**Responses to the Fall 2017 Queries for IMYM.**

I have cut and pasted the responses I received from Month Meeting, in no particular order.

The queries were:

**#1 How is your Meeting engaging with issues of racism and white privilege? What is the best thing you’ve** **done so far? We hope to catalogue best practices.**

**#2 Does your Meeting support hosting the Friends General Conference annual gathering in our region in 2019 or beyond? How would people in your meeting be willing to participate?**

**#3 Does IMYM wish to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness?**

**Santa Fe Monthly Meeting Summary of Fall 2017 IMYM Queries**

Query 1: How is your Meeting engaging with issues of racism and white privilege?

What is the best thing you’ve done so far?

Santa Fe Monthly Meeting’s Program on Racism & White Privilege

In the summer of 2017, the Clerk and Ministry and Counsel asked three Friends to

attend a seminar led by Vanessa Julye on “Colonialism, Racism and White Supremacy”at Ben Lomond Quaker Center in California. The Meeting offered to pay for the three to attend by using scholarship funds. However the trip was cancelled at the last minute because of flight issues created as a result of Hurricane Harvey.

The three began studying the issue on their own. They met and have become the

“Issues of Race Working Group.”

In early fall they held a “mini workshop” and presented the information at Canyon Road Meeting House. Deborah Marks from Strawberry Creek Meeting, who has been active on the Pacific Yearly Meeting Committee on Racism, shared her experience at the Ben Lomond program and Thandi Seagraves, a high school Friend, presented on her attendance at the Gathering of Friends of African Descent in Philadelphia.

After introductions and brief presentations, Friends self-sorted into four groups to

explore one of the following queries:

The Queries:

1. As a child do you recall your family discussing how the world would treat you

differently from your home environment?

2. What was your first memory of being conscious of race? What happened?

3. Has there been or what would have been the reaction of your family to an interracial

partnership?

4. How has a relationship or friendship with someone (of either the same race or of a

different race) given you a different perspective on race?

Friends later shared their feelings about the queries in the full group and came up with

23 possible ways to continue the learning process in the Meeting. The workshop was

very well attended and the Working Group continues looking for ways to further

educate Friends on these issues and has been asked by M & C to expand education to

include First Day School children and adolescents.

Beginning in 2018 themed Pop-Up dinners will be offered for adults to allow people to

consider how to better understand these issues.

For First Day School, the video “A Class Divided” may be shown as an introduction to

the topic. In addition, a college Friend who attended First Day School at Canyon Road

is returning during Spring Break and has agreed to talk with adolescents about a

program she has been involved in regarding refugees of a different ethnic group in

Philadelphia. Other ideas are being considered as well.

Members of the Working Group are Rebecca Allahyari, Elizabeth Hart and Allen

Winchester.

Query 2:

Does your Meeting support hosting the Friends General Conference annual gathering

in our region in 2019 or beyond? How would people in your meeting be willing to

participate?

SFMM Friends felt this Query was to general and did not address: Who would take the

lead on this? What resources would be expected from our constituent meetings and

worship groups? Would accepting this responsibility exhaust our energies for ongoing

commitments? Friends like the idea of having an FGC Conference, but want more

details before fully committing to it.

Query 3

Does IMYM wish to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness?

SFMM Friends fully support affiliating with Quaker Earthcare Witness and providing

funds to allow a delegate to attend the annual or semi-annual meetings. Many Friends

were aware of the work of the group and view care of the earth as a major priority.

Submitted by Allen Winchester, SFMM Representative to IMYM Representatives

Committee

**Fall Queries Discussion Notes**

**Colorado Springs Meeting**

**December 3, 2017**

14 people participated (we have 16 members and an average attendance at worship of 15)

**Query #1 How is your Meeting engaging in issues of racism and white privilege? What is the best thing you’ve done so far?**

Our meeting has held a worship sharing session on the issue of our meeting’s racism and white privilege in November 2017. The two-hour conversations were thought provoking, loving, and we feel a very good first, small step for our meeting. The queries focused on our personal experiences with inclusion and exclusion and then on how our meeting excludes and can better include. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee arranged the worship sharing and is seasoning next steps to bring to the meeting. This is the best thing we’ve done so far.

