NPYM-2020.09  Friends and Today’s Reality

Presiding Clerk, David Zeiss, opened meeting out of a time of open worship. Out of the silence, he read a letter from Cherice Bock, outgoing Clerk of Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting, asking Friends to join them in holding in the Light the movement for Black Lives Matter and the protest against armed Federal antagonism. An attachment urged us to join their yearly meeting in a simultaneous evening prayer in hope that the conflict can be resolved in the Quaker tradition, “rejecting all outward wars, weapons and violence.”

NPYM-2020.010  Outreach & Visitation Committee

Margaret Coahran, clerk of the Committee, reported on their work: they have completed a cycle of “Knitting Us Together,” of travelling Friends who have met with every group in the Yearly Meeting.

Caroline Wildflower, who will be travelling in the ministry this year with her elder Jay Thatcher, spoke of her excitement to be visiting –albeit electronically– the Willamette Quarter outside Portland. She hopes to be able to share with other Friends her gifts as raised by School of the Spirit.

NPYM-2020.011  Epistle

Joe Snyder read in Spanish and Shannon Perry read in English the 2019 Epistle from Cuba Yearly Meeting of Friends (Quakers).

NPYM-2020.012  Friend in Residence

The Clerk introduced our Friend “in Residence”, who is in residence in Puerto Padre, Las Tunas, Cuba. Kenya Casanova-Sales has visited North Pacific YM before while serving with Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Américas. She is a dentist in the national health care system there, which has managed to keep the Covid pandemic mostly under control.

Because of the U.S. government’s visa block and the COVID-19 interruption of our lives, she cannot join us physically. We heard her by means of a message recorded yesterday and transmitted on the Web this morning –the six segments took three hours to upload. [A summary will be published in Western Friend.]

Her message to us was to be bridge-builders. Only by connecting those who have been separated, using the Quaker testimonies for construction of links, and trusting the Holy Spirit to complete the work, will we be able to resolve the conflicts that hurt us.
Meeting returned to open worship in silence. To close we divided into small groups and shared our feelings and responses to the message we had received.

Friends separated to gather in social groups mediated by Zoom.