

Epistle of the 42nd session of the General Meeting of Friends in Mexico

May 6, 2018

To Friends everywhere,

The 42nd session of the General Meeting of Friends in Mexico (RGAM) was held on May 5 and 6 at the Evangelical Friends Church in San Nicolas de los Garza in the northern state of Nuevo Leon. Forty Friends attended from Ciudad Victoria Friends Church in Tamaulipas, Mexico City Friends Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) in California, and from here in San Nicolas. The visitors were very warmly received by San Nicolas Friends. The theme of the gathering was “Are young people called to serve God?”

The RGAM was founded by the Quaker community in Mexico in 1958 to periodically bring together the diverse branches of the Religious Society of Friends here. The RGAM allows these groups to come together to learn from one another, to experience different forms of Friends Worship, and to enjoy one another’s company in a spirit of friendship and shared community.

A group of Young Friends arrived to the RGAM from Ciudad Victoria, including one who is participating in the Traveling Ministry Corps of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. The Friendly observer sent by PYM was also able to bring three Young Friends from California and Mexico, all of whom are active in PYM’s Youth Programs Committee. These young people began to get to know one another and share experiences, and quickly started drafting plans for future ways to bring Young Friends together in Mexico, California and elsewhere.

The challenge of keeping young people in our groups resonates with all of us, although when young people of different groups come together, their differences may stand out. We saw that in all of our Meetings and Churches, young people’s presence is very important and considered a fundamental part of our communities. It is hoped that young people will not only feel part of our communities, but also part of the world family of Friends. Several young people here shared their experiences with Quakerism, and the key role that celebration and fellowship had for them in communities that supported them. They also mentioned the power of having their gifts being recognized in Friends’ communities, and being given opportunities to serve in their Meetings, as well as at Yearly Meetings and other Friends gatherings.

Together, we hope that Young people will not simply be present in our diverse groups, but that they will feel themselves an integral part of the world Quaker community and feel nourished by the Spirit. We recognize that the absence of young people in our midst is not owing to a problem of theirs, and also that frequently elders may learn just as much or more from young people than young people from their elders. We leave this gathering committed to respond to the individual and collective calling to strengthen our Friends’ groups, so that young people may know the divine through our religious communities.

We send Greetings in the Light of God.

Epistle Committee of the 42nd session of the General Meeting of Friends in Mexico
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