

## **Proposal for the Development of an LEYM Interest Group for Addressing Concerns Regarding Peace & Justice and Earthcare**

- 1) There will be four, ninety-minute virtual meetings offered during the year for a group of up to 12 people designed for attenders to express concerns about peace, justice, and earthcare. Individuals in this group would attend based on interest and no commitment would be made to attend more than one meeting.
- 2) There will be a topic provided with some limited media to view or an article to read. One topic for Peace & Justice and one topic for Earthcare. The resources would be provided prior to the meetings but reviewing the material is optional.
- 3) The meetings will begin with introductions and some fellowship, giving each person an opportunity to say something about their current situation if they so desire.
- 4) The topics will be discussed using a worship sharing format. Each person can express their feelings about the P&J topic, the Earthcare topic or a topic of personal interest related to P&J or Earthcare.
- 5) After everyone has had a chance to speak, attenders will be asked if they have a reflection about the discussion to share. If a topic stands out with significant interest, the convener will ask if anyone wishes to form a working group to advance this idea. If there are several people that are interested, the members of this group will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval to become a working group.
- 6) The participants will be given the opportunity to take an online survey that will gauge interest in this group's new structure and offer suggestions for improvement.
- 7) The convener of the group will collect ideas offered by the group along with the survey information to present to the Executive Committee for review in the future.

### **Benefit**

- 1) The interest group provides a platform for Quakers to speak their mind on concerns related to P&J along with Earthcare.
- 2) The built-in principles of fellowship, worship share and no formal commitment are designed to increase attendance. This will provide a "spiritual refuge" for Quakers to express their concerns without judgement.
- 3) The business of Yearly Meeting can happen organically in this structure. If there is an overwhelming sense that one topic has stood out in discussion, a working group can happen organically to advance an action item or make a presentation at LEYM.

--In Friendship,  
Joel Ottenbreit