So thought provoking is this topic that we had a rich and wide ranging discussion around this query. We revisited some of the topics from our worship sharing and expanded the conversation to making connections in the wider community of Colorado Springs, how different individuals have worked on racism through the years, and how we can utilize the substantial resources we have in Colorado Springs.

In August, our meeting was the site for a gathering of social activist of all stripes in Colorado Springs. The convener was not a Friend, but accepted an invitation to use our space. We have 30 or more representatives of groups, including at least 6 people of color.

We discussed a series of events about white supremacy being held at Colorado College that some had attended. The pitfalls and successes of those conversations were shared, primarily the imperative to create a safe space for everyone to engage no matter what differences exist.

We repeated several times the desire to get past the despair of not knowing people of color, of not knowing what to do, of wanting good direction. We look forward to hearing what other meetings are doing.

The group expressed a deep desire to connect with other Quaker groups on this matter. We acknowledge that Friends have long held themselves apart and have a tradition of questioning. We welcome this opportunity to hold up the mirror to our own privilege. This is a way to enrich our community as well as our meeting. A new attender who is African American expressed his appreciation for Friends’ willingness to wrestle with these questions.

**Query #2 Does your Meeting support hosting the Friends General Conference gathering in our region?**

We came to unity that we do support hosting in our region and three people volunteered to help. We had a range of reasons: easy to travel, more contact with the large Quaker community, and spiritual growth of our meeting.

**Query 3# Does IMYM wish to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness?**

We came to unity that we do wish for IMYM to affiliate with QEW. We are willing to support it financially as well. One Friend recalled QEW’s beginnings 20 years ago when no one was talking about the environment and hailed its effectiveness.

Notes prepared by Molly Wingate

**Flagstaff Meeting**

**Fall 2017**

**IMYM Annual Queries** – The Clerk read each of the queries and they were discussed.

**-2-**

**Query #1** –***“How is your Meeting engaging with issues of racism and white privilege? What is the best thing you’ve done so far? We hope to catalogue the best practices.*** Response: We reached out to the local AME Church and held joint worship with them after the Charleston church massacre. We serve monthly at the Family Food Center, where most of the clientele are people of color. Our meeting hosts several 12-Step programs, which are multicultural in membership.

**Query #2** –***“Does your Meeting support hosting the Friends General Conference annual gathering in our region in 2019 and beyond? How would people in your Meeting be willing to participate?*** Response: NAU would be an ideal setting; however, transporting a thousand Quakers to Flagstaff might be too difficult logistically. There is also the problem of altitude for the elderly and those with respiratory problems. Phoenix and Tucson are too hot in July. While our Meeting supports having FGC in our region, very few of our members and attenders would be willing to give a large block of time for it.

**Query #3** –***“Does IMYM wish to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)?***  Response: FMM supports sending delegates to QEW meetings twice yearly. We were in unity that care of our Earth is vital to our world and IMYM should support those people who are dedicated to serving the cause. We recognize that the IMYM budget must be considered as well.

**Query #4** –***“Does our Meeting support the Pay-as-Led method of funding the IMYM Annual Gathering?*** Response: We were in unity that we support the Pay-as-Led method of funding IMYM. In addition, our meeting was united in being willing to forward FMM money that is budgeted for IMYM scholarships to IMYM. This would help to defray the cost of the Annual Gathering. Plus, the scholarship funds in our Meeting’s budget are rarely used.

**Fall Queries 2017**

**Fort Collins Meeting**

Molly:

After Meeting for Worship Sunday we had a very lively discussion about the responses to the Queries IMYM requested.  The most vigorous discussion came from the First Query that concerned race and white privilege.

#1  On the positive side it was pointed out that we support the ministry of Mike Gray with his work among indigenous people both in the United States and Mexico.  We are also actively involved with the sanctuary movement here in northern Colorado.

On the negative side it was felt that that we are not doing enough to address the plight of African Americans in our nation and that we have a blindness to white privilege which is probably made more acute by the relative small number of African Americans in our community.

#2  Yes, while our Meeting would like to see a gathering held in our area we hesitate to host a Friends General Conference in 2019 but perhaps the word “beyond” in the query for us is more realistic.  However, several Friends expressed an interest in helping out on  organizing committees.

