

Working Group Meeting  
March 8, 2025  
**Minutes**

**This month:**

We continue to focus on how to address the controversial issues raised by the new Administration, using discernment and seeking Divine guidance.

**We contemplated the following query:**

We are a spirit-led meeting.

How do we, people of Faith, respond to the uncertainty, the chaos, the cruelty of these present times?

**Areas of Focus:**

**1. Immigration "Love thy Neighbor."**

- With approval of the Meeting, we wrote a letter to the Yearly Meeting in which we express our support of the lawsuit aimed at blocking ICE activities during worship.
- We are following the work of FCNL who stands against the deportation of migrants.

**2. Climate Change**

- The Climate Circle event: MARCH 14, 7:00 - 8:30 PM "For the Birds" live music and poetry invite reflections on our changing climate. Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge Island.
- We will remind new legislators of the significance of the Inflation Reduction Act in supporting significant environmental changes.
- We will monitor attempts made by legislators to limit environmental projects and stand in opposition.

**3. Right Relations**

- Phil will contact Kayleen and ask her how we can stand in solidarity with our local tribes during these trying times.
- Friends Peace Team held a meeting on Feb 4 focusing on the implementation of the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples
  - Link to the UN Declaration:  
[https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf)
  - Link to Friends Peace Team's support activities of right relations with native people:  
<https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/#trrresources>
  - FCNL: Senators Murkowski and Warren: Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies Act

*Overarching Guidance*

- *Consult the Divine Spirit*
- *Include Divine Spirit in Vocal Ministries*
- *Adopt a local action orientation*
- *Engage local, state and national legislators, including Governor*
- *Stay connected with Quaker Voice and FCNL*
- *Dialogue with Trump supporters*
- *Adopt a loving attitude.*

- We support the work that tribal environmental groups are doing.
- We take our concerns about the impact of Boarding Schools to the NPYearly Meeting, encouraging a statement of recognition for this historic wrong.

#### **4. Public Education**

- Bea will attend the School Board meeting on March 13 to inquire about whether federal policy changes will impact the school districts' ability to serve students (including DEI and gender affirming care).

#### **5. Public Health**

- Leni will share a pdf document that details the Universal Healthcare proposal.

#### **6. Social Security**

- A friend expressed concerns about the possible privatization of Social Security and the closing of local offices.  
Patty shared the following resource:  
Puget Sound Advocacy for Retirement Action:  
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=puget+sound+advocates+for+retirement+action&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

#### **7. Liaison functions**

- Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy would like to visit our Meeting –likely later this Spring. To be continued.
- Quaker Voice tracks the State 2025 priority bills,  
We are encouraged to express our support for said bills via the PRO system.  
Link: <https://www.quakervoicewa.org/2025-quaker-voice-priority-bills/>  
Use this link for regular legislative updates.

#### **8. Contacting our Legislators**

- Emily Randall – US Representative - 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District
- Drew Hansen – Senator 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District
- Tarra Simmons – Representative 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District
- Greg Nance – Representative 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District
- Congresswoman Emily Randall is holding several Town Hall Meetings. See her website for more information.  
<https://randall.house.gov/events>

**Next Working Group Meeting:     April 12 at 4 PM**

*Submitted by Paul Larsen and Bea Cardea – Clerks of the Working Group*