

*Whitewater Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approved the following minute at a "called meeting for business" on December 31, 2023.*

*We are filled with compassion for all of those that are affected by the ongoing escalation of violence in Palestine/Israel. Quakers recognize that human life is sacred. We are guided by the moral compass of our Quaker roots and their declaration in 1660: "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world." (Peace testimony, Declaration of Friends to Charles II, 1660)*

*In alignment with the individual and collective message of the Divine Spirit and guided by love and the Inner Light, we call for the work of waging a just and permanent peace. Through peace, we open the bridge to reconciliation. We unite with Friends and people throughout the world to urge the combatants from all sides to initiate an immediate ceasefire and the release of all hostages in Gaza and Israel.*