#3  Yes, our Meeting would support IMYM affiliating with and becoming active in Quaker Earthcare Witness

**Gila Friends Meeting Responses to IMYM Fall Queries**

On two occasions, Gila Friends have gathered to consider the three fall queries sent out

from IMYM for our consideration. It was stated beforehand that our report would constitute

input by January 10 for IMYM Representatives Committee to consider before their meeting in

February. It was also stated that Friends could choose to discuss any or all of the queries and it is

information that is sought, not consensus.

On December 3, we addressed the first two queries.

**Query #1**

**How is your Meeting engaging with issues of racism and white privilege? What is**

**the best thing you’ve done so far? We hope to catalogue best practices.**

We are a meeting of white Friends in a community that is majority Hispanic. Other

“races” and ethnic groups are present in the county, but in small percentages. We are concerned

about our “whiteness,” but it doesn’t seem to change.

Individual Friends are very active in a variety of groups and activities that include people

of color … but we don’t see those people at meeting. For several years, we have had a booth at

the Welcome Back Bash that welcomes students to Western New Mexico University, which is in

Silver City, and many of those students are black, Asian, Hispanic - and white. Friends are active

in the ACLU, the Immigration Justice Network, LGBTQ events. We cosponsored a forum on

immigration. We were in Silver City’s annual Independence Day parade; this year we got an

award for featuring social justice heroes, many of whom were persons of color. After the

Charlottesville alt.right event, we joined with other denominations in a newspaper ad supporting

peace and justice for all.

Our discussion tended to focus on “white privilege,” because “race” seemed less useful as

a concept. Racism is real; race is more ephemeral, harder to pin down. Gila Friends are

increasingly aware of white privilege as it is manifested locally and for each of us. We have more

learning to do. We did not reach a sense of what we can do as a meeting.

**Query #2**

**Does your Meeting support hosting the Friends General Conference annual**

**gathering in our region in 2019 or beyond? How would people in your meeting be**

**willing to participate?**

Many pros - and many cons - were voiced on this query.

In sum, Gila Friends wondered if hosting would be a net negative for IMYM. Would the

benefits of the wider fellowship be more than offset by draining the energies and efforts of

IMYM Friends, already in short supply to carry on activities of the yearly meeting? We were also

reminded that, when FGC met in Greeley in 2013, a significant number of Friends had to make

a choice between the FGC and IMYM gatherings because of the commitment of time and

money, leading to reduced participation at IMYM. FGC usually occurs around the July 4

weekend, a time only two weeks after IMYM and also a time when Friends are busy with other

activities.

A Gila Friend might be able to participate in the planning committee for an FGC

gathering, but the question remains: Can we collectively summon the resources to do a good job?

**…**

On December 10, we reviewed our discussion of the first two queries and discussed the

third query.

**Query #3**

**Does IMYM wish to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness?**

Gila Friends agreed that QEW is a valuable resource for Friends. The principles of QEW

carry out those embodied in the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice issued in 2012 at the

Sixth World Conference of Friends. IMYM should affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness. Gila

Friends would support affiliation with Quaker Earthcare Witness.

**Moab monthly Meeting ResponseS to Fall 2017 Queries.**

**Fall** **Queries**

***Query #1***

**How is your Meeting engaging with issues of racism and white privilege? What is the best thing you’ve** **done so far? We hope to catalogue best practices.**

*Our Monthly Meeting has not actively engaged with this issue. Responding to this query led us to discuss and consider future actions and individual feelings on it. We realized that some of our members are already working on this, and we as a meeting could reach out to our Multicultural Center for more ways to interact.*

***Query #2.***

**Does your Meeting support hosting the Friends General Conference annual gathering in our region in 2019 or beyond? How would people in your meeting be willing to participate?**

*We would be supportive of hosting again in our region, but feel IMYM could not do this the same year we moved our yearly gathering location. We have limited people resources and FGC would require help from many who would be necessary in our move. We as a Monthly Meeting would probably not have any who could volunteer to help.*

***Query #3***

**Does IMYM wish to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness?**

*Moab Monthly Meeting is supportive of this action. After learning more about this group, some of our individual members would consider donating to Quaker Earthcare Witness.*

**Boulder Meeting Responses to Fall Queries**

**#1 InterMountain Yearly Meeting query on racism**

Some of the ways our Meeting is engaging with issues of racism and white privilege include two program hours in the past year and a half; a small group of Friends has been been meeting about monthly for the past year and a half to study and discuss these issues; our Quaker book group has read and discussed a number of books on racism; other Friends are involved in the YMCA of Boulder Valley Book Club and have covered some books on racism; our Indigenous Peoples' Concerns Committee addresses racism affecting native peoples; we support the work of Towards Right Relationship; we had an art installation on 39 Questions and discussed them even when they were uncomfortable; one of Colorado Regional Meeting's sessions on white privilege, Rachel Moran moderating, was held in our Meetinghouse.

