

Ft. Myers Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

2755 Providence St.
Ft. Myers, FL 33916-1813

Board of Commissioners
Collier County Government
3301 E. Tamiami Trail
Naples, FL 34112

Dear Commissioners,

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) for over 3 centuries has defended the equality of all people, fighting against discrimination wherever it is found. Following our understanding of the New Testament and our direct experience of God's continuing revelation, we believe there is "that of God" in every person, and that the presence of God in every person outweighs all other considerations.

As little as 50 years ago, discrimination against those of African-American descent in Collier County would have raised the same (or greater) furor now arising from the proposed anti-discrimination ordinance that includes protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. And had we been present in Southwest Florida 50 years ago, we would be making the same plea we are making today.

Please join us in supporting the right for all to participate in the normal pursuits of happiness in life without the hindrance of discrimination. Just as we all support Free Speech, including that of those with whom we disagree, your support for including a ban on all forms of discrimination, including that based on sexual orientation, does not signify that you support alternative sexual orientations. What your support signifies is that you take seriously our Declaration of Independence when it declares the God-given right for all to pursue happiness. Say "no" to those who would rewrite the Declaration of Independence to exclude any identifiable group subject to discrimination.

The Ft. Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, including its membership in Collier County, urges you to support the anti-discrimination ordinance as presented.

On behalf of the Ft. Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers),



Larry Butler, Clerk

Cc: Editor, Naples Daily News