

July 20, 2014

To Friends Everywhere:

Western Yearly Meeting gathered in Plainfield, Indiana July 17-20, 2014 to examine Luke 12:42: “Who then is the faithful manager?” This, our 157th Annual Session, was centered on the general theme of stewardship. Using the statement of John Woolman, “To turn all we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives,” participants examined and considered stewardship in many forms, not just financial.

Eden Grace, our devotional speaker, pointed out the accountability for right usage of all resources available, not just money. Stressing the privilege of stewardship, the need to seek God first rather than material wealth, and the need to understand social inequalities as a guide for responsible allocation of resources, Friends were invited to examine their corporate and individual lives to consider the need for changes.

Continuing the theme through Quaker Lecture, Noval D. Reece examined the need to apply the principles of stewardship to help us evolve from “Private Quakers” working on self-centered issues into “Public Quakers” working to create an environment where a meeting’s resources are used to uplift , support and reach out to those both within AND without the meeting.

Workshops were conducted which further expanded the concept of stewardship. From the consideration of goals, reaching out to young adults, sharing of food, equipping leaders and workers, ecological issues, ethical choices, public policy, property, finance, and practical “how to” discussions, Friends were encouraged to look beyond the traditional view of monetary stewardship.

Building on last year’s theme of giftedness, this year’s theme of stewardship allowed groups and individuals to “rightly share” their resources through times of worship, times of business, and times of contemplation. As we continue in the coming year to become ever more faithful stewards, we ask for your prayer that we can, in fact, “turn all we possess in the channel of universal love.”

In Christian Love,

Dale Graves, Presiding Clerk

Elizabeth Ann Carter, Recording Clerk

Sarah Lookabill, Assistant to the Clerks