

Some minutes of the Annual Sessions 2005 of New England Yearly Meeting for preparative, monthly, and quarterly meetings as well as worship groups from the presiding clerk

Minute 05–16. The clerk asked Deborah Humphries to come forward and report on the afternoon activities. Friends expressed gratitude for the work of the ad hoc Procedural Review Committee and for the gifts of the afternoon discernment groups. The discernment groups were generally lively and interesting. Those gathered had the opportunity to prayerfully respond to the discernment process that culminated in the presentation of the following:

Reflections of the Procedural Review Committee.

Friends were most engaged with three themes:

- Programs for our youth are vital!
 - How do we do business together as a loving community?
 - How do we witness to the world; in our social action and with our faith?
- I. Why are programs for our children so vital to the yearly, quarterly and monthly meetings?
- A. *Adults learn from our kids*
 - 1. Children are a source of joy and deep worshipful power
 - 2. Adults and parents learn through teaching and through interactions with youth
 - 3. Sending young people to Cuba nurtures us all
 - 4. Young people shake up complacent adults
 - B. *Teach Quaker values and process*
 - 1. Pass values to the next generation
 - 2. Personal support for youth
 - 3. Youth form their spiritual identities in youth programs
 - C. *Introduce families to Quakerism*
 - 1. Youth programs are vital to draw younger families
 - D. *How are we called to support our young people?*
 - 1. Current youth programs (retreats, JYM, JHYM, YF) are very good
 - a) “If you have to, get rid of the newsletter, but fund the youth programs”
 - b) Friends Camp needs support
 - c) Youth staff need training and support for opportunities to build staff community
 - d) YAF program needs support – planning, communication, etc., they have leadership
 - 2. Increase opportunities for intergenerational discussion
 - 3. Yearly Meeting needs to offer funds/time/energy and interest to support religious education in monthly meetings of all sizes
 - 4. Increase opportunities for older youth to take the lead
- II. How do we do business together as a loving community?
- A. *Doing business together*
 - 1. Pray that we be willing to be easy in discord and stay in conflict long enough to find the truth
 - 2. Carefulness in speech is taken to extremes – we end up with watered down versions of what our testimonies really tell us (e.g. gambling)
 - 3. Our structure stifles individuals
 - 4. Need to focus on loving God and loving our neighbors
 - 5. People come hungry for God and we put them on committees
 - 6. We all need to be engaged in the work of the Yearly Meeting
 - 7. Throw out the agenda. There’s a war on. What are we going to do about it?
- III. How do we witness to the world; in our social action and with our faith?
- A. *Witness*
 - 1. YM ought to be challenging us to bring our faith into action
 - 2. We are better at individual witness than corporate witness
 - 3. More muscular Quakerism is needed
 - 4. Get out of the fear zone and learn to live the risks
 - B. *Faith*
 - 1. Better educate ourselves about the Quaker message
 - 2. Our New England culture makes it hard to talk about religion
 - 3. It’s a hard religion to practice
 - 4. Encourage more individuals to live public lives of faith
 - 5. More publicity about us as Quakers

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Friends responded to the report by affirming the value of the youth programs of the Yearly Meeting, and reiterated the Procedural Review Committee's sense that this ministry should retain or even increase its prominence in the Yearly Meeting's work.

We also heard calls for immediate action with less talk, as well as calls for more discussion. We were exhorted to attend to prayer and faithful living, attending to Christ our Teacher. We are to be patterns, examples, and witnesses to our beliefs. We are to love God, heal the sick, visit prisoners, feed the hungry, and lay up spiritual and not economic treasure. We need to open sufficient time in our overly-busy lives to do the hard and careful work of listening to where the Spirit will lead us, to receive the vision that will guide us into individual and corporate witness. We also need to accept the risks. We are hungry to do God's work, but often too busy to feed ourselves from the spiritual feast that is always available to us. The Kingdom is here. We need to choose to live in it now.

Yet we are also moved by the urgency of our despair in these times of war, and our frustration that we cannot seem to stop it. We begin to feel that our spiritual community—so renowned and proud for its peace testimony—is letting us and the world down. Our frustration leads to a hunger to do something visible, muscular, and irresistible.

As our time tighter drew to a close, Friends with long demonstrated commitments to racial equality and inclusivity among Friends, to war tax resistance, to environmental stewardship, to community organizing, to peace education, to and spirit-led radical economics rose to speak about how the Yearly Meeting supports their witness with existing but little-known structures; about how they have been more modest than faithful in the broadcasting of the Seed in their public witness, and about the local focus of their efforts.

