

Peace Social and Earth Concerns Committee (PSEC) Job Description:

Logistics: Last Reviewed: September 2024; # on committee Unspecified; Length of term N/A ; Meeting times: CC Subcommittee: 1 PM on 1st Sundays - AR Subcommittee 1:30 PM on 4th Sundays: Peace Subcommittee- no regular meeting time. Joint subcommittee and convener meetings as needed Need to be MMM member? No ; Nominated Committee? No .

Mission and Purpose:

The function of The Peace Social and Earth Concerns Committee (PSEC) is to help the Meeting to understand and implement Friends' testimonies and principles as they relate to the peace, social justice and environmental concerns identified as focus areas by MMM to be reviewed every 2-3 years. PSEC serves as a resource and linkage between Madison Monthly Meeting (MMM), other Friends meetings, and the larger community. PSEC assists the Meeting community in identifying opportunities for service and advocacy and facilitates consideration of PSEC concerns within the Meeting. PSEC cooperates with community organizations active in working against social, environmental and political injustice.

Structure:

PSEC will consist of core committee members plus members who are representing specific Peace, Social and Earth Concerns. Current concerns: Anti-racism work, Climate Change work, and Peace work.

- **Conveners** convene meetings and handle organizational aspects of the committee like creating the agendas, as well as general help with PSEC work.
- **Members of the subcommittees** who are led to work on the focus issues identified by the Meeting will help plan and implement PSEC work connected to the specific concern including forum presentations.
- **Individuals with related concerns outside of focus issues** who are led to coordinate with PSEC in order to facilitate meeting-wide awareness and work on the identified concerns. This could include occasional forum presentations and articles in the newsletter as capacity allows.

Guiding principles:

Friends believe that the congruence of inward leadings and outward action is an important part of daily faith practice, and living out our testimony is vital to a vibrant, deepening faith.

“As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples. We recognize a moral duty to cherish creation for future generations.” - From Facing the Challenge of Climate Change: A shared statement by Quaker groups - Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Quakers in Britain, Living Witness, September 2014

“That as the mind was moved by an inward principle to love God as an invisible, incomprehensible Being, by the same principle it was moved to love him in all his manifestations in the visible world. That as by his breath the flame of life was kindled in all animal and sensible creatures, to say we love God as unseen and at the same time to exercise cruelty toward the least creature moving by his life or by life derived from his was a contradiction in itself.” –John Woolman in The Journal of John Woolman published in 1774

“All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny, with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world.” From a Declaration to Charles II, 1660 by Margaret Fell

Arising from the Quaker belief of that of God/the seed of the Spirit in everyone and the equality testimony, Quakers are committed to work for peace and justice through nonviolent social change, alleviate the suffering caused by war and other social ills, promote justice in society, and encourage cooperation and harmony among all peoples. Being a 'Living Witness' to Peace is not a matter of dusting off the peace testimony in times of war. It is a matter of living a life that promotes justice and does 'take away the occasion for war' in connection to what our use of money supports via investments and purchasing choices, the work we choose, the relationships we foster and develop, our political involvement, how we raise our children... etc. We strive against evil not with weapons of violence, but by seeking that of the spirit in those through whom evil works, by building relationships strong enough to resolve conflict without violence, and by promoting a just and equitable world. - Adapted from PYM (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Pamphlet, Quaker Peace Testimony by Mary Lou Leavitt, 2013 and from the Quakers In Britain website:

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/working-peace>

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Educate and increase consciousness in ourselves and the Meeting on the peace, social and earth issues of concern to Friends and organize Quaker dialogues or worship sharing discussions, etc., on the issues and on the spiritual and historical roots of Friends' concern for peace, social and earth witness. Keep informed of and promote communication on the work of subcommittees and interest groups organized around a specific peace, social and earth justice issue and report to Meeting regarding the activities.
- Consider how to forward the goal of Meeting to evolve into an anti-racist organization.
- Hear concerns of individuals within the Meeting related to PSEC focus issues.
- Monitor and share relevant information with the Meeting community to facilitate informed decision-making, action and advocacy opportunities on topics related to PSEC focus areas.
- Help the Meeting select local peace, social and earth witness focus topics as they arise and to support a group to create a Meeting-wide event or activity or action for each of the chosen topics.
- Identify issues of substantial concern meriting public action by the Meeting and present such for full consideration by the Meeting for Business. Any public action taken in the name of MMM and any individuals representing themselves as representing MMM requires approval of the Meeting for Business except that PSEC may approve MMM co-sponsorship of any event being put on by an organization currently approved for charitable donations by MMM or associated with one of our identified focus areas.
- Support and partner with groups and/or individuals within Meeting who take on peace, social and earth concerns action. Inform Meeting of events and actions led by these related community organizations that are aligned with our focus areas.
- Develop strategic plans to focus the work of the subcommittees.

Specific duties for committee's members:

- Educate self about peace, social and earth witness concerns and Friends' testimonies on these concerns.
- Assist and participate in arranging educational activities, advocacy efforts, and community partnering.
- Take leadership around specific issues for which you have a leading and/or are involved with partner community organizations.
- Listen for promptings of the Spirit for how we are called to witness on matters of peace, social, and environmental concerns.
- Attend the PSEC Meetings and participate as able in Meeting for Business in order to stay current with Meeting Concerns.

Considerations for members in connection with their specific concerns if not part of a PSEC focus area

- Connect with those in Meeting working on their concern
- Help to provide education to Meeting and to the wider community.
- Explore political advocacy (seek out related bills and organize plan of advocacy) and activism possibilities.
- Seek out other organizations doing the same work and help build relationships with these organizations
- Inform Meeting of educational, volunteer, and advocacy opportunities.
- Keep PSEC informed regarding activities

Convener responsibilities other than above:

- Prepare and send out the agenda and meeting reminders and clerk the meetings of the PSEC Committee
- Communicate with our Caretakers about reserving Meeting Space if needed.
- Arrange for someone to take notes at each committee meeting and to record decisions and keep archives of the committee work as needed.
- Coordinate and evaluate the PSEC committee work.
- Ensure that the committee effectively organizes and leads projects related to PSEC objectives.
- Communicate with PSEC committee, as needed, between meetings.
- Provide PSEC reports to Meeting for Business as needed. Include when possible reference to consideration of this query: "How is Spirit leading us to consider the impact any decision made at this Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business may have on our goal for Madison Monthly Meeting to be an actively anti-racist faith community (and to additionally be mindful of also considering other types of oppression)?"
- Manage the budget set aside for PSEC in accordance with the guidelines for what PSEC can approve without taking it to Meeting for Business.