

Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

61830 Sandy Ridge Road, Barnesville OH 43713 USA

Eighth Month 24, 2020

“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” - Luke 10:2

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends, one of the three conservative yearly meetings, which met on Zoom with members from NYC to California, Virginia to Michigan as well as Ohio and Pennsylvania with visitors from Canada, Kenya, Indonesia and Costa Rica; and California, North Carolina, Indiana, Maryland, and Tennessee participating from home. While we missed being together in person, we did appreciate being able to be together safely. For some being on Zoom made it easier to attend.

We learned together how to use the technology and asked ourselves how we might use it during the year and in the future for the advancement of our life in Christ as individuals and as a meeting. We have already found the needs of the pandemic have blessed us with opportunities to share in wider community, such as Seekers' Haven and Crossroads worship. We met for the normal number of days, but understanding that business might take more time, we decided to address mostly business that needed decisions and have other reports available to be read separately with all being published in our minutes.

We had early morning study of what it means to be a Conservative Friend and Bible sharing and evening programs continuing our thinking about the future of our Yearly Meeting “Let us pray to discern His plans and promise to follow them” - Jeremiah 29:11 and outreach, as well as, many opportunities for expectant waiting worship.

We met as a Corporation of our Walton Retirement Home where we learned again of the fine, loving care they give their residents.

We took advantage of space made for fellowship to catch up with old friends and get to know new friends. We shared concern for loved friends unable to be with us with health challenges, such as two you may know, Fran Taber and David Eley.

During Business sessions, we prepared a memorial minute for recently departed Friend Arthur Berk who passed from COVID-19 just before his ninety-third birthday. Just before passing he sent us an epistle which we share with you now.

“Friends, God’s Ministry is far more vital than our own, that’s why Jesus urges us to welcome the Lord in silence.”

We invite you to join us and to invite others to join us. Information as to how to do that can be found on our website, www.ohioyearlymeeting.org.

We are holding all Friends in prayer during this time of pandemic and unrest.

In Christ,

Philip W. Helms, Clerk
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