

Worship Sharing 10/5/21

A concern for community

Friends, I have of late been laboring under a growing concern for community among Friends. While I was eager for any means to maintain connections between us over the last year and a half, as Emily Provance has stated in a recent article titled "Being the Church" 'the soup kitchen is not going virtual'. In a similar way, it seems to me that there are aspects of our spiritual lives that exist and grow only when we join together in person. I do not pretend to have the answers, but am laboring under the questions.

Quotes:

"A true Friends meeting for worship drawing individuals with varieties of temperament, talent, and background always manages to engender a climate of belonging, of community which is infectious and creative. The experience of "belonging" has remained with me over the years and it has grown in intensity and universally. This "giving out" of such a sense of community is the natural witness of a Quaker meeting which has in it the seed of life and creative experience"

Ranjit M Chetsingh

"Our Meetings are living entities, not theories. We cannot nurture our spirits in isolation from all other ways we relate to each other – our spiritual lives cannot be separated out. Whether we want it to be this way or not, we inevitably find that our whole being is engaged in spiritual growth"

Marty Walton, 1994

"Community is the context in which people come to understand their relatedness."

Parker Palmer, 1977

Queries

How do one or more of these quotes speak to your condition?

How has the extended isolation altered our "climate of belonging"?

How has this forced isolation challenged our spiritual growth?