

## Formal Session 4: Monday 4 July at 2.00pm AEST

### YM22.20: Opening Worship

The Presiding Clerk read the first two stanzas from *Draw Breath*, a poem by Geoffrey Weeden of Kingston-upon-Thames Meeting:

Breathe in the quiet purpose of this place;  
Through outward stillness, seek a calm within.  
Here we can find forgiveness and forgive;  
Here feel the healing miracle begin.

Breathe out the busy world, the teeming mind,  
The follies, fears and failures of the week;  
Breathe out contention, pettiness and pride,  
And wait in trust for "that of God" to speak.

### YM22.21: First Reading of the Yearly Meeting 2022 Epistle

Christine Venner-Westaway (QRM) presented a first reading of the YM22 Epistle. The Clerk reminded Friends that the Epistle draft can be found on the YM22 website <https://www.quakersaustralia.info/yearly-meeting-2022/ym22-business/epistle-drafts> and that they can send their comments to Christine Venner-Westaway at [venwest50@gmail.com](mailto:venwest50@gmail.com).

### YM22.22: Greetings from Friends

The Assistant Clerk read a letter of greeting from Tim Gee, FWCC General Secretary:

Dear Friends,

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:3).*

Loving greetings from the FWCC World Office in London. We hold you in the Light and our prayers as you gather for your Yearly Meeting.

Last year in her greetings my predecessor Gretchen Castle pointed us to the apostle Paul's words: "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-9)"

Neither could the COVID 19 pandemic separate us from loving God, as demonstrated by our community's presence, service and the ways we love our neighbours.

Speaking to Quakers in Southern Africa recently, Friend Marie Odendaal spoke of 'three pandemics': not only coronavirus but also human violence and global heating. Yet even in this context our community generates hope. From the local level to the UN, Quakers are doing all we can to make this world more equal, more peaceful and more just.

If we didn't meet though, in our Local, Area and Yearly Meetings, our work for a better world would simply be that of informed individuals rather than carrying the hopes of a faithful world community. If we didn't build trusting friendships through Yearly Meetings, global gatherings and intervisitation over decades, we wouldn't have the strong relationships that enable us to do the kind of work we do.

On this theme, this coming 2 October will be World Quaker Day, a time to make an extra effort to connect with our global Quaker family. We're encouraging every meeting that wants to, to send or receive a visitor to another Quaker Meeting or Friends Church. There will be online and hybrid Quaker worship in every section of the Friends World Committee – Africa, the Americas, Asia West Pacific, and Europe-Middle East, open to all. If you would like to visit another Meeting in person, we can help make introductions as well.

I think of our community like a group of trees weathering multiple storms. And how do trees survive storms? They connect, they reach out, and uphold one-another with their roots. In our Quaker community, those connections are built through love, joy, community and friendship, all of which are cultivated through FWCC.

Do send us your epistle when it is ready, which we will share with others, and please know that Friends around the world are holding you in the Light.

In peace and Friendship,  
Tim Gee, General Secretary, Friends World Committee for Consultation

## **YM22.23: AYM & QSA Relationship Working Group**

The Presiding Clerk opened this item by outlining its background and some of the history leading to the current structure of Quaker Service Australia, and the relationship between QSA and AYM.

Two questions, considered one at a time, were posed to Friends attending this session:

- Where are the opportunities for discussion and relationship-building between AYM and QSA?
- What are the mechanisms for discussion and relationship building between AYM and QSA?

A summary of Friends' responses to these questions during the Formal Session will be placed on the YM22 website at <https://www.quakersaustralia.info/yearly-meeting-2022/ym22-business/formal-sessions/qa-aym-working-group-matters>

Matters arising from this and related to this agenda item, will be included in the agenda for a Formal Session later during YM22.

The Formal Session closed with a period of silent worship.