Central Friends Epistle

North Pacific Yearly Meeting,
Pacific University,
Forest Grove, Oregon,
July 17-21, 2013

To Friends Everywhere:

We, the Central Friends of NPYM met during the Annual Session. We had nine members this year.

The campus of Pacific University was just the right size for our gathering, with large grass fields and many comfortable hang out spaces.

On Wednesday, the first night, not all of the Central Friends had arrived yet. The Central Friends who were on campus, caught up with old friends, met new friends, and generally hung out. Also that night, the Junior Friends shared their Code of Conduct (a list of rules they would abide by while at NPYM) with all the Central Friends present at the time.

Thursday morning, everyone had arrived, and we acquainted and reacquainted once more. After that however we got right down to business.

We proceeded to make our own Code of Conduct, with inspiration from the Junior Friends, and comments and suggestions from the group. Then we all signed at the bottom, promising to follow the code for the duration of Annual Session.

After sitting for so long, we had to do something active, so we went outside and played Frisbee. Those who did not play Frisbee, played Apples to Apples, or skateboarded.

When we came in, we had a discussion about doing things outside of your comfort zone, for instance playing Frisbee with the group, even if you aren't the best at it. We also talked about the different ways to choose teams, and which ones were least likely to make people feel left out or unwanted.

On Thursday afternoon, some of us wanted to try out the volleyball court next to University Center. Those who did not wish to play brought drawing supplies so the whole group could stay together. The volleyball game didn't last long, about two and a half minutes because the sand on the court was so hot. The afternoon turned into a paper airplane contest, with lots of relaxing in the shade.

On Friday morning, the Friends in Residence, Paul and Becca Muholly Renk, came and spoke to us about their work in Nicaragua. They also told us about Nicaragua's history of hurricanes, wars, and poverty. They recounted for us their experiences of working with farming cooperatives, and spoke about doing things outside of your comfort zone for the good of others.