and others (LGBTQIA+). We recognize that trans men are men, trans women are women, and nonbinary people exist; they are a blessing to our community.

We affirm the rights of trans men, women, and youths for privacy, gender-affirming medical care, and non-discrimination in all aspects of society. We recognize the vulnerability of children and we honor the awareness of their gender identity. We commit ourselves to providing the love and support they need to flourish as they are led by Spirit to live into their identity.

Together we commit to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive community where LGBTQIA+ voices of any age are heard, affirmed, and celebrated. We deeply respect their experiences and we recognize their contributions are vital to our shared journey. In doing so we embody the love and acceptance that are at the heart of our faith.

Peace and Social Justice Resource List-

In response to February 23rd Fourth Sunday Program for the need of a resource list to guide members in their peace and social justice activism, PSECC has embraced and is developing an information resource of topics including a list of organizations to be included on the website.

ACTION- Members are encouraged to send resource information on organization websites, political representatives, apps, blogs, books, etc. to PSECC@ConcordFriendsMeeting.org.

ACTION- Assistance will be needed in formulating the Meeting website to house the collected resource information.

Solemn Vigil for Cease Fire in Gaza-

5 or 6 persons regularly attend the weekly Gaza cease fire vigil, 2 of which are Concord Friends members. Other participants attending are mostly NH Peace Action and NH American Friends Service Committee members.

ACTION- Due to the small attendance numbers, PSECC questions the effectiveness of the vigil and asks Friends if the Concord Friends Meeting vigil sponsorship be laid down or suggest a schedule change for the vigil to held once a month rather than weekly. Concord Friends sponsorship began in early 2024.

Some alternative ways to participate in the Gaza cease fire effort may be:

- Phone Congressional representatives and write letters to publication editors
- Pair with and support the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) efforts
- Pair with and support the Peace Action Coalition for Peace in the Middle East

The Peace, Social and Environmental Concerns Committee consists of 3 persons. Right now, there are so many things that merit our attention and actions. We invite all persons to participate with us as they are led and welcome all to attend our next zoom meeting Tuesday, March 25, 10:30a. We will be flexible to adjust our meeting schedule so those with schedule conflicts may attend.

We urge everyone in the Meeting to share with us their peace, social justice, and environmental leadings, and to be aware of calls for assistance that we may act on.

4th Sunday Presentations for April and May-

The AFSC presentation for April 4th Sunday program is being rescheduled for a future date to be determined.

PSECC and the Outreach committees continue work on the Peace Pole dedication/celebration scheduled for the 4th Sunday program, May 25th.