

Letter to all Friends around the world,

During our Annual Meeting, held from 28 to 31 July 2016 at the Centre Naudières near Nantes, our goal was to build a better understanding of where we are on our Quaker path and discern the direction we want to take.

We understood our position on the path through a sociological survey of 44 questions: social, spiritual and ethical and material. We drew strength and inspiration from the European and global Quaker institutions (QUNO, EMEYF, EMES, QCEA) when their representatives presented their aims and actions. We also discovered vitality amongst our own assembly with friends illustrating their Quaker practices in everyday life. We worked on how to apply the Quaker testimonies in the practice of our faith in a programmed worship. At a workshop we discussed the strengths and weaknesses of our Assembly in order to address them. Thanks to a real discipline, created by excellent pre-planning, we have enriched our lives with a lot of questions and sought answers together.

We commemorated, at the Nantes memorial to slavery, the slavery of the past and that which continues today. We were joined by representatives of the associations Tibhirine, ACAT, and the mosque of Nantes. By this commemoration we emphasized the unbroken link between the Quakers who came before us and ourselves, both hungry for social justice. This commemoration has helped guide our Assembly ever outward. One example of this outreach was a person whom we did not previously know, joined us throughout the next day to get to know us. He was warmly welcomed and he has expressed his desire to return.

This bodes well for the future outreach.

Sylvette Thompson
Clerk FYM