

Epistle of Denmark Yearly Meeting, 2014

To Friends everywhere,

Greetings from Denmark Yearly Meeting.

29–30 March 2014 about 15 Danish Friends and friends of Friends gathered in Copenhagen together with five foreign guests representing the YMs of Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, and FWCC/EMES.

Our American Friend Thomas Swain of Philadelphia YM was our support at this Yearly Meeting. During the days before the meeting he paid individual visits to several Danish Friends.

Our first meeting day started with worship, greetings brought by our guests and a brief meeting for business. In the afternoon Thomas led a string of talks in plenary and in groups. We were reminded of St Paul's letter in 1 Corinthians, ch.12 about the gifts of Grace which we all possess. Each of us must make use of our faculties with the support of other Friends. We should not hide our talents. Thomas guided us through an exercise in 'meeting for clearness' about how I can best make use of my gifts. For the person who during such a meeting presents an important concern, this process may lead to clearness and give strength to go further.

On 30th of March after worship we heard a summary of epistles from other Quaker YMs around the world. Concluding Danish Friends talked about the difficulties a small group have in living up to its own expectations and those of others about a Quaker Meeting. Our guests gave us useful ideas. In critical situations we lack a larger group to guide us in our decisions. A network of 'elders' among the Nordic countries might be helpful. In the future a more permanent collaboration between the Nordic YMs could serve timely. We do not always know where and how the Spirit blows. Maybe we have to get inspiration from outside and be where other people are.

“Stop, but do not stand still. Be in the present, but go on.”

On behalf of Denmark Yearly Meeting

Mogens Clausen, Clerk