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

Logistics:
Last Reviewed 5-15; # on committee Unspecified; Length of term N/A; Meets: 12:45 PM on 2nd Sundays
Need to be MMM member? No; Nominated Committee? No; Nominated by? _______

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 bear upon public issues. PSEC serves as a resource and linkage between Madison Monthly Meeting (MMM), other Friends meetings, and the larger community, working on issues of social justice, peace and earth concerns and encourages the living of the historic Quaker peace testimony in daily life. PSEC assists the Meeting community in identifying opportunities for service and advocacy and facilitates consideration of peace, social and earth concerns within the Meeting. PSEC cooperates with community and other Friends’ organizations active in the work of overcoming social, economic and political injustice.

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

“Friends' opposition to all forms of violence imposes on them the responsibility to seek alternative responses to conflict and injustice.” (Quaker Faith and Practice 24.38 - The book of Christian discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain - 5th Edition - 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

“I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars..” George Fox 1651

“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

“Whoever can reconcile this, 'Resist not evil', with 'Resist violence by force', again, 'Give also thy other cheek', with 'Strike again'; also, 'Love thine enemies', with 'Spoil them, make a prey of them, pursue them with fire and the sword', or, 'Pray for those that persecute you, and those that calumniate you', with 'Persecute them by fines, imprisonments and death itself', whoever, I say, can find a means to reconcile these things may be supposed also to have found a way to reconcile God with the Devil, Christ with Antichrist, Light with Darkness, and good with evil. But if this be impossible, as indeed it is impossible, so will also the other be impossible, and men do but deceive both themselves and others, while they boldly adventure to establish such absurd and impossible things.” - Robert Barclay, Quaker theologian -1678

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
Duties and Responsibilities:

- Educate itself and the Meeting on a variety of peace, social and earth consciousness issues of concern to Friends and organize Quaker dialogues or worship sharing discussions, etc., on the spiritual and historical roots of Friends’ concern for peace, social and earth witness concerns.
- Hear concerns of individuals within the Meeting on matters of the Peace Testimony, concern for harmony with nature, and social issues.
- Monitor social justice and peace issues of current concern and share relevant information with the Meeting community.
- Notify the Meeting of specific events and items requiring action through regular reports to Meeting for Business and announcements to the Meeting community in a timely manner.
- Provide information to Meeting for Business on peace, social and earth witness concerns to allow for informed decision-making
- Help the Meeting select local peace, social and earth witness concerns focus topics as they arise and to support a Meeting group to create a Meeting-wide event or activity or action for each of the chosen topic.
- 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.
- Keep informed of and promote communication on the work of subcommittees and interest groups organized around a specific peace, social and earth justice issues and report to Meeting regarding the activities.
- Support and offer clearness committees to groups and/or individuals who take on peace, social and earth concerns action in the Meeting and provide ideas, information and links to resources, support, and feedback that may be of use in implementing their activities.
- Review current contributions and propose changes to the regular contributions budget allocations on peace, social and earth witness concerns to the Finance Committee.

Specific duties for committee's members:

- Educate self about peace, social and earth witness concerns and Friends' testimonies on these concerns.
- Communicate with members and attenders regarding their peace, social and earth witness concerns and knowledge about these issues.
- Help seek out educational and action resources regarding peace, social and earth witness concerns.
- 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 which are on 2nd Sundays at 12:45 PM and participate as able in Meeting for Business in order to stay current with Meeting Concerns.

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.
- With the committee's help, prepare a set of goals for your committee for the calendar year in order to accomplish the work that needs to be done and if there are regular duties to be performed, prepare a time line so that everyone will know what is due when.
- Communicate with PSEC committee, as needed, between meetings.
- Monitor the PSEC program budget and have the committee review regular donations at least annually.
- Provide PSEC reports to Meeting for Business as needed.