We did not come to agreement on the best thing we've done so far. One Friend mentioned engaging in these discussions generally; another mentioned support of indigenous peoples; another suggested the session on white privilege.

**#2** **Hosting the Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering**.

The FGC Gathering is a week-long retreat held in July, each year in a different location. They conduct no business, but have lots of speakers, workshops, and activities. The 2013 Gathering was held in Greeley, Colorado and drew about 1200 to 1300 people, from all over the country. A show of hands revealed that a number of friends present today had attended the 2013 Gathering.

Andrew Banks shared his experiences as a co-clerk (with his wife Sarah Beutel) of the 2013 hosting committee. A naming committee asked Andrew and Sarah to clerk this hosting committee, and they accepted with faith that things would work out. They did get the support they needed.FGC has full-time staff working on annual gatherings and they are well-organized and supportive. Andrew and Sarah first worked to find clerks for subcommittees: worship, workshops, and others. They personally visited as many meetings as they could, to talk about the Gathering, answer questions, and request help on subcommittees. They found about thirty volunteers all together. Their workload fluctuated over the 18 months they worked. They had two retreat/meetings about 12 months and 6 months before the gathering. As it grew closer, they got involved more with local volunteers for all sorts of tasks. Andrew said the FGC was impressed by the Greeley site; it was one of the best they had.

If FGC were to hold the 2019 Gathering in the Intermountain region, the hosting committee would start early in 2018 to appoint subcommittee clerks and meetings would start in summer 2018. There will be a number of younger friends who participated in preparations for the 2013 Gathering who would be ready to help this time. The Gathering's location could be anywhere in IMYM, not just Colorado. FGC has their own site selection process. FGC has its own budget, so no additional dollars would be required from IMYM.

One friend wondered, if 18 months are needed before a Gathering, whether there is enough time for IMYM to start about January 2018. Perhaps IMYM would be ready to start in January 2019 for a 2020 Gathering. Do friends have enough bandwidth for service to FGC and handle IMYM's own annual gatherings.

One participant said the participants in one workshop experienced instant trust, and went deeper than other experiences; it was very moving. Another friend expressed strong support for gathering and willingness to volunteer. A friend commented this would be a good way to help keep younger friends involved with other Quakers.

Friends thanked Andrew for his presentation and answers to questions, and to Sarah and him for their work for the 2013 Gathering.

**#3 Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW**).

What guidance do we give to IMYM? Separately, what actions does our meeting itself take? One friend asked whether we will "lead, follow, or get out of the way"? and hoped it would not take as long as Quakers did (a hundred years) in abolition movement. One friend believed IMYM has considered membership in QEW for ten to twelve years, and while endorsing its good work, felt it was an unnecessary duplication of very effective environmental organizations already in place. A friend said that respecting the integrity of all living things grows naturally out of the Quaker belief of that of God in all humans. Care for nature and for those who care for nature is important. One friend cautioned to treat our work with QEW as a fruit of our faith, and not as a root of belief or an object of worship.

The sense of our meeting is that it’s time for us to recommend to IMYM to affiliate with QEW.

-Greg Shubert, Recording Clerk, Boulder Friends Meeting

**Pima Monthly Meeting IMYM Fall Queries**

**11th Month 2017 MWCB**

The IMYM Representative presented IMYM Fall Query #1 to the Meeting:

How is your Meeting engaging with issues of racism and white privilege? What is the best thing you’ve done so far? We hope to catalogue best practices.

Friends mentioned Migration Action Committee work, outreach to the Muslim community, the six classes on white privilege and racism set up by the Adult Spiritual Development Committee, the screening of the movie *I Am Not Your Negro*, and the Iskashitaa Refugee Network dinner. Friends mentioned individual efforts to connect with non-white people and our ability to say yes when other groups contacted us. It was suggested that we specifically name the activities we did with MAC and in the Muslim outreach program, and that the titles of the ASD sessions be brought to the next meeting. Friends mentioned workshops and conferences on white privilege as possibilities for the future.

