Partners in 
Spirit-led Action 

AFSC's Quaker Meeting/Church Liaison Program

What does an AFSC Meeting/Church Liaison do?

AFSC Meeting/Church Liaisons stay in regular contact with AFSC and receive support to engage their meeting/church in powerful Spirit-led organizing. There are two models for partnering with AFSC to do this work:

1. Regularly connect your congregation to the work of AFSC. Engage in a variety of activities such as a guided discussion on Spirit-led activism using the AFSC Testimonies booklet, posting a blog post from Acting in Faith in your meeting/church newsletter, or watching a film such as 5 Broken Cameras as a community and discussing using AFSC’s study guide.

2. Identify and explore one issue that resonates with your community. Focus areas include Healing Justice. You could read The New Jim Crow, using our Study Guide, start writing or visiting people who are incarcerated and host a public event featuring films on criminal justice, such as Broken on All Sides.

Resources and support

AFSC’s Director of Friends Relations, Lucy Duncan, and Madeline Schaefer, Friends Relations Associate, are available to answer questions, to provide materials, to serve as a first point of contact for Friends and Quaker meetings/churches.

You can reach them at friends@afsc.org

What is an AFSC Meeting/Church Liaison?

AFSC Meeting/Church Liaisons work with their meeting or church in Spirit-led action to create lasting peace with justice. By joining in AFSC’s program work across the country, Meeting/Church liaisons organize their communities to build movements for social change. They:

1. Join a coalition of Quakers around the country working with AFSC to create real impact focused on specific social change issues.

2. Support new and existing Quaker Peace and Social Concerns activities inviting the whole meeting/church to participate and ground that work.

3. Build awareness of AFSC’s work regionally, domestically, and internationally.

4. Invite both mystics and activists to work together for change.

Liaisons tend to be most successful if they are appointed by their meeting/church, but volunteer liaisons can also be effective.

Recruit a co-local liaison, find a partner in action

Most local liaisons have taken on the role not only because of their commitment to AFSC, but because someone asked them. When you consider someone, just invite them to sign on!
Join with us to...

...work for healing justice
Join in the effort to help transform the U.S. criminal justice system from one focused on crime and punishment to one focused on moving from harm to healing. Quaker meetings and churches are encouraged to learn more about the issue of mass incarceration, engage their local communities in the concern, establish relationships with those directly affected, and advocate for just policy.

...work for human rights in Israel-Palestine
Help support the end of human rights abuses in Israel-Palestine by considering the issue as a meeting/church and getting involved in the recent campaigns using economic activism as a strategy.

...support immigrant justice
Partner with AFSC to support immigrants through ally work. By respectfully supporting immigrant led efforts for humane and just reform, we can create a society that welcomes and accepts our neighbors.

...wage peace
Change the narrative in the United States from one focused on militarism to one that embraces cooperation and partnership across borders and boundaries. Ask young people in your meeting/church to create a vision for a more peaceful world with the If I Had a Trillion Dollars youth film festival.

Other opportunities

Calls for Spirited Action
Meeting/Church Liaisons and other Friends are invited to join in monthly conference calls to learn more about AFSC’s different areas of work and hear how Quakers have successfully taken on these issues in their meeting or church. Topics include immigrant justice, mass incarceration, as well as tips for community organizing and Spirit-led action.

AFSC staff presentations
Bring an AFSC staff member to present at your monthly meeting or church, to your quarterly meeting, or yearly meeting. Let Lucy Duncan or Madeline Schaefer, Friends Relations staff, know if you are interested in such an opportunity.

Acting in Faith: blog and e-news
Visit the blog Acting in Faith: Connecting Friends to the Work of AFSC (www.afsc.org/friends) to read articles on the intersection of AFSC’s work and Quaker faith and practice. Reprint an article in your newsletter or write a comment with your response. Sign up for the Acting in Faith eNewsletter for monthly updates.

Let your Life Speak
Invite members/attenders at your meeting/church to take home story cards about courageous people with whom AFSC works for change. For one week read one story each night as a family, discuss how this person inspires you. At the end of the week, discuss how your family is led to take courageous action or support others who are doing so. Contribute to the work monetarily or join in to create change.