

A Rising Earthcare Leading

reported by Janet Soderberg

We are reporting on the upwelling of a leading for Earthcare that has spontaneously risen during a series of connected, spirit-inspired events.

- At this year's first business meeting after the State of Society report was given, a Friend rose and asked, "Was there no mention of the climate crisis in any of the monthly meeting State of Society reports?" Could there be a query that would encourage monthly meetings to respond to the Earth's peril?
- At Wednesday morning's business meeting, one of the Junior Yearly Meeting teens reported on stewardship. She spoke passionately about the Earth, informing us that it gave the group energy and joy. She said that it was a key concern this year to the extent that they changed their acronym for the Testimonies, SPICE (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, and Equality), to SPICES, adding an *S* to stand for Stewardship.
- That same day, in Hugh Barbour's study group, The Spirit and the Cosmos, the topic of our Testimonies in regard to the urgent need to care for the Earth was raised again. The discussion moved toward the Earth's plight and the emergence of a new spiritual relationship with our planet that continued for the remainder of the session. One Friend made the point that we are in peril, and we felt the bubbling up of the Spirit directing us toward our responsibility to care for the Earth. The discussion was followed with prayer and song, and ended in gathered silence. The enthusiasm continued during dinner at two tables devoted to Earthcare Witness in the cafeteria.
- At that evening's interest group Finding Our Role in Earthcare, many others joined us. For more than two hours we shared our love of the Earth, as well as our deep concerns around the query What is the Earth asking of us now? The discussion here was again followed by worship and song. The next day at lunch, these and newly inspired Friends were drawn together in the cause of furthering this leading.

Today, we ask that the Meeting hold us in the Light. We have found ourselves being led by the Spirit throughout these days. We are prayerfully aware of our solemn responsibility to answer God's call to respond now to the cry of this beautiful planet—this most precious gift, the Earth.