

Milwaukee Friends Meeting Stance on Federal Policy Change Allowing Enforcement Agents to Enter Houses of Worship and Other Sensitive Locations.

The Milwaukee Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) stands firmly in opposition to the expansion of the Department of Homeland Security authority to enter sensitive locations such as places of worship, hospitals, and schools in order to detain our immigrant friends. The Milwaukee Friends Meeting stands in solidarity with the Quaker meetings and the dozens of faith groups suing the Department of Homeland Security and its secretary for removing protections from places of worship and other sensitive locations.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting stands firmly in opposition to those statements and policies aimed at demonizing our immigrant friends - including undocumented immigrants. Instead of demonizing immigrants and detaining them for deportation, we should be celebrating the rich traditions and diversity they bring to our communities. Our immigrant friends have become woven into the fabric of our communities. They contribute talent, time, and treasure.

Milwaukee Friends (Quakers) believe there is that of God in all people, that the Divine loves all peoples without regard to boundaries or national origin. Milwaukee Friends Meeting finds the deep human suffering the altered policy causes immigrants unconscionable. As well, we too feel the suffering from the loss of friends in our wider community and the loss of stability in our worship, leading us to opposing this policy and supporting other lawsuits.

MFM Member Directory Distribution Recommendations

From the MFM Newcomers Committee

Background: There was a recent email scam attempt for which some believe the MFM Directory was used to obtain member email addresses. The Communications Committee has an account of this in their report to Meeting for Business and thus no need to revisit the event history here.

As a result of this scam attempt, the Newcomer Committee has been asked to recommend a policy for how distribution of the MFM directory to newcomers may be handled in the future.

Providing a serious newcomer with a copy of the MFM Directory is an important step in their integration into the MFM community and shouldn't be handled lightly. That said, there is no easy way to discern when a newcomer moves from someone who is "Quaker curious" to someone who is "Quaker serious." Do we count the number of Meetings for Worship and/or Meetings for Business attended? The amount of dollars donated? Time spent in committee work? Time spent in Adult RE or Newcomer sessions? All the above? Some of the above? None of the above? How would such items actually get measured and by whom? There are ample examples of newcomers who "showed promise" by attending multiple Meetings for Worship and who even volunteered for committee work but who simply disappeared over the course of months.

Recommendation: Move the directories to a secure (nonpublic) location with the understanding that only members of the Newcomer Committee shall provide newcomers with a copy. Newcomer committee members will attempt to assess the intent of the newcomer with a key criteria being whether the individual has begun to foster relationships within the MFM community, and has shown a need to communicate via phone or email to others in the MFM community.