

Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL)
Report to PFYM Annual Meeting
April 10, 2021
[Fcncl.org](http://fcncl.org)

In 2021, FCNCL aims to (i) increase engagement with our General Committee (GC) members; (ii) continue to build our membership; (iii) develop relationships with like-minded organizations and key legislative staff members; (iv) formalize a budget process and complete a set of by-laws; (iii) intensify our commitment and efforts to antiracism; and (iv) increase educational opportunities and group lobbying experiences for our participants. We accomplished the following tasks in keeping with these goals:

1. **Second Annual Meeting.** Our (virtual) meeting on Oct 4, 2020, was a success, with 32 people attending. We appreciate PFYM's support in publicizing and attending the meeting. Key take-aways were the launch of the Strategic Advocacy and Engagement Committee (SAE); discussion and approval of the Policy Priorities (in place through 2022); discussion of how FCNCL can foster antiracism in our policy advocacy; and the creation of an Anti-racism Working Group.
2. **Committees and Leadership.** Eric Ginsburg is now co-clerking the Communications Committee, and Christine Ashley is clerking the new Strategic Advocacy and Engagement Committee. SAE will focus on keeping our General Committee members engaged, building membership, and teaching participants effective advocacy. We have 22 people engaged in our committee work, and our committee memberships are posted at fcncl.org.
3. **Budget and By-Laws.** We formalized a budget process and approved a budget for 2021. We are reviewing draft By-Laws that will be presented for approval at our Annual Meeting October 2, 2021.
4. **Policy Priorities.** Our priorities continue to be: (i) electoral reform; (ii) access to quality healthcare; (iii) environmental protection measures; and (iv) criminal justice reform. The General Committee approved these through 2022, and we will repeat policy priority discernment for 2023 next year.
5. **Communication.** We moved our alert announcements to Mailchimp, which provides efficacy statistics. We reach about 150 recipients. Nancy Haines is improving our website, and Janna Spurr maintains a Facebook presence for us. SAE has created a Facebook Group, which offers a vehicle for group dialogue and sharing message and news of our 2021 legislative priorities.
6. **Anti-Racism Working Group.** Launched in December 2020, the AWG has ten members plus the FCNCL co-clerks. AWG will help us (i) review our Anti-Racism Minute; (ii) find organizations with similar objectives and diverse leadership to guide us on policy discernment; and (iii) consider how we can bring attention to antiracism during our meetings.
7. **Lobby Reports and Training.** An SAE-led workshop had 73 registrants and was well-received. The NCGA (North Carolina General Assembly) legislative process was reviewed

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting
Sixth Annual Sessions, Fourth Month 2021

along with likely NCGA priorities; a tutorial on contacting legislators was offered, and related materials for building relationships with legislative representatives are on the FCNCL website. We are aggregating participants by mailing address to group them by legislative district for group visits.

8. **Connections.** We will send representatives to the annual FCNL meeting, and we continue to engage with several other state Quaker advocacy organizations.
9. We have 28 General Committee members from 14 Meetings. We welcome others committed to Quaker advocacy in NC. We invite you to visit a committee meeting; team with us to craft policy Alerts; help our Communications group develop and issue our announcements; send friends to our website to grow our membership; and most importantly -- respond to our Alerts and build relationships with your representatives!