

Dear Katherine Alford,
The Fifteenth Street 10/10/2021 Business Meeting approved the following minute:

2021.10.1 Friends in Unity with Nature FUN reads a proposed minute on food choices and how they impact our relationship to the earth and other sentient beings. Ministry arises from multiple Friends that we might adopt the minute as a minute of 15th Street. Minute is accepted and the Meeting agrees to adopt the minute to bring to the Quarter. Minute approved.

The full FUN 2021 10 10 Minute is below. We ask that it be brought before the Quarterly Meeting.

In the spirit,
Carol Summar, Clerk
Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting

The Friends in Unity with Nature Committee (FUN) brought the following item to the 10/10/21 Fifteenth Street Meeting for Business:

"FUN 2021 10 10

Minute from Friends in Unity with Nature

Let us be mindful of what we are eating. John Woolman, the eighteenth century Quaker preacher, wrote: "To say that we love God and at the same time exercise cruelty toward the least creature is a contradiction in itself." Today's factory farming practices often treat animals, which are sentient beings, with cruelty. And many such animals end up as meat for human consumption. In the face of such mistreatment, we believe it is time to put our faith into action on the issue of animal rights.

We encourage our members and attenders to be mindful of the impact of their food choices—choices that may contribute to the suffering of an animal. We encourage Friends to be aware of the sources of meat, fish and dairy products, to consider a plant-based diet and to insist that any meat or dairy products they do consume originates in farms and facilities certified as humane. In the book, Drawdown, Paul Hawken writes: With billions of animals currently raised on factory farms, reducing meat and dairy consumption reduces suffering that is well documented, often extreme, and commonly overlooked. Plant-based diets also open opportunities to preserve land that might otherwise go into livestock production and to engage current agricultural land in other, carbon-sequestering use.

As Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh has said, making the transition to a plant-based diet may well be the most effective way an individual can stop climate changes. . . Few climate solutions of this magnitude lie in the hands of individuals or are as close as the dinner plate.

As a community we can live our peace testimony by condemning cruelty to animals, reevaluating our personal food choices, supporting efforts to help animals, and expressing our support for a more sustainable food system that does not harm our earth."