

Peace & Service Committee Annual Report 2020 by Matthew Chandler

The activities of the Peace and Service Committee over the past year centered on three main themes: racial justice, curbing gun violence, and Earth care. These themes were evident through our routine actions, special events, and behind-the-scenes outreach and planning.

The Committee engaged the Meeting in a series of continuing conversations on race, including the deep roots of racism in American history, subtle and obscured forms of racial oppression in contemporary society, and various aspects of white privilege.

We gratefully embraced the initiative of others to support the ecumenical event “Heeding God’s Call” to end gun violence last November. Our Meeting’s involvement in this event helped us forge ties with other faith communities in our region, including some that cross racial boundaries, and further threads are as of this reporting year being extended to the interracial, interfaith group POWER.

The Committee identified a need for collective action to match our shared concerns for Earth care, and thus formed a standing Sub-committee for Environmental Action in February this year. Its development has been hampered somewhat by the current global pandemic, but it is nevertheless ramping up and will soon be making concrete proposals.

Finally, with the Meeting’s blessing, we would like to re-name ourselves the “Peace and Justice Committee,” as we feel it is important to declare outwardly the convictions that drive us. This is not at all intended to communicate a de-emphasis of service; on the contrary, we strive to demonstrate our commitment to service through vibrant action that is ever clearer for all to see. But the truth is, the service this Committee sponsors has deliberate aims: peace and justice. Neither one without the other; peace under conditions of justice, and justice by peaceful means. These are the ideals that motivate all our manifestations of service, and we would like to signify that fact transparently in our name.

The request to rename the committee was **APPROVED**

The full committee report can be found on [Care & Counsel Committee](#) web pages.