

## Worship Sharing • SEYM Gathering 2015

### “Community”

#### Fifth Day Morning Worship Sharing

“Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life. It is a dynamic center, a creative Life that presses to birth within us. It is a seed stirring to life if we do not choke it. Here is the Slumbering Christ, stirring to be awakened, to become the soul we clothe in earthly form and action. And he is within us all.”

---Thomas R. Kelly

“Our capacity to love our neighbor is diminished because we don’t do such a good job of loving ourselves...the more mercy that you have for yourself, the more you will have for the next person. The more patience and tolerance that you have for the aspects of yourself with which you are not comfortable, the more patience and tolerance you are going to have for the next person.”

---John Calvi

“The life of faith requires that we have vision, that we be attentive and obedient to revelation. It requires that we have a sense of the potential for God’s work to take place in and through us – the capacity to apprehend the ideals which we can grow to embody and personify in our lives. It also requires an awareness that much of what we must do to live life fully in faith has been revealed and is to be heeded – a commitment to being mindful of what Friends have long called Truth and right order in our lives.”

---Thomas H. Jeavons

“What we do now is important. The fire we tend is important. Don’t make mistakes with fire. It’s really too dangerous. And when people tend the wrong fires, they get out of control pretty quickly. I think the most important thing is to be very clear and honest about when we have encountered God. Where have we seen this Holy One at work? How do we know this Presence? Don’t forget it. Tell yourself those stories over and over again. Find a group of people you can trust, and begin to share those stories with each other. Where has God been? Where have you been moved? Where has the fire led you? Don’t forget it.”

---Ellen Hodge

#### Queries

In what is our ‘inner sanctuary’ rooted? How does that bring new life to birth in ourselves and each other?

How can we more readily believe in that of God in ourselves? How could this lead us to build a more trusting, caring, and loving community?

How do we become more aware of the Truth and right order in our lives? In the life of our Meeting?

What fires do we tend? How does our Inner Light spark the flame of God in the communities of which we are a part? Do we remind ourselves each day of our connections with other people, other creatures, and all that sustains life?

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### **“Community”**

#### **Sixth Day Morning Worship Sharing**

##### **Quotes**

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

---*Matthew 18:20*

“You can’t do any of this [life] on your own or even on your own terms. You were created by a community to exist in a community, made in the image of a God who has never known anything except community...”  
“Relationship is at the very heart of who I AM.”

---*William Paul Young from “Crossroads”*

“Quaker belief that ‘there is that of God in everyone’ and ‘that of God in me speaks to that of God in you,’ are statements of our faith that we are connected or bound to one another just as we are bound to God. Our mutual interest in the life of the Spirit creates relationships, each to each and each to the whole.”

---*Lynne Phillips*

“You know the redwood trees? You’d think their roots go really deep, but their roots go out really wide. They spread out to each other and entangle with each other, and give each other support and that’s how they stand and grow so tall, and that’s how they weather the storms.’

That’s what community is all about! We do want our own spiritual roots to go deep, but as they grow deep, they can also be growing out and intertwining with others, supporting each other against the wind and the rain and the storms in the Spirit. And, as the tree grows up, the roots are still growing out. It’s not one or the other. They grow in both directions at the same time.”

---*Deborah Fisch*

##### **Queries**

How do we experience God’s love and presence in our relationships with those in our Meeting community?

When differences arise in our Meeting, do we settle them in a spirit of love and humility? Are we patient and considerate toward those we find difficult to understand or like?

What would it look like to actually see ‘that of God in everyone’ and to tender each other out of that reality?

How does our personal spiritual growth support the spiritual nurture of our Meeting? How does the growth of our Meeting engender spiritual growth in ourselves?

## Worship Sharing • SEYM Gathering 2015

### **“Community”**

#### **Seventh Day Morning Worship Sharing**

##### **Quotes**

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”  
--- *John 13:34-35*

“Integrity forms the basis for covenant relationship in which persons exercise a sense of responsibility and accountability toward one another. Integrity...leads to an even deeper sense of community... If the wholeness aspect of integrity leads to a sense of community of persons, likewise it can lead us to an experience of spiritual wholeness in our relationship with God.”

---*Wilmer A. Cooper*

“We must be cognizant of how much God has already shown us and our ancestors about what it means to be in harmony with divine purpose. These revelations are available to us in the Bible, in the journals of our Quaker forebears, in the devotional literature, and in the rich and varied record of human history...It is the challenge to become a people with a vision...so that Truth might flourish in our lives for the benefit of all. It is the challenge to become the people God wishes us to be.”

---*Thomas H. Jeavons*

“Our impact on others, our evangelism in the larger world, will come not from what we say but from how we live. ‘Let your lives preach,’ said George Fox...When exploring the condition of the Religious Society of Friends, let us pray that she or he will be overwhelmed by the evidence that all Friends, whatever their background or Theology, practice toward each other nothing but a constant and mutual charity so striking that [others may exclaim] ‘This is what the whole world should be like!’ For what Babel has dispersed, love can gather in. That one people, one family, became many was the work of human pride. We should not wonder, therefore, that when many peoples become one family again...such unity will be the fruit only of humility and of love.”

---*Daniel A. Seeger*

##### **Queries**

How does our love for one another witness to the larger world the message and example of Jesus?

How does community lead us to a sense of personal spiritual wholeness?

What riches of Truth can we share with our Meeting community and the larger world that can grow our relationships and move us toward being ‘the people God wishes us to be?’

How do we let our lives preach? How can we counteract the divisions of Babel and unite the human family in the love of God?