

Peace and Earth Meeting
August 22, 2010

Present: Kitti, Jen, Susan, Pat

We discussed making a donation to disaster relief in Pakistan, and Pat suggested International Medical Corps, who are already on the ground in Pakistan. We decided to send \$150 to Pakistan relief via International Medical Corps.

Kitti reported that we gave \$50 to Erika Swiger (22 Ramoth Road, Asheville, NC, 28804) after receipt of itemized expenses from her trip to Palestine. She worked with Ramallah Meeting House (helped clean) and Friends Girls School (volunteered there) and other activities in Palestine.

Pat brought up the 350 organization and that Spiritual Enrichment has asked us to do a presentation on 'Earth Care'. The 350 organization is going to hold world wide events on 10-10-10. They had multiple suggestions – two main ones were to plant trees or start a garden. We are thinking that someone in the community (like UNCA) will hold an event on 10-10-10. Peace and Earth cannot organize on this day – it is also business meeting day.

Pat will tell Spiritual Enrichment that Peace and Earth would like to hold a meeting on the queries. Here are the queries:

1. How has global change affected our communities and ourselves?
2. What actions have we taken in response to global change as experienced in our area, to express our responsibilities towards all creation? In what ways have my own activities or those of my community contributed to positive or adverse local and global change?
3. How do changes around us affect our relationship with God? How does my relationship with God affect my responses to the changes around us? What role does faith have in my life and in the life of my community? In what ways do I and my Friends church or meeting community bear witness to our Testimonies in our daily lives?
4. What stories and experiences from past times of catastrophic happenings such as major droughts – perhaps from Scripture, perhaps the record of regional or local events – might inspire us to respond to the changes the world is facing today?
5. How can we bear witness to the abundance God offers us and testify to the world about ways in which justice, compassion, and peace may address significant disruption, stress, and tension?
6. How can we support one another in rekindling our love and respect for God's Creation in such a way that we are messengers of the transforming power of love and hope?

Here is a link to the Queries:

http://www.fwccawps.org/globalchange/documents/2010_2FWCC-GCSC-ClusterQueries.pdf

Susan brought petitions and postcards from Physicians for Social Responsibility. The postcards are to the EPA about handling coal ash waste. There will be a public meeting with the EPA in Charlotte on 9-12-10 about this issue. The petition is about re-powering NC with renewable energy sources, conservation and efficiency of energy, and reduction in the use of coal and nuclear power for energy sources. It is from a group called RePowering NC and Physicians for Social Responsibility. Susan also said that the Veterans for Peace are collecting household items for veterans who are moving into apartments. Jim Cavenar is also collecting bedding, towels, wash cloths for people in our community who are homeless. Susan will announce at rise of meeting to bring items to the Meeting House on August 29th and September 5th. These will either be taken by Jim or Susan to the respective places to be given to the people who are placed in housing.