

Storrs Friends Meeting Approved April 23, 2023
Minute Supporting the Mission of the *Golden Rule* Project
To Promote a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

Minute

Storrs Friends Meeting supports the mission of the current *Golden Rule* Project by encouraging Friends to participate in individual and shared actions to educate the public and advocate to public officials about the need to abolish all nuclear weapons and for a peaceful, sustainable future.

Background

In 1958 four Quaker peace activists attempted to prevent the testing of nuclear bombs in the Pacific Marshall Islands by sailing the *Golden Rule*, a 34-foot wooden ketch, into the U.S. test area in the Pacific. Their action followed an eight-year period of displacement of indigenous inhabitants, spreading radiation around the globe, and efforts to stop the testing policy. Although the crew was arrested and their goal aborted, their endeavor drew worldwide attention to the dangers of nuclear radiation. As a result, in 1963, President Kennedy and leaders of the United Kingdom and USSR signed the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, banning testing of nuclear weapons in the air, water or space. Testing was allowed to continue underground for some years. Currently most testing of nuclear weapons is conducted through computer simulation.

Between 2010 and 2015 members of Veterans for Peace, Quakers, and other volunteers restored the *Golden Rule*, which had sunk in Northern California. In 2015 these groups sponsored a 15-month, 11,000-mile journey to generate awareness and advocacy for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and between 2015 and 2022 sailed the ship between British Columbia and San Diego then replicated its original voyage across the Pacific to Hawaii. Beginning in September 2022 the ship made a journey from Minneapolis/St. Paul down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico and continued up the East Coast of the United States.

The Golden Rule currently is sailing throughout the United States for a nuclear free world and a peaceful, sustainable future, and is scheduled to arrive in Connecticut in late May 2023, initially docking in Bridgeport, then between June 3rd and June 11th 2023 docking in New Haven, Hartford, and New London.

*Individual and Shared Actions that Friends are encouraged to take,
to support the mission of the *Golden Rule* Project:*

- Urge your congressional representatives and senators to sponsor and support the “Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act” (HR 2850).
- Encourage your town or city council and representatives to the state legislature to pass a resolution in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as other measures to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the possibility of nuclear war.
- Coordinate and support the initiatives of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) to promote nuclear disarmament.
- Inform the local media about the *Golden Rule*’s mission to abolish nuclear weapons and encourage local media to publicize its scheduled visits in Connecticut.
- Arrange for press and local radio and television interviews with members of the *Golden Rule* crew.
- Write letters to the editor, government representatives, calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, invitations to participate, announcements for Patch, etc.
- Welcome the *Golden Rule* to the four ports in Connecticut by contributing to and organizing local educational events.