12th Month 2017 MWCB

Meeting considered the following query from IMYM:

Does your meeting support hosting the Friends General Conference (FGC) annual gathering in our region in 2019 or beyond? How would people in your meeting be willing to participate?

Pima Monthly Meeting Friends were generally supportive of holding FGC in our region in 2019. Friends noted our Meeting was a long distance from even Greeley, Colorado (the most recent site the last time FGC was held in the West), although FGC may not necessarily be held at the same location the next time it is hosted in our region. A few Friends noted that we had hosted the FGC Continuing Committee here in the past and suggested doing so again. Most felt that, due to the distance and the state of our Meeting, we could not promise attendance of more than a few people or strong volunteer support.

1st Month 2018 MWCB

Meeting considered the IMYM query,

“Does IMYM wish to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness?”

Friends were in favor of establishing a more official connection between QEW and IMYM, and viewed doing so as both in line with our values and financially possible. Representatives from QEW had attended IMYM many times, and that this had come up as a question before. Friends could see Pima Monthly Meeting supporting QEW directly or donating money to IMYM for this purpose.

2017 White Privilege Workshops held by PMM Adult Spiritual Development Committee

January 15 - Learning from SURJ—Showing up for Racial Justice, Part 1: This will be our first class looking at White privilege. Kathy French will present an interactive workshop used by SURJ that was used at Casa Mariposa. (SURJ, which stands for “Showing Up for Racial Justice”, is an organization designed to help White people combat racism.)

February 5 - Learning from SURJ—Part 2: This will be a follow up to the January 15th class. We will use an inquiry technique done in pairs to examine questions arising from the SURJ workshop.

March 5 - Learning from Black Lives Matter, Part 1: Our third class on the theme of racial justice, we will have a speaker from Black Lives Matter.

March 19 - Learning from Black Lives Matter, Part 2: We will follow up the March 5 class using inquiry techniques as mentioned above.

Movie presentation: "I am Not Your Negro" with discussion: October 27

2017 PMM PSCC Muslim events

3/8,15,22, & 29 Planning and participation in Diversity Conversations St. Andrew's Episcopal

4/1 Presentation: PSCC-Muslim Connection AHYM @ PMM

6/20 Sharing of Iftar meal Ahmadiyya Mosque

6/25 Celebration of EID; Presentation on the Hadj; PMM

Gifting of a Quran to ICT

12/14 Ceremony: A Celebration of Diversity Islamic Center

Presentation on Quaker - Muslim outreach

Monthly Women's night: film, discussion and pot luck PMM

**ALBUQUERQUE MONTHLY MEETING RESPONSES TO IMYM FALL QUERIES FOR 2017/18**

QUERY #1 – HOW IS YOUR MEETING ENGAGING WITH ISSUES OF RACISM AND WHITE PRIVILEGE? WHAT IS THE BEST THING YOU’VE DONE SO FAR?

* We are committed to having a portion of each Meeting for Business include the issue of White Privilege.
* We now have a Whiteness Committee to give direction to how we consider Racism.
* A group of 15 – 20 are studying Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship and are becoming aware of the “underbelly” of Friends history around the issues of racism.
* We are not always in Unity about how to confront racism, but we are struggling to find ways to move forward.
* We have yet to focus on Systemic Racism.
* We agreed that probably the best thing we’ve done so far is to introduce the idea and agree to be uncomfortable with cultural racism and Whiteness.
* Out of that may have grown the openness to bring issues of racism into many of our conversations. For instance, we note and express the connections on racism with topics that might not be directly about racism.
* Our experience with Sanctuary has made us more aware of racism. It has been a process; we wouldn’t have come to Unity on Sanctuary so easily if we hadn’t had prior nudgings as we learned and discussed our experiences with racism and Whiteness.
* It has been challenging to acknowledge that learning about racism is integral to “our business” at Meeting for Business.
* Some learning is for individuals, some is corporate. Agreeing to become Sanctuary is a corporate decision. Agreeing to speaking to racism at each Meeting for Business is corporate.
* We are glad that we have “become relentless” in our communal life concerning awareness of racism. That topic becomes a woven part of our worship, our study groups, our Sanctuary work. Racism isn’t a side issue and we are not saying “we are done with this topic.”
* For some it feels hard to have this topic constantly coming at them with insistence from our leadership. Maybe it wasn’t the best way to tackle the topic but it seems our meeting was in a “do it or lose your leadership” situation.

