

CLERK'S CALL

To PYM REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE 2014:

YOUTH AND PROPHECY: AWAKENING TO A NEW CREATION

"What canst thou say? Art thou a Child of Light and hast walked in the Light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God?"

-George Fox in 1652, as quoted by Margaret Fell in 1691.

The leadership of early Friends was young! In 1652, the height of the first great growth of the "Children of the Light," George Fox was only 28—full of energy, fire and passion. Older seekers of his time were often slow to awaken to the wonder of a new creation.

Yet chronological age was not the key to this rebirth. At the heart of the new movement was a radical realization: "Christ has come to teach his people himself." That for which we hunger—that which fuels our power and creativity, our energy and passion, leading us to seek justice and peace—is *already within us*, a Blessed Presence to our hearts, veiled only by confusion in our minds.

Fox wrote that following his own great awakening in 1648, "*All things were new*, and all the creation gave another smell unto me than before, beyond what words can utter." This awakening came only after years of struggle and disappointment, leading to darkness and despair: "I knew not what to do." Only then, when he saw his failure honestly and surrendered his failed dream, did he awaken to a new creation.

The Prophetic Voice: Living from a Deeper Place

Out of this death and rebirth came new power—as it can come for each us who has courage to surrender fully to the Source. Fox strode boldly through northern England, speaking with power that came through him, with authority immediately recognized by those who heard him. Those listeners who were truly honest with themselves (like Margaret Fell, who broke down in tears at his words) were captured by the truth he spoke, convinced—*convicted*—by his prophetic voice.

Within us we sense this place of deep authenticity, however we name it. "*What canst thou say?*" does not invite our personal opinions off the top of our heads; rather, it calls us to wait for clarity and guidance, then testify to our *experience* of Truth—to be "*children of Light, and to walk in the Light.*" Our power comes through surrender to Truth.

A New Rebirth in Pacific Yearly Meeting

In an echo of Fox's experience in 1648, at the 2013 Annual Gathering of PYM, Friends at last surrendered another failed dream: the hope of a permanent location for Annual Sessions. Through generosity and grace, the financial resources of that unsuccessful endeavor have been dedicated to a cause dear to us all: the nurturing and growth of our youth, their Life in the Spirit. Their passion and vision already bring fresh vitality and promise to Pacific Yearly Meeting. At the 2014 Annual

Session (14-19 July 2014, Walker Creek), we will ask what the prophetic power of “a new creation” means for us as a collective body. *Can we be a corporate prophetic voice to the world?* We will feature a keynote speaker (to be named), followed by a plenary session led by PYM youth.

To plan for our Annual Session, **the 2014 Representative Committee will meet on Saturday 1 March at Orange Grove Monthly Meeting in Pasadena**, beginning at 8:30 am and continuing until we complete our business. Some committees may choose to meet on Friday afternoon or evening, prior to Saturday’s session. I look forward to seeing you there!

Reminders:

- Written reports submitted in advance are preferable over lengthy oral reports. Send to <pacifyearlymeeting.org> for inclusion in advance documents, allowing sufficient time to be read in advance.
- If you are making an oral report, please be brief, conveying only essential information.
- Contact me at clerk@pacifyearlymeeting.org or ssmith@cmc.edu to secure time on the agenda, if you have not already done so.
- Please review advance documents carefully.
- PYM Committee Clerks: submit any requests for an Interest Group slot by RepCom.
- **If you plan to attend but have not yet registered, please do so promptly!** Register through our PYM website, **pacifyearlymeeting.org**

In the Light,

Steve Smith, Presiding Clerk