



## Items of agreement and unclarity regarding the Advocacy Policy

There was a called threshing session on October 5<sup>th</sup> on the advocacy policy. While there were some intense feelings expressed, there were a good number of things that Friends seem to agree on.

Including:

1. Quakers should lobby and are encouraged to include their Quaker identity in their lobbying efforts. They should also tell others to lobby.
2. No individual or group should speak on behalf of the yearly meeting.
3. The yearly meeting, as a respected body that includes many meetings and individuals, has a responsibility to speak to elected officials about the Truth we hold and to advocate for their taking steps toward that Truth.
4. If the yearly meeting discerns that God is calling on the yearly meeting to lobby for a specific bill, and approves the decision to do so, we will be faithful to that discernment.
5. The yearly meeting does not have authority over monthly and quarterly meetings. In addition, were a monthly meeting to face IRS consequences as a result of lobbying, those consequences would not affect other monthly meetings or the yearly meeting. Therefore, the yearly meeting governance may provide advice and caution but is not in a position to tell meetings what to do about lobbying.

There were also a number of questions for which Friends do not have a shared understanding of the answers. Including:

1. What is the authority and responsibility of the administrative council?
2. What are the parameters regarding when communications of a group within the yearly meeting count as speaking for themselves and when they count as speaking for the institution of which it is a part?
3. What are the limitations of using PYM communication channels for advocacy and lobbying?
4. How much lobbying is acceptable?
  - a. What is PYM's tax status as a nonprofit church, how is that different from another nonprofit and what does that mean about PYM groups' allowance for lobbying?
5. What is FCNL and its members allowed to do in PYM and its meetings?

**NOTE:** Items 3, 4a and 5 are referred to in the documentation of the Advocacy Policy.