

Quaker Earthcare Witness Report to Annual Session 2019

SUMMARY- (none)

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to meet with Friends at the Spring 2019 QEW meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota on April 11-14. My journey started on Thursday with an early morning flight cancellation as a result of the late spring blizzard, "Winter Storm Wesley", that was sweeping the northern midwestern states. After nearly 14 hours in airports, I arrived by Uber to my Quaker hosted destination at 3 am on Friday. Luckily, the city of St. Paul is always prepared for snow, so streets were clear and plowed. Friday brought a lovely white blanket of soft snow, but kept many other Friends from making the journey.

Twin Cities Friends Meeting in St. Paul hosted this QEW meeting. Our accommodations were provided in Friends' homes, in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Both Barb Adams (from Virginia) and myself were staying at the home of Kristen Becker in St. Paul. I have a growing friendship with both Barb and Kristen as a result of our involvement with QEW and it was such a joy to be able to share and support each other. Our friendships have strengthened through our time we spent together.

In the morning on both Friday and Saturday, we gathered into committee and working group to continue the monthly conference call work in person. I am a part of the Outreach Working Group and the UN working Group. One of the highlights of the Friday Business meeting was a video that Barb Adams produced for the Outreach committee that interviewed Friends in QEW discussing their involvement in QEW. The video is still in draft form, but will soon be available to general viewing.

On each evening, a potluck dinner was shared with Friends from St. Paul and Minneapolis. The Friday night's evening program was held at the Twin Cities meetinghouse. We enjoyed a presentation from the Middle School students of the Friends School Minnesota. The students presented a video called "Protecting Pollinators" and a Q and A session. They had been working with bees and gardening, learning and teaching others. They created a fantastic video to share their journey.

On Saturday, we traveled to the Minneapolis Friends meetinghouse for a potluck dinner. The presentation that evening was a panel on Transition Towns from local F/friends. Ideas were shared on how to connect and create community while engaging in reducing carbon and finding ways to conserve, reduce and reuse.

On Sunday, our Spring QEW meeting commenced with a short Q and A forum before Worship at the Twin Cities meetinghouse. My trip back home was uneventful, with no cancellations or weather delays!

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve PYM as a representative to QEW.
Many Blessings, Andrea Beane
Santa Monica Monthly Meeting