

Peace and Earth Meeting
September 19, 2010

Present: Kitti, Susan, Pat

Peace & Earth will sponsor the Mountain Area Interfaith Forum on 10-14-10 during the daytime at the Meeting House. This means they can meet without any charges. Kitti and Susan cannot make it to the forum due to work.

Next meeting of Peace & Earth will be on 10-17-10.

Also, a letter from Peace and Earth was submitted to Business Meeting last week, and approved by Meeting. It was submitted to Asheville Citizen Times for publication under the name of Katherine Kowal, Clerk of Asheville Friends Meeting. It was published on 9-19-10. It was also sent to other organizations, as noted in a copy of the letter below.

September 12, 2010

Dear Islamic Center of Asheville:

Asheville Friends Meeting is sending the following letter to the Asheville Citizen Times and the Mountain Express for publication. We wanted to share it with you also.

Asheville Friends Meeting is a part of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). We believe in simplicity, honesty, equality, peace, and respect for all life. Friends originally came to the United States in search of religious freedom. We are distressed at what is happening in our country in regards to the Islamic Community Center in New York, to the arson of a mosque in Tennessee, and the threat of burning Korans in Florida. We believe that we cannot have the freedom of religion to be a Quaker unless our fellow American Muslims are free to exercise their religious beliefs also.

We believe that the Light "that is of God" is in everyone. We are distressed to see our fellow citizens, and their places of worship and their Holy Book, treated with such disrespect. Asheville Friends Meeting would be interested in further dialogue, or socialization, with local Muslims.

We feel the recent discrimination has its roots in racism, and that knowledge and understanding can overcome racism.

Members of the Asheville Friends Meeting community unite with all of the other people and groups that have come out in support of the religious freedom Muslims in America.

Asheville Friends Meeting, Katherine Kowal, Clerk

Copies will also be sent to President Obama, Senator Hagan, Senator Burr, Representative Shuler, and Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Sincerely,

Susan Oehler on behalf of Asheville Friends Meeting, 227 Edgewood Place, Asheville, NC, 28804

