



NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS
QUAKERS

Epistle of the Fifth and Sixth graders of the New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, 2017

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

Fifteen fifth and sixth graders met from August 5–10 at Castleton University in Castleton, Vermont, USA as part of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends.

We enjoyed lots of things at Castleton University; riding bikes, using scooters in the skatepark, swimming in the pool, going to Yearly Meeting Children’s Bookstore and, best of all, the soft serve ice cream machine.

We shared some activities with adults and kids from different groups. These activities included intergenerational worship, playing Capture the Flag, contra dancing, drumming and going to Coffeehouse. Coffeehouse is like a pot-luck variety show with snacks.

At Intergenerational worship we heard about our theme of Transformation and sang songs like “We are rising up like a phoenix from the fire.”

In Junior Yearly Meeting, we continued the theme of transformation as we tie dyed and decorated white tee shirts. Some of the purple came out and colored all the shirts, so you could see how we are connected even though we are all different.

We also transformed raw grains and beans into beautiful mandala and made ice cream from coconut milk. We worked in pairs to build bridges out of paper and tape.

Friends who had travelled to Cuba told us about it and taught us songs in Spanish. It made some of us want to go to Cuba and meet Friends there.

We did some quieter activities like small group check-ins, drawing what we felt in our bodies, vespers and clay meditation. We liked singing with all the grade groups and being with friends during free time and afternoon choices.

Even though we are all different, we all experienced being part of a loving and accepting community.

Submitted for the 5th & 6th graders of NEYM by the Epistle Committee: