

## Report from Quaker Earthcare Witness

As with Friends everywhere, Quaker Earthcare Witness has been impacted by the corona virus. We had our first virtual meeting last spring, 2020, with the need for new, necessary technical skills. We met virtually in the fall and will meet again on line this spring, April 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. It is difficult to meet without time to be together, walking to meals and staying after meetings to have the community time that brings us such richness. We are hoping to gather at Pendle Hill in the fall of 2022 to meet face to face again. We are grateful that Friends from across the country who might not be able to travel can gather with us on line.

We recognize that the work of earthcare must continue and have had exciting new work arise. We have welcomed a new Ad Hoc Group organized around direct action, where Friends lend their skills and expertise to do local work while supporting one another through QEW.

Several QEW folks followed their leading on racial equity and took the American Friends Service Committee training on racial justice. From the training they created a virtual workshop that was challenging and effective, to bring to the October meeting of 2020. Charlotte Friends welcomed the QEW group to do a forum for us on racial justice. These virtual presentations can be easily available for other meetings as well.

We grappled as a community to discern whether work on racial justice was appropriate for an environmental group. The Friends who took the training were deeply led, and we became clear as a community that the same energy that refuses the domination and destruction of the Earth also speaks against the domination and destruction of any people.

We have continued to seek spiritually as we struggle with quarantining and still living as Friends. We have shared with Friends General conference a monthly worship sharing that brings Friends from across the country together, and it warms and nourishes all.

Mary Jo Klingel, QEW clerk