

-Worship Sharing 9-28-2023

“Welcoming”

*“And Friends meet together, and know one another in that which is eternal, which was before the world was.”*  
George Fox, Epistle 149

In one sentence George Fox illuminates the core of Quakerism, which informs our life in the Spirit, both for each individual and for the Quaker Meeting as a whole. This one simple phrase sets forth the spiritual tasks of Quakers: we are to meet together; we are to know one another in that which is eternal.

Other religions, other traditions, have emphasized the inward search and the power of discovery. An important component of our practice is the realization that we are a community of seekers: we are not alone. The practice of Quakers is to bring the treasures that we find on our journeys back to the Meeting, and for the Meeting to listen with the tender recognition of a shared experience.”

Baltimore Yearly Meeting F&P, 2013

“And oh, how sweet and pleasant it is to the truly spiritual eye to see several sorts of believers, everyone learning their own lesson, performing their own peculiar service, and knowing, owning and loving one another in several places.... For this is the true ground of love and unity, not that such a man walks and does just as I do, but because I feel the same Spirit and life in him... and this is far more pleasing than if he walked in just that track wherein I walk.”

Isaac Penington, 1660

“The desire of Friends is not in limiting or directing seekers to a particular Truth, a common path. The desire of Friends is in gathering in community to seek Truth, all of us humbly listening for the promptings of the Spirit. In the silence and in the words and actions of each other we discern the full measure of the Light within us and around us. We are not each alone in a world of our own Truth but united in the common light of the same Spirit.”

Baltimore Yearly Meeting F&P, 2013

Queries

How do these quotes speak to your experience of Friends Meeting?

How can our practice better convey this welcoming message?