

# Friendly Economics

*"Towards economic and financial systems that are 'friendly' to people and the planet"*

Present economic and financial systems have caused the crises that humanity is now facing -- climate, inequality, environment, migration. Not only are these current systems unsustainable, but their effects are increasingly destructive for the planet and its people. There is no viable tomorrow on our current trajectory,

*Friendly Economics* seeks to envision what an economic system based on spiritual values might look like, and what steps ordinary people might take to achieve it. We, a group of Friends (Quakers), invite other religious groups to join us in this search.

## How we see it:

- **Economics is not just for experts.** We all participate in economic life in one way or another, either maintaining the current system or helping to create better alternatives. It is our shared responsibility to acknowledge this and act accordingly.
- **There are many levels of action.** When we understand how our individual actions can link with actions at community, national and even global level and deliberately adjust and magnify our efforts by enhancing those links, we become emboldened and there is change.
- **There are many types of action.** Whether individual or collective, our actions are most impactful when we act together and align them toward similar goals. When our actions, messages, and words are consistent with our spiritual values, they become more powerful.
- **Values are key.** Our religious traditions offer a clear set of social/economic values that are very different from those promoted by the current system. We believe that faith groups, by acting in concert, can stimulate widespread and long-lasting changes that have eluded us.

## What we do

Motivated by our commitment to non-violence and to "eliminating the seeds of war" we are trying to make changes in our own lives and, in collaboration with others, to help transform the economic structures and practices on a wider scale. We are:

- **Learning** about the forces and institutions that maintain current economic and financial systems, 'new economy' models and alternatives, and the recommendations of influential economic thinkers. A bibliography of materials we have found useful is available;
- **Sharing** through a series of online *Conversations*, our knowledge and experience with various initiatives that have potential for inspiration and replication;
- **Strategizing** – what actions might impact the larger economic system and identifying points of leverage where we can be most effective in creating change;
- **Imagining** – together, crafting a new vision to replace the current economic story that is dominated by profit maximization, individualism, unceasing growth, and scarcity;
- **Reaching out** – making the connections with Quakers and other faith groups necessary for developing, acting upon and amplifying these strategies. We trust in the Spirit that moves us forward as a community in this work.

*F/friends and those of other faiths who share our concern and ambition please join us! Contact:*

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