

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
P.O. Box 4591, Greensboro, NC 27404
www.ncymc.org

13th of Seventh Month, 2013

To Governor Pat McCrory and members of the North Carolina General Assembly:

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends unites with the concerns expressed by fellow religious leaders of other North Carolina denominations with regards to recent actions by the North Carolina General Assembly that harm the least among us. Legislative actions have significantly reduced services to the poor and adversely effected basic access to healthcare, education, and opportunities. We are faithful citizens holding forth for democratic processes and legislation that protect, respect, and care for all people.

At our 316th annual sessions held this week in Wilmington, we approved a minute of support for Wilmington Friends endorsing the recent joint statement issues by Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist leaders. We asked that this information be shared so that each of our meetings might consider the statement and seeks ways to respond in their local communities. Individual members are already active in the Moral Mondays movement and some felt led to be arrested. There may be other ways that our members will be called to respond. We acknowledge that other citizens may differently interpret and apply religious teachings. We do not see this as a political or partisan act but as a faith witness, an expression of our understanding of the biblical teachings and imperatives: protect the poor, respect the stranger, care for the widows and children, and love our neighbors (Isaiah 10:1-2, Hebrews 13:2, James 1:27, Matthew 22:39, and Galatians 5:14).

We are led to write and act in love based on our understanding that our first citizenship is the Kingdom of God. Given this citizenship, we are faithful citizens holding forth for democratic processes and legislation that protect, respect, and care for the poor, the aging, and children.

As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40)

Richard Miller, Clerk