

To Friends everywhere

The 85th Swedish Yearly Meeting gathered at Svartbäcken, Rimbo. We were very happy to have guests with us from Norway, Finland, Great Britain, Ireland, Germany and the EMES.

The theme for this Yearly Meeting was worship. As part of their invitation, the Yearly Meeting Committee had asked the participants to reflect over some quotations from the 2018 yearbook called “Experiences”. Those quotations were suggested as starting points for worship sharing in small groups. Part of the theme was the question of how children and young adults could be involved in Meetings for Worship.

After the participants had shared their thoughts in small groups about how to involve children in the worship meetings, an “All Age Worship” was held. Children, by their very nature, want to move. To create physical activity, chairs were arranged in one inner and one outer circle. The children and some adults sat in the inner circle. The other adults sat in the outer circle. After the worship started, the participants in the inner circle left the room and went out in nature to each find an object that spoke to them. Meanwhile the rest of the participants continued sitting in worship. When the participants came back from their nature walk, they put their found objects on a blanket in the middle of the circle, thus creating a mandala. The art work aroused many feelings and thoughts about nature and humans’ relationship to nature among the participants. This form of worship, which included an activity, was very much appreciated by both children and adults.

On Friday evening we entertained each other. Each person was asked for a contribution according the person’s interest and ability. On Saturday we participated in a fun and educational quiz about Bangladesh, a quiz that the Swedish Quaker Service Committee had arranged.

In parallel with the Yearly Meeting theme, we also worked with the newly created Peace Committee – how it should be organized and what its focus should be. We appreciated the interest and engagement that our international guests showed in this context.

At this Yearly Meeting there was a sense of urgency for us as a religious society to go to action with peace work.

Swedish Yearly Meeting 2019
May 30 – June 2

Solveig-Karin Erdal
Clerk

Gottfried Novak
Recording clerk