

## New York Yearly Meeting

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Religious Society of Friends

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September 18, 2003

Dear Friends in New York Yearly Meeting:

We called one another to shared worship and action for peace more than a year ago. Over the months, we have reached out to one another, facing horrible events and deep and unfamiliar questions. This summer we were directly challenged to seek a vision of action for peace that Quakers might undertake corporately, through organizations like Friends United Meeting.

We are Quakers. In emergent times, we listen deeply, and we listen together. We call one another to this practice now.

Six peace queries come with this letter. Monthly meetings and individuals are asked to consider them, as well as the Advices and Queries in our *Faith and Practice*, recognizing the time needed, as we prepare for retreat gatherings to worship on the question, "Where is our peace testimony leading New York Yearly Meeting Friends now?"

Each monthly meeting is asked to send at least two Friends to a retreat gathering; the gatherings are open to all who wish to attend. Food and overnight hospitality will be provided. Participants are asked to pay \$40 each. Expenses beyond participant fees will be drawn from the Worship and Action/Peace Initiatives Fund of New York Yearly Meeting. Retreat gatherings are planned for Powell House, Friday evening, October 31, through Sunday midday, November 2; for the Rotary Sunshine Camp near Rochester, NY, Friday evening, October 31, through Saturday afternoon, November 1; and possibly in New Jersey (contact person Jeffrey Aaron, 732 247-9430 [jephreyaaron@aol.com](mailto:jephreyaaron@aol.com)). Registration information will be distributed by September 26. It will also be posted on the NYYM Web site, [www.nyym.org](http://www.nyym.org).

The retreat gatherings are being planned out of a sense that they are part of a movement of the Yearly Meeting, that they are needed. At this time we are drawn to seek deeply, at home and in wider gatherings. We trust that waiting on God, we will learn to take our next steps in peace.

Peaceable greetings,

Linda Chidsey, Vicki Cooley, Fred Dettmer  
Worship and Action working group

Bowen Alpern, Spee Braun, Vicki Cooley, Naomi Greenberg, Paddy Lane  
Worship and Action retreat planning group

This letter is being sent to clerks and conveners of monthly and quarterly or regional meetings, worship groups, prison meetings, monthly meeting ministry and counsel committees and peace and social action committees, and Yearly Meeting ministry and counsel and peace committees.