



Spiritual Preparation

The theme for the Section Meeting is inspired by Colossians 2:2: "Friends Woven Together in God's Love." There is a growing sense God is weaving together Friends of different cultures, language groups and worship traditions. This tapestry of love will connect Friends in transformative ways, expand traveling ministries, strengthen local meetings and churches with new resources, and empower Friends with a renewed call to service and prophetic witness.

The approval of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan is challenging Friends to envision the work of FWCC-SOA in new ways. This, along with the upcoming Section Meeting in Mexico City, gives us an opportunity to capture the spirit of the Valiant Sixty and strategically position FWCC as part of a dynamic movement of God's Spirit. For this to occur, we need to be prayerfully ready and spiritually prepared.

As part of this emerging tapestry, Friends from the Arctic to the Andes are invited to prepare for the Section Meeting and this greater work of God. For ten days before the Section Meeting Friends are urged to spend at least 15 to 20 minutes in prayerful centering and spiritual preparation. You may want to invite others to join you for a local opportunity to consider the queries together. Notice the readings for the first five days focus on the same verses from Colossians 2. Friends may find it insightful to read from different translations each day. Friends are also encouraged to keep a journal of insightful reflections and thoughts.

March 1: Encouraged in Heart

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – In what ways have you been encouraged in heart recently? What discouragement have you encountered?

Prayer Focus - Friends from Bolivia, members of the Nominating Committee

March 2: United in Love

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – When have you experienced deep, uniting love in a community? What does this kind of love teach you about God?

Prayer Focus - Friends from Peru, Friends with gifts of writing, speaking and publishing

March 3: Riches of Understanding

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – What does it mean "to have the full riches of understanding"? How are you continuing to learn from each other, and from new sources?

Prayer Focus – Friends from Colombia, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, International Members

March 4: Mystery of God and Christ

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – How did early Friends understand the mystery of God? Are Friends still open to this mystery today? Are you?

Prayer Focus – Friends from Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba, Finance Committee

March 5: Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge

Reading - Colossians 2:1-4

Queries – How has your life been enriched with wisdom and knowledge from our tradition? How are you sharing what you have received?

Prayer Focus – Friends from El Salvador, Youth programs

March 6: Set Your Hearts and Minds on Things Above

Reading - Colossians 3:1-4

Queries - How are you distracted from what really matters? How do you re-center your focus?

Prayer Focus – Friends from Honduras, Executive Committee

March 7: Taking Off the Old Self

Reading - Colossians 3:5-11

Queries – What keeps us separate from each other and from God? Can we name our fears and suspicions? What do we need to take off and leave behind in order to move forward?

Prayer Focus - Friends from the United States, Benigno Sanchez-Eppler and worship leaders

March 8: Clothed With Compassion

Reading - Colossians 3:12-14

Queries – How can we clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? How do we see it in others?

Prayer Focus – Friends from Guatemala, Regional Coordinators

March 9: Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Heart

Reading - Colossians 3:15

Queries – How do we channel the peace in our hearts that transcends the troubles in the world and the conflicts among Friends?

Prayer Focus - Friends from Canada, Interpreters and Translators

March 10: Let the Message of Christ Dwell Among You

Reading - Colossians 3:16-17

Advices - Take time in expectant worship. Come, prepared to sing, give thanks, and listen deeply.

Queries - Are you ready?

Prayer Focus - Friends from Mexico, Section Meeting Planning Committee