

Memorial Minute for John C. Holliger (Wooster)

December 20, 1946 – March 10, 2024

John Holliger died on Sunday, March 10, 2024, from head injuries sustained in a fall. He is survived by his wife, Carol, three daughters, two sons-in law, and the unexpected gift of a year-old grandson. His family chose to have a private celebration of life, according to the rites of the Episcopal Church.

John graduated from Oberlin College and Yale Divinity School and was ordained by the Episcopal Church in 1975. He served parishes in Connecticut and Ohio, retiring after 30 years, in his late 50s. Following his retirement, he embarked on a second career as a nature photographer and retreat leader. He named his business “A Contemplative Nature,” and that described both his choice of subjects for his photography and the way he integrated photography, music, and poetry in his retreats and his life.

John came to Friends in his 60s, drawn by the experience of silent waiting worship. We remember the framed photographs he brought to meeting for worship, placing them into the circle of our silence. We remember his thoughtful messages in meeting. We remember his many Thought and a Photograph essays sent to our inboxes. We remember his efforts to become acquainted with members of the Meeting. John searched out and became a member of the Fellowship of Quaker Artists. Some of his photographs were published in its newsletter, and he participated in offerings of that group at Friends General Conference on at least two occasions. He also provided the illustrations for a book written by a fellow Quaker. Late in life, he became increasingly generous with his life work, donating several hundred framed

photographs to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for use in their state park lodges. All members of his numerous medical team received photographs for their offices.

In John's last years he participated less and less in the Meeting. Partly this was the result of distance, partly the result of the restrictions of the COVID years, partly the result of health limitations, and partly a certain frustration with the organizational side, not the spiritual side, of the Meeting. He remained a member of the Meeting and we remember him as an unusual and gifted spirit among us.