

Worship Sharing, Tuesday August 8

## What do I passionately hope the St Pete Meeting will become?

Why do Quaker institutions exist at all? To support the covenant community, to make it easier for Friends to discern the will of God and then act on it. ... The best thing about institutions is that they perpetuate patterns. And the worst thing about institutions is that they perpetuate patterns. ~Emily Provance

When we look back through history, our greatest social reformers ... held up a vision of the world as they dreamt it... They all called for us to reimagine institutions. This is why I believe reimagining ... is essential for this moment as we are in the midst of a massive transition here in the United States and all around the world. We can't ever fully be able to transition humanity into a new place unless we imagine it first. To reimagine is to explore a vision of a relationship, a community where all of us flourish. ... if we shift our gaze to institutions, that means some institutions can be reformed, but others must be dismantled and replaced altogether. And here's the secret: Reimagining—when we engage in that hard and vibrant work of reimagining the world as it ought to be—we start to realize that we have opportunities, spaces in our own lives to begin to create the beloved community where we are.

When we are brave enough to reimagine, we can begin to become the beloved community by birthing it here and now. ~Valerie Kaur at [Valeriekaur.com](http://Valeriekaur.com)

I'll lift you and you lift me, and we'll both ascend together. ~John Greenleaf Whittier

I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. ~Jesus, quoted in John 15:9-15

## Queries

- What stirs in you as you reflect on these quotes?
- How will you explore what you passionately hope for?
- What steps will you be willing to take to realize that re-imagined vision?