The work of an FCNL Visiting Friend is to connect meetings and churches around the United States with FCNL’s Quaker mission and opportunities for advocacy. Quakers have a centuries-long history of inner visitation—seeking fellowship and deepening ties with Friends by way of relational connection.

Rooted in this practice, FCNL Visiting Friends (with support and guidance from FCNL staff) give presentations to Meetings and churches about the core components of FCNL’s work through their own personal stories and helping to nurture, connect, and energize Friends into faithful action. **Your role as a Visiting Friend is to share how Quaker advocacy and FCNL can help Friends live out their own faith through action. As a Visiting Friend, you will engage and invite Friends to take spirit-led action in meaningful and effective ways.**

FCNL Visiting Friends:
- share with Meetings and Churches about their spiritual journey, and describes advocacy in the manner of Friends’ faithful witness;
- introduce new Friends to FCNL’s legislative priorities;
- provide a sign-up for individuals to receive FCNL’s email alerts, letter writing materials, etc.;
- identify individuals in the meeting interested in becoming meeting contacts, letter writers, grassroots lobbyists, advocacy team members, Spring Lobby participants, members of the General Committee, and prospective donors.

There are many more Friends who might engage regularly with FCNL if they knew more about opportunities and structures that exist for them. So get ready to inspire monthly meetings and churches to consider growing and deepening engagement with FCNL! Inspire individuals to talk about how FCNL has helped them move from a spiritual conviction to an active role in advocacy! Let’s bring Friends from around the country to FCNL advocacy, faith in action!

In peace and gratitude,

[Signature]

Christine Ashley, FCNL Quaker Field Secretary
cashley@fcnl.org
202-903-2505
Visiting Friend Goals:
• Visit 3 meetings or churches to invite Friends to engage in FCNL’s work;
• Sign-up individuals receive FCNL’s email alerts and more information on programs;
• Identify individuals in the meeting interested in lobbying on or offline;
• Inspire new individuals to make a first gift to the FCNL Annual Fund.

Visiting Friend Travel:

In 2018, Friends visited 51 meetings. FCNL staff help Visiting Friends identify the meetings to visit at in 2019. These visits tend to include meetings:

a) with strong ties to FCNL that haven’t had a staff visit in several years
b) that are growing, attracting young people, or have individuals wanting to strengthen ties to FCNL
c) that are strategically located for our 2019 lobbying goals
d) that have indicated an interest in FCNL and have potential to become active!

Invited Friends travel to meetings (outside of their home meeting) to present. The presentations might be at second hour, called meetings or evening gatherings depending on the availability at meetings.

FCNL Follow-up:

Visiting Friends complete a visit report back form. Staff receive provide feedback, support and suggestions to Visiting Friends and thank the host meeting. We want to thank the meeting for allowing an FCNL supporter to make a presentation.

No Visiting Friend is alike and yet each Friend is willing to...

• describe their personal story, exploring how it has brought them to be involved with the work of FCNL
• give at least three presentations at Monthly Meetings or Churches in 2019
  o Write letters to meetings or call Friends requesting time for a presentation
  o Collect sign-in sheets, evaluations and other data (or use online forms!)
  o Engage in a written follow-up with each meeting
  o Write personal reflection on visits and next steps for FCNL Meeting engagement
• participate in monthly Zoom video conference calls with other Visiting Friends

In the early months of 2019, you might also be encouraged to contact Meetings and Churches in your Yearly Meeting, encouraging Friends to participate in the Priorities Process.
Several Friends will also give Visiting Friends presentations during Annual and Quarterly Meeting conferences.

**FCNL Responsibilities:**
- Provide resources, materials and training
- Identify meetings that are first priorities for visits
- Organize and lead monthly phone briefings
- Provide updates on FCNL activity
- Track visit data in database and provide follow up sequence for every volunteer presentation
- Give feedback to volunteers

**Nuts and Bolts of Presentations**

1. **In advance**
   - Letter introducing yourself—asking to set up a date (call follow-up)
   - Place to stay—with clerk/member at meeting
   - Traveling minute from meeting
   - Friend to hold you in the light or accompany you on your visit
   - Contact with Peace & Social Outreach committee for priorities report and meeting activism
     - Research—how FCNL’s work fits into this meeting leading

