

Resources for Centering

FCNL encourages you to engage with the priorities process in whatever way is most appropriate to your gathering. As you meet in worshipful consideration of FCNL's legislative priorities for the coming two years, we offer these readings with queries from Margery Post Abbott's booklet "A Theological Perspective on Quaker Lobbying" as an optional resource to help ground and center your group.

"True Godliness does not turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavours to mend it; not hide their candles under a bushel, but set it upon a table in a candlestick... Christians should keep the helm and guide the vessel to its port; not meanly steal out at the stern of the world and leave those that are in it without a pilot to be driven by the fury of evil times upon the rock or sand of ruin." (William Penn)

Query: How is your personal life a witness to the kingdom of God on earth? How does this inform what you say to Congress?

"I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. Be as wary as serpents and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

Query: Have you ever experienced being "wise as serpents, innocent as doves"? What was that like?

"At a time in history when so much blood and treasure is poured out in war, there need to be insistent voices for peace. When there is so much fear and suspicion and hatred, the Church should be seeking paths of reconciliation, understanding, cooperation, and forgiveness." (E. Raymond Wilson, first executive secretary of FCNL)

Query: In what ways do you see lobbying as part of your faith?

(His) passion for justice arose two years before Fox famously said, "But I told them I was come into the covenant of peace which was before wars and strife were." Fox's knowledge of both the Old Testament call to act justly and the Peaceable Kingdom promised by Jesus to all who would honestly seek it have informed many Friends' views today. The statement that peace is not possible without justice and without care for the world in which we live has echoes of this statement. (Margery Post Abbott)

Query: What role should Quakers be taking to speak for justice in our legal system?