The clerk acknowledged the individual work of the many Friends who spoke tonight, and invited us to join or support them. There is a real tension between the power of these individual lives and our hunger for a corporate leading.

The Procedural Review Committee will continue to process this information as the Yearly Meeting and the individuals within it continue to faithfully open ourselves to the Spirit.

Minute 05-21. Jan Hoffman (MTob), clerk of the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee reported. The committee is ready to present the preface for first approval and has brought a draft of the chapter on Worship for preliminary consideration by individuals and monthly meetings during the coming year. This process, followed by a second approval of each section, will be followed throughout the development of the new *Faith and Practice*. The committee has come up with a skeletal structure to guide further development of the document. The goal of this process is to deepen the life of the Yearly Meeting as Friends discuss what we believe and how we live those beliefs, with a spirit-centered document as the joyful result. Members of the committee were introduced and Friends are encouraged to talk with them and to share comments in writing to allow the committee to consider them in depth.

See Minute 56 for the continuation of this business item.

Minute 05-23. Out of love and concern for the quality of worship in the gathered body and with the desire to share the depth of worship they have been able to experience together, Young Friends elderd us in a gentle but plainly-spoken minute. Hannah Zwirner (B Hill) read the following, minute approved at the Young Friends business session, for us to listen to and consider prayerfully.

Minute on Worship

You are our mothers and fathers, our mentors and caregivers. You are the people we look up to, though you may not believe it all of the time. You are the people that held us at Hampshire, played tag with us at Bowdoin and staffed our JYM retreats. It is with love and respect that we bring these issues to your attention. For some of us our days as fellow adults begin at the end of Sessions on Thursday; others of us will not officially join you for a few years. But together we are worried about this Yearly Meeting and our ability to worship together.

Sunday morning we shared our gifts with you. When we are alone as Young Friends we have some of the most inspiring, spiritual, and centered worship many of us have ever experienced. We want to share with you our silliness, our love, and our appreciation for the silence and centeredness that we know you are capable of.

Sunday morning you witnessed many of us leave part of the way through worship after Max Carter's Bible Half Hour. Many of us finished listening to Max's inspiring talk ready for some silence and deep contemplation of his message. Though some people benefited, many left worship feeling empty and spiritually unfulfilled. It is hard for us when we experience such an un-centered meeting after sharing our centeredness with you. We had trouble with how personal many messages felt, and wondered if the ideas of making sure that messages are meant for the whole group and are coming from the spirit have been forgotten. We also noticed that the lack of silence between messages made it difficult to focus or appreciate them. We don't know exactly how to help this seemingly growing problem in the Yearly Meeting. We hoped that by

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demonstrating our ways of worshipping that they might catch on. We know that they did for many people. We know that many of you are frustrated about this as well. We hope that by sharing our concern with you that you will be aware that we too want change. We love you and would not bother with this if we did not care deeply about you and this issue. We know that it is possible for the whole Yearly Meeting to sit silently and pray for each other; we did it for fifteen minutes this morning and we are sure that it can happen again.

Eldering is helping each other to be faithful. Gifts come from God. We thank God for the ministry and spiritual leadership of our Young Friends.

Minute 05-32. Members of the ad hoc Procedural Review Committee, appointed by the Permanent Board, identified themselves and encouraged Friends to share concerns with them. Based on a recommendation from this group, Permanent Board recommends the establishment of a Publications & Communications Committee, to replace Mosher Book & Tract. Friends approved these recommendations.

Publications & Communications Committee

Purpose The Publications & Communications Committee has care for and supervision of the “public face” that NEYM shows to the world on the Internet and in print. This involves both spiritual discernment about how we present ourselves to the world, as well as practical management and monitoring of the postings of NEYM Friends on the NEYM web site.

The committee provides supervision and support for the Administrative Secretary in her/his role as editor of the materials on the web site (www.neym.org) and the annual *Minute Book*; as well as to the Field Secretary in his/her role as the editor of the *New England Friend*.

This committee has responsibility for the Mosher Book & Tract Fund—left in 1875 to NEYM by Henry Mosher of New York YM for the purpose of distributing books and tracts promoting the principles of Quaker faith and practice. It is also responsible for maintaining (or not) NEYM’s membership in, and providing a representative to Quakers Uniting in Publications (QUIP).

