

## PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS REPORT TO SAYMA 6/2017

During this past year the Peace and Social Concerns Committee was given only one issue to consider: our possible response to how Friends General Committee was handling concerns raised by Friends of color that FGC was not doing enough to insure that Friends of color felt welcomed and safe at FGC's annual gathering. Columbia Friends brought this issue to SAYMA's fall rep meeting, who in turn asked Peace and Social Concerns to find out and comment on how FGC was handling this request from Friends of color.

Peace and Social Concerns got in touch with FGC and learned that FGC had responded to Friends of color by taking two big steps: adding several Friends of color to its site selection committee so that Friends of color held a majority of seats on the committee; and launching a campaign to raise \$60,000 to fund a thorough study of ways in which FGC could identify and confront aspects of its operations which might be tainted by racism.

On learning of these steps by FGC, Peace and Social Concerns prepared a minute supporting these proactive steps by FGC and brought the minute to the spring rep meeting. The rep meeting was unable to reach unity on the minute of support for FGC's actions, primarily because several SAYMA Friends of color spoke against it..

We note that the strong emergence during this year of the ad hoc committee on racial justice, led by Friends of color within SAYMA, has occurred without any involvement of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.