

Report on the 2020-2021 NEYM Earthcare Ministry Committee Activities

Earthcare Ministry is a committee of the NEYM that focuses on environmental issues that are of concern to Quakers. We have prayerfully considered the plight of the planet Earth, and what we as individuals and meetings can do about that plight.

At 2020 Sessions, we began a new chapter in our journey together by joining with the Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee of NEYM to present a *Call to Urgent, Loving Action for The Earth and Her Inhabitants*. This video and the written text for it are available at <https://neym.org/call-urgent-loving-action-resources-engagement>. On the same page are significant resources we created after Sessions to encourage others in the efforts to address the intertwined issues of racism and climate destruction outlined in our Call. This Call was affirmed by attendees at Sessions, and was the basis for much of our work during the succeeding year. Since the COVID-19 epidemic made in-person meetings difficult, we met together, and with a wide range of Quaker meetings, via Zoom.



We began by offering to address Quarterly meetings about the Call, and did so in 5 of the 8 Quarters. Members of the committee then worked with a number of Monthly meetings in a variety of formats, including worship-sharing. One of the worship-sharing services was used to create a template for other worship sharing services, should meetings need it, and shared on the same resources page. And we also shared the Call more widely, including at a Northeastern FWCC meeting. We experimented with directly contacting individual meetings to offer support in their responding to the Call, although we received only limited response (two meetings out of more than a dozen contacted).

We have also helped to encourage others, such as Beacon Hill Friends House, as they responded to the call, and supported L.J. Boswell's prototype offering of their workshop on racism to our committee.

During the past year we learned that addressing social justice within a yearly meeting requires relationship building and comprehensive communications capability. In particular, we have noted that there does not appear to be a mechanism for regular, yearly-meeting-wide sharing of the *Spirit-led actions* that individuals and meetings are taking on social justice. We hope to explore and enhance these opportunities for Spirit-led actions going forward.

Our hope is that meetings will come to 2021 Sessions with a post-COVID enthusiasm for taking action on climate and racism.