Procedures The Publications & Communications Committee is made up of nine Friends appointed by the Nominating Committee of NEYM: in three panels with three-year terms. The committee meets four times a year or as needed by the Secretaries. The committee is accountable to NEYM through its annual report and the published materials that it oversees. The committee will, from time to time, distribute books without charge to meetings in NEYM. On occasion, it helps financially with printing, reprinting, or distributing existing material to meetings. The committee works as closely as necessary, with the committees that need or want its help and discernment about publication and communications.

This committee may provide technical, logistical, production and distribution support for other NEYM communications such as: the Young Friends *CRIER*, the *Christian Education Newsletter*, and/or the *Freedom & Justice Crier*, a publication of the Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee. It may also be involved in the production of *Faith and Practice* and other materials generated by Ministry & Counsel as requested.

Friends approved these Purposes and Procedures.

Minute 05-33. Based on a recommendation from the Procedural Review Committee, Permanent Board recommends that the ad hoc Development Committee become a standing committee of the Yearly Meeting. Friends approved.

Minute 05-36. In early July about twenty New England Friends attended the Friends United Meeting (FUM) Triennial in Des Moines, Iowa. Eden Grace (B Hill), FUM Field Staff, began the report to us with an overview of FUM. Her account provided a powerful example of the four points into which FUM has articulated its mission statement: 1) Evangelism: which FUM defines as the sharing of the love of God in word and deed; 2) Leadership training: making us feel the power of servanthood and bold obedience; 3) Global partnerships: half of the world’s Quakers are in Africa, and as she pointed out the schools, hospitals, refugee services, theological seminaries, she also pointed to the inclusive administrative arrangements that FUM is enabling around the world; and 4) Communication: as she told stories.

William Taber (FPon), NEYM appointed FUM Triennial representatives, spoke about lessons that were made palpable as he came face to face with other Quakers from around the world—that we are all Friends despite the real differences; that there are so few of us in the world that we must not lessen our presence and impact through quarrels and separations; and we have much to learn about the FUM vision of how the Society of Friends can grow.

Margaret Hart (B Hill), another appointed representative, reported how odd it felt to be sent to the FUM Triennial. She understood that NEYM wanted to send gay and lesbian Friends who would witness to the variety of stances New England Quakers can hold on sexual orientation. Margaret discovered real family connections among Friends from different parts of the theological spectrum, and that FUM Friends are not all of one mind about the

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issues of sexual orientation being a barrier to doing God's work. She felt very encouraged by the opening address of the FUM General Secretary, Retha McCutchen—which included an explicit call to labor with sexual ethics in the open—and by Doug Gwyn, one of the invited speakers and pastor of First Friends Church in Richmond IN. He told the gathered body: “Christ has always loved homosexuals and has been working with and through them in the church for centuries—we just didn't know it! Could it be time we recognized it, and in so doing, stand closer together around the Lamb?”

James Grace (BHill) reported as Field Staff for FUM in Kenya. Eden and James' ministry is completely supported by designated contributions to FUM, while the office in which they work is supported by FUM general funds. Eden and James feel fortunate to work in an office headed by a Kenyan Friend, John Muhanji. While their ministry encompasses many areas, James focused on their work to address issues of poverty in Africa, where the AIDS epidemic and corruption in government, business, and even in the Friends churches are constant challenges. There is much work to be done.

Eden Grace announced the impending retirement of Retha McCutchen as General Secretary of FUM. Friends are invited to speak with Retha here at Sessions to express their appreciation for her years of service.

Minute 05–37. Phil Fitz (Nham) reported on the labors of the Ministry & Counsel working party on the FUM Personnel Policy. Members of the working party were introduced and appreciated. The minute of exercise approved at NEYM Sessions 2004 was read as a reference point for the work they have undertaken.

Minute 04–74. Friends heard the second draft of the Friends United Meetings minute of exercise and asked to include explicit reference to FUM's hiring policy and practices.

