

Care & Counsel Summary 2021

Care & Counsel is responsible for care of meeting members. A report is given at each meeting for business, with confidential information protected.

Ongoing care includes visiting and loaning Care Quilts to people who are experiencing illness or loss, sending card at sad and joyful times, and coordinating other care (transportation, meals) when needed on a limited basis. C&C makes every effort to maintain contact with those who are in greater need or who are unable to attend worship, and to connect members and attenders with community resources as needed. These efforts were especially important during the pandemic when everyone was isolated, and we discovered the benefits of Zoom for maintaining connections, especially with those at a distance or with mobility challenges. C&C also manages the Friends in Need fund which may provide some assistance to those in financial crisis.

In addition, Care & Counsel hosts the “welcome back” brunch in September and “homecoming” on Christmas eve when 21 year olds are recognized with Hicks prints (purchased and framed by C&C). Invitations are sent to all young adults encouraging them to attend. This year an additional outreach was made in the Spring to college-age young adults. At age 21 they are listed separately in the directory. C&C continues to explore membership with Associate Members until age 26. Notes are sent to all members who have not been seen in the past year near year’s end. Flowers are presented to families with new babies and home-based older adults at Easter and graduates are recognized at the end of the school year with cards.

Care & Counsel is also responsible for the membership process, nurturing interest and appointing clearness committees for applicants, as well as care of weddings under the care of the Meeting. We also help Friends initiate clearness or support committees when requested.

In 2020-21 there were no weddings. 65 cards were sent, including 18 to this year’s graduates. 144 notes were sent to inactive members in November and 54 outreach contacts to college age in the Spring. At least 6 care quilts were shared (some were offered and declined for various reasons), 3 babies and 7 home-based flowers delivered.