

To Friends everywhere 2020-11-07

Like many Yearly Meetings all over the world, the Swedish Quakers were forced to hold their Yearly Meeting on Zoom, without the lifegiving personal meetings, without common lodging, without a theme.

We have carried out the most necessary tasks, welcoming new members, taking farewell of the members we lost, taking part of the economics reports for 2019, adopting the auditor's reports and the budget, and approving the assignment of members to committees for 2021.

In the harsh times of the pandemic, we have still benefitted from the use of technical devices, which have made it possible to "see" each other and to worship together. In that way, those who lost their usual way to worship have been able to stay in touch with Friends and attenders, even those far away. We have been enriched by such new meeting places, and will most likely keep some of them, when today's restrictions end.

One day, when we are no longer in the pandemic's grip, we might become aware of what we learned during this social desert time. Then we might realize what the Swedish poet Karin Boye wrote in her beloved poem:

"Nog finns det mål och mening med vår färd
men det är vägen som är mödan värd."

[Approximately: Sure, there are aims and meaning in life's travels,
but the road we travel, is what makes the effort worth it.]

Kerstin Backman, clerk