This was the fifth and final session of the workshop series for Young Quakers worldwide for Climate Action, Peace and Justice.

This session followed a different pattern to the previous four sessions because we wanted to focus on how to move forward from our time together.

Why did we have this series in the first place? What is our message to the wider Quaker community and what are our asks for action? We know that Friends worldwide have been urgently concerned with the human impacts of climate change and the issue of sustainability in relation to our faith and the underlying spiritual imperative prompting us to take action, so that life on earth will continue. For example, this concern was galvanized in the Global Change work at the Dublin Triennial in 2007, which then led on to the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice in 2012 and the Pisac Sustainability Minute which came out of the World Plenary Meeting in Peru in 2016. But these actions were a number of years ago now, and those Friends, we are saddened to say, might not live through the next series of the human impacts of climate change, but we will. We are the young generation of Quakers, lead by our faith, and together we want to know how to move forward.

After hearing a song from A friend in the Africa section, we entered into worship sharing. We know that the term ‘worship sharing’ differs among Friends and across the branches. In this context, we used it to guide our question ‘Why did we have this series in the first place? What is our message to the wider Quaker community and what are our asks for action?’ Stemming from worshipful silence, we listened to Friends as they spoke one by one and two elders in the call collected Friends reflections.

Our worship sharing in the final session together resulted in the following statement:

“Young Friends have joined together every two weeks for the past ten weeks, from all over the world for an interactive workshop series on climate action, peace, and justice.

We came from different places and hold different understandings of our faith, but we share that we are all young. This means we have lived our entire lives under the threat of climate change, and have waited for older generations to fix it. This interactive online workshop series has provided us with the space to meet one another and learn from one another, to build connections and understand different experiences better.

Now, at the end of this journey together, it is our hope that we will a) commit to creating a growing network of young Quakers worldwide, who share our passion for climate action, justice and peace; b) find a way to share our reflections with the rest of the global Quaker community.”

We now share this with Friends globally who are both young at heart and those within the young Quaker community. It is our hope that we will continue to explore how to move forward together, continue to know one another with the help of FWCC and the wider Quaker Community.