

Dear Friends everywhere!

We gathered together online and in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. There we were greeted by a sea of red tulips, the fragrance of blooming lilacs, and bird song. Spring has come bringing with it new life. Yet in the world around us there is great unrest – politically, and because of war and climate change.

The theme of our Yearly Meeting was "community". Our days together brought with them a deeper sense of connection and belonging. The participation of our guests from abroad, including representatives from EMES, QCEA and QUNO, heightened this joyful feeling. How important our common quest is: the outward one into the world, the inward one into ourselves, and into our Society.

We spoke of using our money and resources to promote sustainability - even here within ourselves, within our Society and in the world. Time itself is a resource we want to use in the best way possible. We shared thoughts as to how we best might make use of it during our meetings for business, so that they are not just devoted to formalities. We want to give priority to whatever encourages simplicity and community. That can be a way of meeting the future with hope.

We heard personal testimonies from Quakers who support conscientious objectors from Ukraine and Russia. And we were reminded of our Quaker Peace Testimony, from the 17th century up to its arrival in Sweden in the 20th century. In inspiring base group discussions we came upon many useful ideas as to how we might bring this heritage to life. We understand that we are a part of a great peace movement, And we feel that working in a culture of peace in the world is not only a prerequisite for our own efforts, but the solid ground upon which we stand.

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Gathered together at annual Meeting May 14 – 17, 2026