



Guidelines for Participating in the Priorities Process

Plan your gathering

We encourage you to gather a number of Friends and attenders for a process of worship sharing and discernment in a manner that fits in your community. Some groups consider priorities in a committee, in an informal group, or as a First Day discussion topic. Some meetings or churches adopt a minute expressing their sense of priority issues, but this is not a requirement. The gathering could also take place outside of a meeting or church – at a retirement community or among young adult Friends.

We encourage you to invite Friends and attenders of different ages, backgrounds, and experiences to participate in this gathering. Please seek to include at least one person comfortable submitting your group's responses online after you have met.

Many gatherings will prepare for the discernment session by reading FCNL's Policy Statement, "The World We Seek." This document describes in detail FCNL's values and goals. Each year, FCNL hears joyful reports from gatherings that have met together to discuss and reflect on FCNL's foundational document. One copy is included in this mailing, and others are available online at fcnl.org/theworldweseek or by request.

Discern priorities

After an opening period of waiting and listening worship, the gathering can begin with a brief description of the priorities process and the purpose of the gathering. In worship-sharing, participants share their concerns related to national issues and policies. **Through your discussion, please identify no more than 7 priorities of 30 words or less to suggest for the lobbying work of FCNL.** The most important consideration for FCNL's Policy Committee is that your responses reflect your spiritual searching and discernment.

Report your group's responses

Online (preferred): We strongly encourage you to send in responses electronically: fcnl.org/priorities.

Other methods: We can also accept responses by email (send to priorities@fcnl.org) or postal mail (send to 245 2nd St, NE, Washington, DC 20002). Please see the other side of this sheet for the information to include if you send responses by these methods.

Please Respond by April 10, 2020

What information should you record?

Whether you send in your response electronically or by mail, you will need to know the following information:

- Who is responding? (The group or individual, and what Yearly Meeting you are part of)
- Who participated? (The number in the group and approximate ages)
- What kind of gathering? (Committee meeting, informal gathering, meeting for business, etc.)
- Who is the group's contact person?
- What are up to 7 priorities you recommend for FCNL's work? (You may write up to 30 words on each priority, and we have provided an additional comment field for anything else you would like to share. Please keep in mind that the final priorities will identify topics to be emphasized rather than the details of FCNL's concern on that issue. Feel free to include references to The World We Seek document using the relevant section numbers.)
- Any comments on the process your group would like to share

What happens to the responses after FCNL receives them?

The FCNL Policy Committee, a working committee of the General Committee, reads all the responses and meets together to consider what meetings, churches, groups, and individuals are telling FCNL.

For each concern raised, the committee considers how that area is supported in the FCNL Policy Statement and the historic leadings of Friends. The committee also considers the capacity of staff, the financial resources of FCNL, and the potential role of FCNL and other groups working on the issues. Finally, the committee considers whether a chosen issue is likely to come before the upcoming Congress. The committee makes choices – difficult choices – among the many advances we would all like to make toward the World We Seek, knowing that if we try to do everything, we will do nothing well.

The Policy Committee will bring its recommendation to the FCNL General Committee meeting for final discernment in November 2020, just after the election. The General Committee may choose to accept the recommended priorities or ask for further modifications. Throughout the discussion, however, the priorities discerned by Friends across the country remain at the center of the Committee's consideration.

Where can you find more information?

See FCNL's website: fcnl.org/priorities. If you have additional questions, you can contact Policy Committee members Kitty Ufford-Chase (kitty@stonypointcenter.org, 845-608-3834) and Michael Fuson (fuson@denison.edu, 740-403-9091).