

## **Minute from Brooklyn (NY) Monthly Meeting – Approved December 3, 2023**

Approved Minute:

“We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world.”

Declaration of Friends to Charles II, 1660 (Quaker peace testimony) as reconfirmed by Brooklyn Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

December 3, 2023

As members of Brooklyn, NY Friends Meeting, and in keeping with our peace testimony, we are horrified by the killing on all sides in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, and the larger Middle East. We support a lasting cease fire, instead of violence and revenge, as well as peaceful action by the United States and other world powers to bring about lasting peace, with justice and freedom, between Israelis and Palestinians.

Our hearts are with all who are mourning the loss of loved ones. We stand in silent vigil to remember them and honor the lives of all innocent victims for we cannot accept the dehumanization wrought by war and conflict at home and abroad. Whatever our differences, love is the only way to save our bodies as well as our souls.

Quakers have a history of mediating conflict, often between warring parties, and we recommit ourselves to do so during this strife through such organizations as Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee, and the Quaker United Nations Office. We see that of God in all people and in all conflicts throughout the world.

Peace-making is the work of a lifetime. Quakers have been at it for more than 350 years. This is no time to be discouraged by this and other worldly conflicts. Rather, we must continue to speak truth to power on behalf of all earth's people and living creatures.

“A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it... It is as great presumption to send our passions upon God's errands, as it is to palliate them with God's name... We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by love and information. And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: for if men did once see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: and he that forgives first, wins the laurel.”

William Penn, 1693