Minute of Exercise on FUM's Personnel Policy Concerns

New England Yearly Meeting Friends gathered at our annual sessions reaffirm our belonging to Friends United Meeting, not only as co-founders, and firmly led co-participants in its ministries, but as Friends whose faith has been strengthened and recharged by God's presence in our worship, work, and fellowship with FUM Friends. FUM remains one of the most important places where we meet Friends who challenge our beliefs, and where African, Latin-American, Middle Eastern, and North American Friends meet face to face, growing in love and understanding. Since the 1940s when we were called to re-unite our previously separated Yearly Meetings, and since the early '90s when we developed special bonds of love and mutual ministry with Cuba Yearly Meeting we have learned to live with our differences, and we have come to feel how painful it would be to live in isolation from other Friends.

At the same time that we cherish our membership and participation in FUM, many of us are troubled by FUM's personnel policies and practices, which exclude non-celibate gays and lesbians, and unmarried heterosexual couples from leadership roles. Within NEYM we have struggled for years with same-gender marriage, and while support is not universal, we have watched as Friends' understanding of the truth has grown to include the belief that individuals' sexual orientation is no measure of their ability to express God's love through committed long-term relationships.

In the same vein, over the years we have grown to understand that God's gifts of ministry and leadership are bestowed with no consideration of sexual orientation or marital status. Indeed we have been blessed countless times by the ministry and leadership of those who would not be allowed to serve under the FUM policies.

While some are hurt, and some are angry, we are “all” troubled by the lack of unity on this issue. In the interest of creating a more perfect world, gospel order requires us to seek together for God's will, and for the love, which has been wounded by our differences.

We invite the FUM Board to come again to New England, to work among us, to worship and be hosted by all of us, to see our lives speaking. We make ourselves available to be invited to worship and testify among FUM Friends, and among other yearly and monthly meetings about these concerns.

As we continue discernment within NEYM, we ask the General Board of FUM to consider, as we have at NEYM 2004 Sessions, “Who is your neighbor?” Jesus taught us that love and compassion for the neighbor who does not look like us is more important than the written law.

Friends approved the minute.

New England YM representatives to the Friends United Meeting General Board were charged to carry our concern during the upcoming FUM Board meeting. We direct that this minute of exercise be sent to our monthly meetings and quarterly meetings under the care of the Ministry & Counsel working party on FUM's personnel policy concerns, accompanied by whatever other materials seems necessary for consideration. We expect M&C to bring a minute based on the discernment over the year to the 2005 Sessions.

The working party reported that this minute was made available at the recent FUM Triennial. They reviewed the FUM Personnel Policy and the responses of other Yearly Meetings, and prepared an information packet, distributed to all monthly meetings in NEYM, inviting them to thresh this issue. Twenty-four monthly meetings had

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replied as of August 1, 2005. Their responses were deeply searching and grounded in the Spirit. Friends accepted the report.

Based on their year-long process and the responses received, the working party then read a minute they developed and Ministry & Counsel approved for our prayerful consideration. The lateness of the hour prompted Friends to postpone further discernment on this until our meeting for business tomorrow morning. Friends unable to attend tomorrow morning's session were invited to speak before we closed.

See Minute 47 for the continuation of this business item.

Minute 05-46. Joanne Hoffman, Head of School at Moses Brown School, reported on the efforts of the School's Investment Committee to bring their portfolio in line with their socially responsible investment policy. A Quaker member of the Board of Overseers had noticed that the fund managers held bonds from weapons manufactures and alcoholic beverage producers. Joanne Hoffman reported having received apologies from their fund manager, who also made a commitment to improve adherence to the MBS socially responsible investment guidelines.

The Head of School reported that the conversations about corporate restructure relating to liability issues continued throughout the year, but that now the school wants to set that matter aside and return the focus to deepening our spiritual relationship and to intensifying the Quaker presence in the school.

After voicing serious concerns about the investment and admissions policies of Moses Brown, Friends accepted the report.

See Minute 74 for the continuation of this business item.

Minute 05-47. Concerns and frustration were expressed that the meeting was unable to address the proposed minute on FUM's Personnel Policy which had been carried over from yesterday evening. Friends were reminded to be disciplined when they speak in this meeting for worship with a concern for business. Our time together is limited and precious and its use must be guided by God rather than personal need. Each person's individual concern is not necessarily the concern of the body. Seasoning of concerns through the appropriate committee is a long-standing Quaker practice that has served us well.

See Minute 49 for the continuation of this business item.

Minute 05-49. We began this additional session to consider the proposed minute on the FUM Personnel Policy in deep worship, with many Friends holding the gathered body in the Light. Phil Fitz, clerk of the M&C working party, read again the minute of exercise approved at our 2004 Sessions. The Presiding Clerk reported that as directed he has issued an invitation to the FUM General Board to hold their fall 2006 gathering in New England and to receive the hospitality of NEYM Friends.