2. **Presentation**

3. **Follow-up**
   - Visiting report back form to FCNL
   - Sign-up sheets to FCNL (or have Friends sign-in at fcnl.org/vfpresentation)
   - Conference call

**Logistics**

**Venue needs can include:**
- Projector
- Screen/blank wall
- Laptop

**Time possibilities**
- Second hour
- Before worship
- Evening/late afternoon potluck
- Consider: childcare
Other materials

• Flip board
• Markers

Briefing Materials FCNL will provide

In Packet

• Sample letter introducing yourself
• Sample traveling minute
• Sample presentation
• Handouts - and how to use effectively
• Speaker report-back form
  o People to follow-up with
  o Names and notes for people interested in particular issues
  o Interest in lobby training?
  o Names of possible grasstops
  o Names of people interested in giving to FCNL
  o Questions people ask:
    o Quaker governance and how FCNL sets legislative priorities
    o Questions about what FCNL’s contribution goes towards
    o Effectiveness of lobbying
    o “What can we do that will make a difference?”

Sample presentation

• Visiting Friend’s story, and how FCNL has been a vital and instrumental piece of spiritual growth and path
• Many ways Quakers are involved with FCNL
  • A source for you when you want it
  • Annual Meeting and QPPI
  • Lobbying in your own state, or in DC through the Quaker Welcome center’s Witness Wednesday program; connecting the dots
  • Letters, emails, support to young adult programs
• Q and A:
  • Who has: written a letter to the editor/lobbied/called your representative?
  • What are ways you are currently involved in change in your community?
  • What are your issues?
  • Next Steps for Friends and FCNL
Handouts
- Sign-up sheets (or have Friends sign-in online at fcnl.org/VFsignin)
- Evaluations
- Advocacy Team, Advocacy Corps, and Spring Lobby Weekend flyers as well as YAF flyers.
- World We Seek and Abbott Pamphlet
- Quaker Welcome Center material

Miscellaneous
- Clerk contact information, meeting contact information, FCNL activists in meeting — contact information
- Actions meetings have taken in the past
Sample Letter of Introduction from FCNL

December 9, 2018

To our Austin Friends,

Thank you for welcoming Lon Burnam to Austin Friends Meeting as an FCNL Visiting Friend. Lon has been actively involved with FCNL since the 90’s and this fall, he served as FCNL’s Friend in Washington. Lon has served on FCNL’s Policy Committee and has recently been nominated to sit on the Development Committee. Lon’s faithful service through the years has been gratefully noted and appreciated. We feel very fortunate to have such a talented and passionate Friend serving our community over two decades.

With support from the FCNL Field Committee and staff, Lon is sharing with Friends about the intersections between his spiritual path and his work within FCNL. His personal story of Faith, Practice, and Service all seem to intersect beautifully. We know you will enjoy hearing about his journey.

We at FCNL seek to strengthen our connection to Friends Meetings and Churches around the country, and find areas where FCNL can offer opportunities for action on issues concerning Friends. We are supporting this travel in the tradition of Friends’ inner visitation in hopes to stir our spirits, and open opportunities for understanding one another’s experiences of how the spirit is working in the world towards peace and justice.

We send you greetings, hold you and Lon in our prayers, and trust that God will bless your time together in loving community.

In peace,

Christine Ashley
Quaker Field Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation
Member, Whittier Friends Meeting, IA.
Month XX, 20XX

Pastor/Clerk of Meeting and FCNL Meeting Contact

Greetings Friend,

My name is __________ and I am a member of ______________. I have been active with the Friends Committee on National Legislation community for several years and am a representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Recently, I became a part of FCNL’s Visiting Friend Program to travel to meetings to share my leadings on faith and Quaker advocacy with Friends Committee on National Legislation.

A leading has been growing in me, supported by my meeting and FCNL, to travel in (insert your Yearly Meeting, Quarter or other specifics here) visiting Quaker groups to share why I feel led to work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

I’m looking for opportunities to come and worship with your community and share my own experiences as a Quaker Advocate and a Friend active with Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Would your group be interested in having me visit?

I would welcome the opportunity to speak from my experience with FCNL for perhaps 20 minutes and then have a discussion with Friends. If so, please contact me with suggestions of a few dates that work best for you. I would like to travel beginning in March going through to mid-June and then again in September and October (insert any specific restrictions you have here).

Sincerely,