QUERY #2 – DOES YOUR MEETING SUPPORT HOSTING THE FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING IN OUR REGION IN 2019 OR BEYOND?

Because we are aware that “in our region” might mean at the University of New Mexico, it became a more personal rather than philosophical question…

* We should wait to answer this question until after we see how it goes when we host the FWCC Executive Committee this fall.
* Will we get help from Santa Fe?
* We tried to describe what is involved at the local level. The local community does the identifying and connecting with local resources. FGC has knowledgeable staff working on this from the start. It is IMYM that takes this on, not just us.
* When it was in Greeley, we did not change anything about our Annual Gathering for IMYM. Maybe we should consider making changes so as not to double stress ourselves. Drop the Yearly Gathering, or shorten it or ?…for that year.
* It is hard to find volunteers for extra tasks in this Meeting. How many of us will need to be involved?
* Is there a report from the past FGC gatherings about the preparatory work that we could learn from?
* Maybe we could use Western Friend web site to help with sharing information about what it takes to host this.

QUERY #3 – DOES IMYM WISH TO AFFILIATE WITH QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS?

* Earthcare is a big issue of our time and I want to join.
* It would be in keeping with our concern with racism. For example, Bangladesh and rising water levels, land disappearing is usually land of the poor. The impact of climate change is much greater for People of Color. This could be a way to educate ourselves about these issues.
* This concern works well with the US indigenous people groups – fracking, mining, super fund sites.
* This could be seen as a women’s justice issue in particular. Population education, hunger, unequal distribution of resources.
* We wondered what is unique about QEW as compared to other environmental groups like 350.org. Is there another organization already doing this work and does QEW simply duplicate something we already have locally?
* In response to that question, it was noted that QEW has been around for 30 years. Friends have been good in the past with their organizations taking a specific task but keeping the broader, connected view. Environment with racism and war and women’s rights.
* What is distinctive about QEW seems to be their radical witness.
* How well does QEW bring the voices of People of Color into the conversation and decision making? This is a question we need answered before making a commitment.

**El Paso Meeting**

**Responses to Fall Queries**

Query 1

 We have not had to deal with these types of issues.

We do participate in our Gay Pride Parade, Women's March, and many others with our Quaker Banner

Quakers for Peace, Equality, and Community

We also wear out T-shirts that say "Quakers keep Calm and Seek the Light" and name tags with Quaker Business cards in them to hand out.

Query 2

We will be glad to help support FGC meeting in our Region again.  Not sure how we can help but we are willing!!

Query 3

We are in support of Quaker Earthcare Witness by IMYM.

I hope this helps you with the project.  Not real inspiring answers but truthful!!

Cyndi Rains

Clerk, El Paso Meeting of Friends

**Quakerhouse, Santa Fe**

At Quaker House Santa Fe Meeting (preparative) members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee read and discussed the queries for IMYM.  Because most of those attending meeting at Quaker House have no experience with IMYM and because we have Sunday programs already scheduled, M&C did not bring the whole slate of queries to the meeting.  However, I do want to send to you responses to each of the queries.

#1 Racism and white privilege: Quaker House (2098 Calle Ensenada) is hosting a six-week course directed and offered by White Awake Santa Fe.  *Exploring Whiteness: Unlearning Racism and Understanding Privilege,* will be held on Monday evenings, 6-8:30, beginning January 29th. For more information, contact whiteawakesantafe@gmail.com.

#2  Those who have attended FGC enjoyed the gathering being held in Greeley, 2013.  I worked on one of the planning committees and I think that a number of Friends in Santa Fe would be willing to work to help FGC happen again in the IMYM area.  I highly recommend the FGC gathering for anyone, any age, and I hope that future gatherings will be held in our geographic area.

#3  Quaker Earthcare Witness:  The Friends who are familiar with QEW have favorable attitudes about IMYM being affiliated and helping to support QEW goals.

#4  Sanctuary and refugee issues:  Some of us participated in the NM Regional Meeting held in Santa Fe.  The speakers were local activists and legal experts.  Also, Friends from Albuquerque talked about their experiences with providing sanctuary at the meetinghouse.  Ministry and Counsel at Quaker House will be considering the questions in the survey sent to us from Santa Fe Monthly Meeting, Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and asking others in our meeting about opportunities for volunteering in various capacities. (see attachment)

Thank you, Molly, for helping Friends stay engaged with IMYM concerns.

