

Dear Friends everywhere,

we send loving greetings from our unusual meeting place for our 90th Yearly Meeting of German and Austrian Friends – for most of us, our own homes. Instead of meeting in Bonn, we logged in to web-meetings held between the 23rd and 25th October 2020. For the past few months we have been getting used to the fact that Meetings for Worship, Meetings for Worship for Business, and Creative Listening sessions are not possible „in person“. While we miss this personal contact, we find that technology can help us bridge this gap. We are sad to meet fewer people than in previous years, and we hold those in the light who cannot be with us. At the same time, we are grateful that this technical support enables some Friends to take part who could not otherwise be present..

Our children and young people were almost completely out of the picture for many of us; however they too were participating in lively online sessions, which included a real live chicken!

The theme of our Yearly Meeting this year was also the theme of the Jochen Dudeck's Richard-Cary Lecture: "Connected in the Light".

Based on his own experience and his personal influences, he sees us all from birth onwards as connected; with our own selves, with our families and with the material and spiritual world. We live in symbiosis with innumerable bacteria and viruses and in constantly changing relationship to all of the world's living things.

Jochen understands the old Quakerly „inward Light“ as the light of life, that streams into us when we open ourselves to it. In this process lies the nature of the „gathered meeting.“

During the past three years, our Yearly Meeting has begun to grow. This year we welcomed six new members into the Meeting, as well as Friends who have transferred their membership to us from other Yearly Meetings.

After years of debating the future of our Quaker House in Bad Pyrmont, we found the confidence this year to write a far-reaching minute. We want to keep the house, meanwhile using the coming year to develop ideas for shaping the building in a way that is sustainable, both financially and otherwise.

Many of us are actively involved in demonstrations and direct action, including civil disobedience, calling for equality, peace and the integrity of creation. May all of our personal and joint efforts be connected to and with the Light, our trust contributing towards transformation for the good.

We give grateful thanks for your messages from all over the Quaker world. Let us continue to hold one another in the Light, that Light which both connects and moves us.

In Friendship

German Yearly Meeting