Building Justice Action Group – Statement of Purpose

Palo Alto Friends Meeting – May, 2021

*Quakers recognize the creative power of God within the world and every human being. We work through quiet processes for a world where justice builds true peace. Like the mustard seed our work is small in comparison to the scale of world problems but our prayer is that our small seeds of love will also grow into greater things.*

*Source: “Small Seeds of Love” by Elizabeth Rosa Yeat, Friends Journal, p. 17 April 2021.*

As members of our Quaker faith tradition we hold responsibility for both past and present words and actions that contribute to the state of racist inequality we are wrestling with in our faith community and the community at large.  Most of us come from a position of white privilege which means we must be steadily aware of that status and be willing to listen and to follow the lead of those who are directly affected by the racism that pervades all parts of our systems if our work is to be in harmony with the guidance of Spirit.

We are drawn to working in the area of the justice system, a vast and complex organism in every community as well as in the nation at large. Virtually wherever we look we find that the justice system in place does not mesh with our spiritual experiences of what a "just" world is meant to be.

We begin our work using these tenets to guide us.

1. We expect to work with groups led by people who are part of communities that suffer from the inequities of injustice that are pervasive in our country.

2.  We have much to learn and ongoing self-education will be part of our work.  This will include digging more deeply into issues we are drawn to, searching for and reaching out to active groups, continually listening for guidance from each other and Spirit to recognize where we need to grow and change as individuals.

3.  We will encourage and support each other in a variety of ways. Sometimes a Friend may be drawn to a particular topic and by sharing with the group on a regular basis, feel energized to continue or to join in specific actions such as letter writing, to being present when they are attending a gathering, etc.  It may also happen that a topic engages most of the group.  And it could be that at times the group reaches out to meeting as a whole.