We heard again the proposed minute of discernment. Out of worship, deep, prayerful, and often painful testimony ensued. The concerns and suggestions raised will be referred to the working party who, along with other interested Friends, will take them under consideration and return to us with further recommendations at a time to be determined in our agenda this week. In deep love, the FUM Committee offered their workshop time as a gathering place for Friends to begin this work.

See Minute 60 for the continuation of this business item.

Minute 05-55. Bonner McCallister, clerk of Connecticut Valley QM, read a minute in support of same gender marriage that grew out of twenty years of seasoning in their Quarter. This is their carefully discerned witness and Friends are asked to take it home to share with their own monthly meetings to enrich their own discernment process.

Minute in Support of Same-gender Marriage

The Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting of New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports the right of all adult couples to join in marriage and to enjoy its full legal benefits. We base our stand on our long-held testimony of equality, that there is "that of God in every one," and in our understanding of marriage, that marriage is a spiritual union not imposed or defined by us. "For the right joining in marriage is the work of the Lord only, and not the priests' or magistrates'; for it is God's ordinance and not man's; ... for we marry none; it is the Lord's work, and we are but witnesses," as George Fox, one of the first generation of Friends, wrote in 1669.

Six of the Quarter's nine monthly meetings have seen many gay and lesbian couples among them live out their commitment to one another in ways that have enriched the meeting. Four meetings have had the opportunity to take ten marriages under their care in the same manner as for heterosexual couples. It has been a gift to us to see how love is evident in the strength of these unions and families, despite the lack of legal support until recently. Indeed, such

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discrimination places a burden on the affected couples and on our community as a whole as we support them, especially in adoption, parenting, and end-of-life issues.

We will continue to work for equal rights, and strongly oppose denying rights to some of our families that are freely granted to others. We are heartened by the current existence of legal same-gender marriage in Massachusetts and by the Connecticut decision to recognize civil unions. We oppose any law or constitutional amendment that restricts the right of gay and lesbian couples to legally marry. We feel the institution of marriage can only be strengthened when states extend privileges, rights, and responsibilities to same-gender couples.

Minute 05-56. Jan Hoffman, clerk of the *Faith and Practice* Revision Committee, reported that the text we approve today will be sent to monthly and quarterly meetings, together with the draft of the worship chapter, and the provisional skeleton for the book. The committee invites us all to think about how to use these materials not only to publish a product, but also to use the process to educate, enrich, and deepen the spiritual life of everyone, in every monthly meeting, with the ebb and flow of drafts and readings. Jan assured us that even though this preface is much shorter than its original draft, nothing will be lost as those materials will find their rightful places elsewhere in the book.

Friends gave first approval to the following preface, expressing our gratitude for a monumental task faithfully carried out:

Preface Submitted for First Approval 2005

This book is a witness to the lived faith of Quakers in New England from the mid-17th century to the present. It is a devotional resource and a handbook of procedures. When procedural questions arise, this book is designed to be a helpful guide, not a rigid instruction manual. Through corporate discernment, we change our structures and procedures in responsive obedience to God.

This revision of NEYM *Faith and Practice* reflects a range of spiritual experience among Friends. Each selection retains the original language used by the individual or faith community.

Quotations are identified in the text by author, title, and date of publication. Acknowledgements to publishers will be found on page XXX. The book is also available electronically at [web address].

Minute 05-60. The working party on the FUM Personnel Policy brought to us a revised minute. We affirm the sense of the Minute of Exercise on FUM's Personnel Policy (Minute 04-74).

Friends in New England believe the Divine Light is present in all; we have learned that gifts and leadings of the Spirit to ministry and service are given without regard to sexual orientation. As our 2004 Minute of Exercise says, "... we have been blessed countless times by the ministry and leadership of those who would not be allowed to serve under the FUM policies." For many reasons, we are deeply pained by the exclusion of some in our midst and by the implied condemnation contained in the FUM policy.

Despite this pain, we intend to remain a full member of Friends United Meeting. Our connections with Friends throughout the world help us to experience the common ground of our Quaker faith and call us to seek more deeply in those areas where we disagree. We affirm our intention to work with the General Board and other yearly meetings to change the current personnel policy to allow all Friends to be considered for full participation in the work and ministry of FUM.

