

To Friends worldwide, greetings and peace to you from Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Northwest Yearly Meeting met for the 129<sup>th</sup> annual sessions July 18-20, 2021 throughout Oregon, Washington, and Idaho by virtual online format for the second time. Due to changing guidelines over the last several months regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, meeting in person was not practical for this year. Business sessions, board meetings, workshops, and worship times were held using video presentations, Zoom discussions, and Webinars.

Our first meeting on Sunday morning was viewed by many of our church congregations on video, and featured our superintendent, Dr. Jim Le Shana, introducing the theme for the sessions, "Moving Forward: Church Revitalization in a Post-Covid World". Using Exodus 14, Jim pointed out that God urged the Israelites to "move on", escaping the Egyptians through the Red Sea as he made a dry path for them, and leading them on to a new home. In the same way, we need to move on by investing in new relationships, establishing connections, and demonstrating our faith through action in home and church.

Sunday evening featured presentations by Evangelical Friends Mission leaders, Dan Cammack and Matt Macy, and included an interview with Roy Twadell in the Philippines, using the Zoom format. EFM has set a goal of sending out 10 new missionary families, and establishing 5 new fields in the next 5 years.

Monday and Tuesday mornings began with a time of worship and devotional thought. Marbellys Diaz, Iglesias Amigos in Newberg and McMinnville, shared on Monday urging us to be confident and move forward. On Tuesday Ashley Weinacht, Greenleaf Friends, shared about "Spotting God", from Hebrews 12:1-2, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Clerk Ken Redford led the business sessions via Webinar, with presenters appearing as panelists. Viewers were encouraged to use the chat feature and participatory icons. Much of the reporting from boards and organizations was provided in print or online, leaving room on the agenda for mainly action items.

Equipping workshops were offered Monday afternoon, and the Tuesday workshop was led by our special speaker, Dr. Thom S. Rainer, "Going Deeper: Important Considerations for Church Revitalization". Workshops were presented live on Zoom, but also recorded for viewing at a later time.

We heard from Dr. Thom Rainer in both Monday and Tuesday evening worship sessions. Dr. Rainer is a leading voice for church revitalization in America today. He is the founder and CEO of Church Answers, and Executive Director of Revitalize Network. Monday's focus was on the "scraggy church", that says, "In God's power we can get anything done," from Philippians 4:13. Tuesday he spoke about an "outward deluge," reaching beyond the walls of our church and emphasizing conversion growth.

We are challenged to fix our eyes on Jesus and listen to his direction to move on in accomplishing his work in our post-Covid world. Pray for us to be good listeners who follow our faith with God-directed action.

Ken Redford

Presiding Clerk, NWYM