

Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW] Delegates' Report from the QEW Steering Committee and Consultation at Pendle Hill October 2nd to 5th 2014
To Representatives Committee February 27 to March 1, 2015

Pacific Yearly Meetings' two delegates / representatives to QEW – Rick Herbert of Strawberry Creek and Catya de Neergaard of Berkeley Meeting, along with Shelley Tanenbaum, QEW's general secretary, traveled to the Pendle Hill Friends' Center near Philadelphia to attend QEW's four day steering committee meeting and consultation October 2nd to 5th 2014. Friends from around the county and from Canada united in sharing ways to better care for the earth. QEW brings together Friends in a variety of media to dialogue, witness, and take action to care for the earth which in turn is intimately linked to Friends' concerns for peace, food and water justice, and social action. The gathering was about 25% steering committee /meeting for business, 25% conference style programming on earthcare witness, and 50% committee and working groups work. There was much joy in sharing witness and uniting in visions and action plans at this gathering and happiness in meeting so many wonderful new friends.

QEW embraces Friends from the entire spectrum of the Quaker world. Many of the yearly meeting representatives were from unprogrammed, FGC affiliated meetings. QEW would like to reach out to and attract evangelical and more conservative yearly meetings to attend and join together to care for the earth. This could be perhaps best accomplished at the local level.

Many Friends attended the Climate Change March in New York in September 2014 designed largely to build on President Obama's climate change speech at the United Nations. Shelley Tanenbaum and others of QEW and other Q groups made a Friends delegation at this march. At this same time, Friends concerns were focused by Quaker Earthcare Witness, the Quaker United Nations Office, and Friends Committee on National Legislation who wrote, "*Facing the Challenge of Climate Change: A Shared Statement by Quaker Groups*". This was subsequently signed and disseminated by eight international Quaker groups. The latest iteration of this shared statement, now signed by many more groups world wide accompanies this report as the file called, "Quaker statement 2015 on Climate Change 02 15 update.docx. Since February 15th, Palo Alto Friends Meeting has signed , joining our Sacramento Monthly Meeting who as already signed. Unity with Nature Committee [UwN] has sent out this statement to the liaisons and monthly meetings on their list.

We commend this *The Shared Statement on Climate Change* for group reading, discussion and possible endorsement should your meeting be led to it. The annual session this July at Walker Creek may want to join with the many other Friends organizations around the world in endorsing it

The Shared Statement on Climate Change adds another earthcare testimony and voice to the many Friends voices over the last decades in ever greater numbers. Although we have been looking for a perfectly worded short paragraph to express our earthcare testimony, perhaps that voice comes through different words from each of our hearts. How can we not love our home the Earth and want to care for her?

Among the many inspiring presentations at QEW Fall 2014, several stand out.

- Jose Aguto of FCNL urged us to show a ground swell of support to our congressional representatives to take ACTION supporting stopping climate change. He said, “The Faith Community needs to be prophetic in its message.” He said that Congress is significantly led from the bottom up. He asked us to email and write our congress people for climate change solutions NOW. We don’t need to mess with specific policies which FCNL etc are bringing out, we need to show support by playing our much needed part in addressing our congress people.
- Katherine Fisher and others of New England Yearly Meeting’s [NEYM] Young Adult Friends [YAF] presented their amazing and powerful earthcare action work which included confronting a large bank about their support fossil fuel burning.

Here are my to do notes.

What we can do as yearly meeting representatives?

1. Request donations from yearly and monthly meetings to QEW
2. Inform and give links to QEW publications and forum to yearly and monthly meetings. **Let people know they can subscribe online to the free online publication ‘Befriending Creation’. Let people know about the rich online forums at the QEW website that they can join, network with Friends, and discuss a variety of timely topics.**
3. Have a yearly meeting earthcare committee [Note: We already do. – It is called Unity with Nature Committee.]
4. Do ‘adult education’ to inspire earthcare witness and deepen earthcare testimony. [At PacYM, UwN proposes and sponsors interest groups (IGs) at the quarterly and yearly meeting levels.]
5. Start a mini-grant program in your YM. [We have one.]

6. Share first day materials about earthcare with yearly and monthly meetings. [The Earthlight roving bookstore stocks these materials. The Farleys wrote many of them.]
7. Help connect young adult friends. For example, contact PaYM young adult friends with the inspiring activities of NEYM young adult friends. [done.]
8. Encourage leadings to come forward. Support earthcare leadings
9. Support the 'green bellwethers' - those Friends as the monthly meeting level who are particularly drawn to witness for earthcare.
10. Wear our QEW green name badges at our YMs.
11. Let YMs know what QEW is doing. In addition to the above, QEW is:
 - Networking with other Q groups around earthcare action
 - Administering a mini-grant program for innovative green living
 - Share successes of friends who care about the earth
 - Gathering rising concerns, sharing information and answering concerns by developing a wide variety of earthcare programs
 - Supporting yearly and monthly meetings to build earthcare programs of witness and action

I'm deeply honored with the privilege of serving as your representative to QEW. Thank you for sending us to QEW.

Submitted by Catya de Neergaard

On behalf of PacYM's representatives to QEW Catya de Neergaard and Rick Herbert