

## FCNL as a Quaker Organization

**FCNL is a national nonpartisan Quaker organization that lobbies Congress for peace, justice, and environmental stewardship.**

- Vision: *We seek a world free of war and the threat of war. We seek a society with equity and justice for all. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled. We seek an earth restored.* Working from that clear vision of the better world we want to build, we are persistent in advocating for policies to bring it closer to reality.
- FCNL's advocacy flows out of the Quaker belief in "that of God" in everyone, leading to a prophetic vision of the world we seek and a way of lobbying that acknowledges the inherent dignity and worth of each person.
- We bring together tens of thousands of Friends and likeminded advocates who share a belief in the power of relationship-based change making in seeking a better world.
- Our power comes from the integrity of our positions, the persistence of our lobbying, and the commitment of our community.

**FCNL is governed by Quakers and our priorities are set by Friends from across the country.**

- FCNL's strength comes from the grounding in the Religious Society of Friends and the discernment of Quakers across the country in determining FCNL's lobbying priorities.
- All members of the General Committee, FCNL's governing board, are members of the Religious Society of Friends or have a demonstrated history of connection and commitment to Society.
- In choosing its legislative priorities and agenda, FCNL relies on a process of worshipful seeking of divine guidance by Friends around the country and by its governing body of Friends. Staff work within that broad guidance to respond to and work to influence federal policies. Further reading: [fcnl.org/governance](http://fcnl.org/governance)

**FCNL works to have open lines of communication with a broad array of Friends and to engage them in its work.**

- Friends from across the branches of Quakerism participate in FCNL's advocacy work. The diversity of experiences Friends bring to FCNL is a vital part of its work.
- Just as the FCNL community is clear that it does not speak for all Friends, it recognizes that Friends have variations in their views on many FCNL priorities. The weight of FCNL's words is proportional to the integrity of the people who compose it.

**FCNL's work builds on a tradition of Quaker advocacy going back nearly 400 years.**

- Quakers have worked to influence the government almost since the faith's inception in the 17th century, motivated both by necessity and principle. Quakers have been part of efforts to advance peace and justice ever since.
- Since 1943, Friends working through FCNL have sought to plant the seeds of change for a more peaceful and just world, knowing they might take decades to grow.
- Further reading: *A Theological Perspective on Quaker Lobbying by Marge Abbott*



**Prophetic:** FCNL has a transformative vision of the world we seek. *“We seek a world free of war and the threat of war. We seek a society with equity and justice for all. We seek a community where every person’s potential may be fulfilled. We seek an earth restored.”*

**Persistent:** We take the long view. The way our community lobbies is grounded in Friends’ faith and practice. We start with the belief that the Light of God exists in everyone. We are carefully nonpartisan; we seek to build relationships with members of Congress across the political spectrum; and we focus on identifying ways in which we can work with others to move policy forward.

**Powerful:** Review [www.fcnl.org/impact](http://www.fcnl.org/impact) for most recent FCNL success and impacts.

**Friends often don’t know how powerful FCNL is.** Quakers working with FCNL helped to establish the Peace Corps, were thanked by several dozen members of Congress for their work on the Civil Rights Act, and of course have played important roles in working to prevent war and creating structures within government to prevent future violent conflict. You may have heard about the First Step Act, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, the Gibson Climate Resolution, and the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus which were big wins on the Hill for all of us. We keep moving.

**This FCNL community helped build the First Green Building on Capitol Hill**, which serves as a witness for energy efficiency and action on climate change and has been a model for those trying to green Congress. And right next door to the FCNL offices, we have the Quaker Welcome Center where we used to hold a weekly worship opportunity called Witness Wednesday Silent Reflection and monthly Quaker Changemaker events. We now hold those events online. Find upcoming event postings at [www.fcnl.org/events](http://www.fcnl.org/events) and read more about the Quaker Welcome Center at [www.fcnl.org/qwc](http://www.fcnl.org/qwc)

**Friends Place on Capitol Hill** (formerly William Penn House)--a Quaker learning center and guesthouse providing civic education and engagement opportunities for young people--is now an affiliated organization with FCNL and the FCNL Ed Fund just down the street from our offices. We expect the building to be completed in December 2021 and that we will welcome groups for overnight stays early in 2022. While preparing the space for our first guests, we are also beginning to develop our civic engagement programming opportunities. Grounded in Quaker values, our programming offerings will include connecting groups to FCNL lobby trainings as well as facilitating workshops that support participants’ engagement in national issues and in actions within their own communities. We are excited to also coordinate occasional retreats and issue-specific multi-day trainings focused on FCNL’s policy priorities.