

Statement - Bearing Witness Now

Bearing Witness Against Injustice with Integrity and Courage

In a time of deep division and escalating rhetoric, Roanoke Friends feel led to speak—not from a place of partisanship, but from the grounding of our faith and the enduring testimonies we strive to embody. Chief among these is the testimony of Integrity, which calls us to live truthfully, speak plainly, and act in ways that align with our deepest convictions.

We believe that our democracy—imperfect and unfinished—requires of us not just vigilance, but character. The present political climate too often feeds the lesser angels of our nature: fear, resentment, injustice, and cruelty. But we believe it is still possible, and urgently necessary, to summon in ourselves and in our neighbors what Lincoln named “the better angels of our nature.”

We become what we repeatedly do. Thus, in this time of national crisis, we feel called to do goodness. To practice kindness. To extend civility, even when it is not returned. These are not small things. They are the daily gestures that build trust, strengthen community, and shape the moral fabric of a people. This is the character we need—not only to endure the present moment, but to serve as a beacon of hope in a fractured world.

We invite all to join us in listening deeply, acting justly as guided by our testimonies, and bearing witness to the truth with humility and courage.

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April 2025