

Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative Report to PYM Annual Session 2018

As one of the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Representatives to Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM), I attend two meetings annually. These meetings occur in the Fall and the Spring and are comprised of yearly meeting representatives and at large members from N. American Quaker meetings. We gather to support and nurture the work of the leadings of the members and to address the numerous concerns relating to the care of our Earth and all living Beings.

To quickly summarize the meetings as a collection of activities does not capture the loving conviction of the members that have attended these meetings. QEW, formerly known as Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, turned 30 years in 2018. Many in attendance remember that very first meeting as Quakers gathered in concernment for Mother Earth. At the Fall meeting we shared those beginning memories through stories and video. We visioned into the future 5, 10, 20 and 30 years, holding in the Light many heartfelt concerns, a mixture of hope and despair.

The Spring meeting brought together a smaller assembly with many of the usual attendees not in attendance. Spiritual Nurturance provided cards so that we could send our greetings to those that could not make the journey. For me, I found a certain gathered presence in our smaller number, or maybe it was just my own settling in that held me tight to the group.

Over the past year, we have had the opportunity to connect through the sharing of our individual stories. We reflect on the ways that we create and find the inter-connectivity that binds us to one another and to the greater kindred communities that share our Earthcare vision. We assist each other in our causes by listening, supporting and nurturing those journeys. We hold space for ourselves and for others as we grow. We take action when action is needed, firmly grounded in Quaker practice.

While there are formal representatives and members at large who attend annual meetings, QEW Outreach is organizing an extended network of individuals that we are calling Liaisons. These individuals can be from any monthly meeting. They are Friends that are willing to share information about their personal or monthly meetings Earthcare concerns, activities or events to QEW and also share QEW's work back to their monthly meetings.

QEW produces brochures that can be downloaded or printed and mailed to you on a variety of Earthcare concerns. QEW also produces "Befriending Creation", a quarterly newsletter. Friends are encouraged to submit an article for publication to "Befriending Creation". Or apply for a QEW Mini grant. More information can be found on the website at <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/>

I am also a member of PYM's Unity with Nature Committee. So please see me if you are interested in becoming a liaison for PYM and/or QEW or if you have any questions or concerns about Earthcare in general.

Thank you for letting me be of service.
Many Blessings,
Andrea Beane
Santa Monica Monthly Meeting

June 19, 2018