

Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Intermountain Yearly Meeting of Friends
Report to Representatives Committee, 10/3/2018
Jamie Newton, Clerk, Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Faith, Fear, and Our Future: How do Friends' organizations address the theme of the 2019 annual gathering?

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee requests support from the Representatives Committee and the Program Working Group to raise awareness among IMYM Friends of work by major Friends' organizations to address the theme of the 2019 annual gathering: *Faith, Fear, and Our Future*. We ask for 45 minutes at a plenary session toward the end of the annual gathering when IMYM Friends who are active with these organizations – AFSC, FCNL, FGC, FPT, FWCC, QEW – may bring their reflections and concise reports to IMYM, with a format that will be planned and moderated by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. In preparation, our Committee will invite Friends who work with these organizations to join in consultation with us through e-meetings (Zoom or conference calls), and at the Committee's in-person meeting early in the annual gathering schedule, with a special focus on *climate change* and *eco-justice*, topics that we see as directly related to the 2019 theme, with rising engagement among IMYM Friends.

Communication and networking

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has instituted Google Groups forums on the IMYM website, imym.org, as resources for communication on shared concerns and projects. The first three are:

- Friends for Right Relationship with Native Peoples (first, learn more about Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee on Boulder MM's website)
- IMYM P&SC Border Concerns
- IMYM P&SC Climate Concerns

Links to the three forums are found by visiting: <http://imym.org/areas-of-concern-googlegroups/>. We ask Representatives Committee members to bring these resources to the attentions of their monthly meetings and worship groups.

As always: *The Committee asks Representatives Committee members to actively assist us by identifying Friends in their monthly meetings and worship groups who are willing to serve as contacts, with a liaison role between their meeting and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.*

The November 16-18, 2018 Border Convergence (*Encuentro*) in Nogales

The Committee encourages Friends to participate in the November 16-18, 2018 Border Convergence (*Encuentro*) in Nogales (Arizona and Mexico), sponsored by the School of Americas Watch. Friends who attended the first two *Encuentros*, in 2016 and 2017, found them powerful experiences of witness and learning. For full information, visit: <http://www.soaw.org/border/home/>.

Communities of concern among Friends

We ask Representatives to help the Committee identify communities of concern that are emerging among IMYM Friends, so that we may invite involved Friends to participate in consultations hosted by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to advance our work in these areas, and if appropriate to join in the Committee's work as co-opted members. A few current examples of communities of concern are:

- Border concerns and immigration justice.
- Climate change.
- Right relationship with indigenous peoples.