

North Pacific Yearly Meeting
of the
Religious Society of Friends
Meeting in Annual Session, Tacoma, Washington
29 Seventhmonth, 2017

To: Friends in Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church
Friends in Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends:

We remember the many years of connections between our Yearly Meeting and Northwest Yearly Meeting. We remember that when our Yearly Meeting was set off from Pacific Yearly Meeting, representatives of Northwest Yearly Meeting were present and brought us blessings from you. We are happy that the Holy Spirit has given us opportunities to build friendships in Friends World Committee for Consultation, the Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conferences, the School of the Spirit and the Greater Seattle Council of Churches.

We have been sensitive to the differences you have dealt with and the difficulties you have been going through. We remember that similar questions tried us some years ago and we wrestled with many of the same concerns; we remember how painful were the divisions and the conflict. Our emotions ran high and hurtful things were said by some. We are thankful that God led us to unity at last and we have been able to move forward, although some individuals did break from us, leaving hard feelings. Because of the painful history of schisms among Quakers, we have been concerned for you, many of us holding all of you in Divine Light to discern the path forward.

We hope you are in unity about the good order of your division and hope to see both of your Yearly Meetings move forward renewed with the Spirit's energy to serve God in the world.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting will continue to honor the accords we have with Northwest YM Friends. We look forward to welcoming your representatives to our gathering, to sending our observers to your Yearly Meeting sessions, and to continuing friendships with individuals in your churches.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting welcomes Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting to the family of Friends and looks forward to exchanging representatives to each other's Annual Sessions, to participating with you in gatherings and to continuing friendships with individuals in your churches. Friends in the Pacific Northwest, in all our meetings, are challenged to hold each other in the Light, to pray for each other's ministries, and to model Friendship, Community and Harmony for the people of our region. We, as much as you, are challenged to be open to the new ways where the Holy Eternal is leading us and to finding new ways to work together for the Kingdom of Heaven in these times. We welcome future dialog with you in walking faithfully and humbly with our God. We ask for New Light to discern the best way to maintain ties of friendly interchange in the coming years and imagination to follow leadings in the Light.

"All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world...Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one." [John 17:10-11]

Your friends in God's Light,
signed in and for the gathered Friends,



Warren Ostrom, presiding clerk
North Pacific Yearly Meeting



Angelia Alexander, recording clerk