

2023 Water/Land Acknowledgement for Rep Com

We continue our efforts to acknowledge what has been buried. We begin by honoring the truth: Pacific Yearly Meeting takes its name from the ocean that connects us, into which rivers and streams flow through the lands where we live and worship. The lands touched by these waters have been and are cared for by hundreds of groups of Indigenous Peoples.

Let us acknowledge the elders of the past and present, the emerging youth, and the Indigenous Friends among us today. We honor the truth by acknowledging that each of us speaks from the ancestral land of this multitude of Indigenous Peoples.

Acknowledging the land and Peoples whose ancestral lands these are, is just a first step in naming the ways that colonization has shaped and continues to shape our lives, and in beginning to remember the roles Quakers have played and continue to play in that colonization.

Taking action to address the many impacts and wounds of colonization is also part of the work before us. We look to individual Quakers, to Monthly Meetings, and to regional groups to take that action, those next steps **and we offer the following queries...**

First, who are the Indigenous people who live in your area? What is their history? How have they been harmed by colonization? Were elders taken to boarding schools? Who took the land and how was it taken?

Do you or people in your Meeting have relationships with the Indigenous peoples of your area? What work have you done or can you do to build relationships? How are you or your Meeting making repairs or amends for the harm that has been done?

Please ponder for a moment what actions your monthly meeting might take to move beyond land acknowledgment. Celebrate any steps you have already taken. Gather the courage to take further actions toward right relationship with Indigenous peoples. Let us continue to seek paths of healing.

Thank you.