



# Religieus Genootschap der Vrienden

Dear Friends all over the world

Friends from the Netherlands Yearly Meeting were gathered online on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020. Instead of a full weekend in the beginning of May, this year we had a one day gathering via Zoom. Therefore, we focussed on the most essential topics. Herewith, we send you two of our minutes which may give you an impression of the spirit in which we were together.

## Our vision on the future

In the greetings we received from Michael Eccles, Secretary of FWCC- EMES, we read the text of the theme of the gathering in May 2020: 'Heeding the Prophecy of our sons and daughters, daring to dream dreams and see visions' (Joel 2 28). This is also a promise: we need the Spirit, and we can be open for new ways. We are also able to experience a gathered meeting on Zoom.

We heard about inspiration from several films:

- \* A life on our planet (David Attenborough)
- \* The social dilemma (Jeff Orlowski)
- \* A Message From the Future II: The Years of Repair (Avi Lewis)"

We can be aware of the situation in the world and at the same time retreat into reflection on what we can achieve now with small hands. And: our hands can reach all over the world via the internet.

In these times when there is a lot of fear, we can connect in silence, hope can bubble up and dreams can arise. Let the Spirit from the Silence inspire our courage and strengthen our dreams. Our challenge is to create visions and make them come alive together. Quakers have a vision of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and we want to spread that vision. When we each are going our own way, let's keep each other informed and let's continue to exchange with each other what we are doing to make our visions become reality.

Today we have been together via digital means (Zoom). The most recent Corona restrictions limiting non-essential travel led us to decide not to meet physically in the Johanneskerk in Amersfoort.

A shortened Annual Meeting of just one day, in which we experienced how important it is to meet each other, even in this way. We have taken the necessary decisions that could not wait.

Listening to the values and inspiration of Friends has started a process of further reflection on our values and inspiration, to be continued both in person and in our Monthly Meetings throughout the coming months. We hold each other close and keep connected during this time through online and live meetings, and in phone conversations with Friends who couldn't be here.

We wish that we enkindle the Light in each other, so that we all can use our talents and gifts for new inspiration in the coming months. Hoping that next year it will be possible to organize a live Annual Meeting!

In Friendship

Marlies Tjallingii, clerk of the Netherlands Yearly Meeting

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