

**2017-42** Friends gathered at New England Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions at Castleton, Vermont, August 6–10, 2017, approve the following:

As members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker), we believe that the human family is one family; that there is that of God in every member of this family; and that generosity of spirit toward all the members of the human family is of overriding importance.

As Quakers, we reaffirm our unconditional support for the wellbeing and protections of all threatened individuals in our community, including, especially at this troubled time, Muslims and undocumented immigrants.

We urge our government to reaffirm our country's founding values, especially freedom of religion; to affirm our welcome to peaceful refugees and immigrants; to reject bigotry and xenophobia; and to adopt laws and policies that respect the humanity and dignity of all people.

We call on our fellow community members to join us in defending human rights for all, working toward nonviolent religious and civic sanctuary that protects all who are vulnerable, and striving together for compassion, dignity and safety for everyone.

**2017-43** Based on recommendations from Northwest Quarter, we also approved the following:

We encourage each monthly meeting and quarterly meeting within NEYM to share minute 2017-42 with local faith communities and publish it in local papers, and to discern further how they are led in this issue.

We will forward this minute to the wider Quaker world.

We will look for ways to collaborate with other faith communities in addressing these issues, and ask that our Ecumenical Committee share this minute with the wider church.