We have more to do in New England.

We encourage monthly meetings whose discernment is not complete to continue their work.

- We encourage intervisitation among Friends within NEYM. The key to grappling with concerns regarding FUM's personnel policy is to come to know each other in a deeper, richer, fuller way and to support each other in our lives.
- We need to care tenderly for gay, lesbian and other Friends who feel pain because of the current policy. We also need to care tenderly for Friends who feel this policy does reflect their spiritual and ethical guidelines. We likewise need to care for Friends who feel uneasy about expressing their views about this concern because they are not in agreement with most Friends in their monthly meeting, whether their meeting supports FUM's policy or wishes to see it changed.
- We need to explore a common sense of sexual ethics.

We also have more to do in our ongoing relationship with other yearly meetings of FUM.

- We encourage intervisitation among yearly meetings in FUM, as suggested by the FUM General Board. To better recognize the Light in each Friend, we need to know one another on a personal level. We will build trust through bringing love, humility, tenderness, clarity and truth to our relationships.

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- We need to seek common ground, appreciating the good intentions of others who have different practices and understanding of God's will.
- We need to learn how to witness with love, patience and openness.

We ask the Ministry & Counsel working party on FUM's Personnel Policy, in consultation with both M&C and the NEYM FUM Committee, to continue its work and to report its progress to Sessions 2006. We send this minute to the General Board of FUM, and to all its member yearly meetings.

Thanks to the grace of God, the tenderness of Friends, and the hard work of the working party, Friends were able to approve this minute. Five Friends stood aside from this approval and the three of them requested that their names be recorded: Joanna Cole (Burl); Katharine Fulton (Worc); Pamela Hughes (Sand).

Minute 05-61. To support intervisitation with other yearly meetings within FUM, we authorize the establishment of a contributory fund to receive gifts to support such travel. We ask the Finance Committee to recommend an appropriate transfer to this new fund. We ask Permanent Board to develop an oversight structure for administration of this fund. Friends approved. The Treasurer informed us that this morning we had received a check for \$3000 for this purpose.

Minute 05-64. David Baxter, clerk of the Finance Committee, brought a recommendation that the Yearly Meeting extend a \$20,000 line of credit to Friends Camp, available beginning October 2005 and to be repaid in full by May 2006, contingent upon Friends Camp developing a plan to deal with declining enrollment. Friends approved.

Minute 05-68. With great joy, Friends approved the Permanent Board recommendations to rehire our managerial level staff.

Minute 05-74. A concern was raised about the investment of the Moses Brown School portfolio and its consistency with our beliefs and policies. This will continue to be on our hearts, and the Presiding Clerk welcomes Friends to approach him with suggestions as the Yearly Meeting struggles with this concern.

Minute 05-76. New England Yearly Meeting receives with appreciation the gift of our Young Friends' Peace Statement. In affirmation of our commitment to non-violence, we wish to bear witness to those who seek peace. We urge individual Friends and our monthly meetings to take actions reflecting this testimony. Friends approved.

Young Friends Peace Statement 4/30/05

Approved at Yearly Meeting Sessions on this 9th of August 2005

Quakerism is distinguished by a long history of Peace activism and commitment to a testimony of nonviolence.

Running deeper than these political and historical roots, there is a firm, current, spiritual conviction in our community that Peace is essential to our religious faith and the wholeness of humanity. As Friends, we believe in the intrinsic existence of the light of God in every person. In recognizing and reaffirming our commitment to this belief, we state that violent action towards another individual or nation is violence against the holy light of God. Therefore, we do not use violence; we do not condone violence; and we will not participate in individual or institutional violence.

We feel that Peace can, and should be, manifest as more than just the absence of war or conflict. We must work for Peace and justice among all peoples—from individual interactions to global relations— as the harmony of a collective body of individuals living on the Earth. As Quakers, we continuously seek to attain such harmony. This intention translates into our practice of Peace on a daily basis, both with each other as Quakers, and with all peoples.

"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever; this is our testimony to the world..." —Declaration of Charles II, 1660

"Social Peace" is a mentality that we have adopted, in an effort to communicate Peace to others. We recognize that the peace testimony requires us to honor that of God in every person, and therefore to avoid not only physical violence but also more subtle forms—psychological, economic, or systemic." —*Faith and Practice*, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1997