Peace,

Betsy

**Mountainview Meeting, Denver, Colorado**

1. IMYM approved the Friends General Conference’s priorities regarding racism and white privilege.  What is the best thing you’ve done so far?

Several spoke of the various activities brought forward by the Work Group on Dismantling Our Racism in the meeting.  This is raising general awareness/consciousness of the problem.  Some appreciated the time taken in meetings for business to discuss and raise awareness.  Awareness that often our racism is unconscious. Increasing awareness of the use of language and microaggressions in daily life.

We send and support a representative to FGC who helps keep racism and white supremacy a focus in our meeting.

Involvement in the sanctuary movement has implications for racism, awareness of other cultures.  A suggestion was made to hold other events such as our Christmas potluck in different locations to broaden our contact with other neighborhoods around the Denver area.

It was stated that we still have a long way to go and we should recognize that there is still a problem with white supremacy within the Meeting.

We can ground in our Quaker teaching: If we let our lives speak then so many words are not necessary.

2. FGC asked that IMYM consider hosting The Gathering in 2019 or beyond.  Does your meeting support hosting?  How would people in your meeting participate?

Suggested sites: DU, Regis, Greeley (again)

Favorable responses from several Friends.  Several Friends also volunteered to participate.  Some spoke of past experiences which they enjoyed.

Clear unity that we are supportive of this.

3. Should IMYM affiliate with QEW (Quaker Earthcare Witness)?

We would be ‘logical’ affiliates given climate change and the effects in our region, and particularly the activities of the oil and gas industry in this area.

Concerns for the future of children and what we would leave them.

Possible to ask QEW to hold meetings in this area?

Concern raised about the ability of IMYM to finance the affiliation, and that since we already have difficulties devoting resources to our existing affiliations, adding this would dilute those resources. Because of this, we do not currently support IMYM becoming formally affiliated with QEW.

**Tempe Monthly Meeting**

Julie Guy presented a report from Peace & Social Concerns regarding the three queries from IMYM

**Query 1**: “How is your meeting engaging with issues of racism and white privilege? What is the best thing you’ve done so far?”

**Response to Query 1: Our Meeting had a presentation on Black Lives Matter, and Paula Palmer visited us, presenting on Native American history on the Doctrine of Discovery.**

**Query 2**: “Does your meeting support the Friends General Conference annual gathering in 2019 or beyond?” (We did not discuss the second part of the query: “How would people in your meeting be willing to participate)

**Response to Query 2: FGC has significant impact in and participation from TMM when it is held in the West. With regard to holding FGC in summer in AZ, it should be held in the more temperate mountains, not in the summer heat of the desert. We would like it out west, but not in the hot part of AZ, and we don’t have anyone to devote the time and energy to spearhead FGC being held in AZ, but we support other meetings in IMYM spearheading it if there is someone able to devote that time and energy.**

**Query 3**: “Does IMYM wish to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness?”

Here, a lengthy discussion ensued. Speakers observed that while we might align with stated goals and process we want conversation about meaningful structures and dialogue. There are other Quaker organizations working along these same lines; it is not clear what Quaker Earthcare Witness’s partnerships with these other Quaker organizations that are working on these issues. FCNL does work with environmental issues, for example; George Lakey, who visited us this year, is working with another group. Still another issue is that we would like Quaker Earthcare Witness to be more scientifically grounded. Gretchen shares that it is important to be more specific and the concern about not being scientifically grounded, and that they are not quaker process grounded, and they are working to change that. Both process and content. Peace and Social Concerns is committing as a cttee – should IMYM wish to be involved, that we recognize some limitation, and that there be conversation about meaningful structures and dialogue. Nancy says there would be two delegates from IMYM on their board of directors.

**Response to Query 3: With regard to Quaker Earth Care Witness, we have two concerns. One, on a content level, involves how reliable this organization has been in gathering and using information that needs to be grounded in sound scientific knowledge. Two, we have concerns about Quaker process, with conversation about meaningful structures and dialogue, and we are unsure about how (an appropriate way) to express our concerns, and whether it should be through participation. Joining an organization in the hope of changing it may not be the best way forward.**

**Minute: Friends approve our responses to these queries to be returned to IMYM by Becky Schroeder**