

**RESPONSES FROM NYYM, MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
**To**  
**Earthcare Working Group Call to NYYM Monthly Meetings**

**Saranac Lake Monthly Meeting**

Please find below the response of the Saranac Lake Monthly Meeting to the New York Yearly Meeting Earthcare Working Group as requested in your "Call To The Quaker Meetings of NYYM."

At its Meeting for Business held on Sunday May 18, 2014 the Saranac Lake Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends approved the following minute:

The Assistant Clerk read a message from the Yearly Meeting's Earthcare Working Group asking for action with regard to climate change. The Meeting wishes to convey the following thoughts to the Working Group:

1. Friends are urged to read the recently published *Summary for Policymakers* from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to share that information (Google "climate change report").
2. Friends schools should be urged to teach around climate change issues.
3. The Working Group could make suggestions for specific tasks we could undertake as individuals and Meetings.
4. We would appreciate suggestions from the Working Group as to uniquely Quaker viewpoints/ideas/techniques which would be valuable as we work on this issue.
5. The Meeting urges the Working Group to continue efforts to make this a priority for the Priorities Working Group at Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions this July.

This concludes the minute.

You all probably have it memorized, but if not, here is the formal citation for the IPCC

**Summary:**

IPCC, 2007: Summary for Policymakers. In *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller, (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA

Thank you for your work on this vital issue.

Mary A. Brown, Assistant Clerk, Saranac Lake Friends Meeting, NY.

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**Scarsdale Monthly Meeting**

Dear Pamela and Patricia,

Scarsdale's Peace and Social Concerns committee will put your call on our agenda for this Sunday. Your timing worked out well for us.

Mary [Eagleson]

## **New Paltz Monthly Meeting**

The following was placed in our monthly newsletter. It was based on what I understood from your emails:

### **EARTHCARE, AS A PRIORITY**

On June 8, after worship, a discussion of our role as Friends in moving our species towards a positive relationship with creation is planned. The Earthcare Working Group of the New York Yearly Meeting has asked all the meetings to consider what we believe, as individuals and as communities, are the complex factors affecting the earth's ecology and how we Friends could direct our activities. We are asked to meet and draft a statement to send to them. They are planning it as a presentation at this year's Silver Bay Summer Sessions. Their hope is to "infuse" all of our priorities with a concern for the crisis that our planet is experiencing, particularly noting climate change.

Paraphrasing, slightly, from an e-mail received: "Monthly Meetings are currently contemplating: 1) How important is the Earth; specifically rapidly accelerating climate change and extreme weather as a concern? 2) How, and to what degree do Friends want to engage with these issues personally and as Meetings? 3) How does, or ideally, how might the pervasive impact of climate change constructively shape the NYYM priorities-'framework'?"

At our last worship with a concern for business, the community decided to try to meet their request, hence the meeting on June 8. We hope that enough of us will attend and represent a creative and broad range of thought on our role. If you cannot attend that day, please consider writing a simple statement of your concern and ideas and send it to me, Mary Ann, who is acting as convener for the meeting. Do not let the questions quoted above limit your thinking about the role of Friends. Consider the relationship of our environment to our values of simplicity, integrity, equality, peace, community. What would be the most effective focus of action as individual and a community...what can we actually achieve? Etc.

The NYYM Earthcare group describes itself as a "network of Quaker Friends throughout NY taking spirit-led action grounded in Quaker testimony, to preserve, protect and live lightly on the Earth."

Mary Ann Mays

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## **15 Street Meeting**

Pamela and Patricia,

Thank you for this initiative! Serendipitously, perhaps providentially, yesterday Fifteenth Street Meeting discerned the need to call a called meeting on Sunday, 6/29, to consider the Priorities Working Group's Report to Spring Sessions and Statement of Leadings and Priorities. Having now been given this notice that the Earthcare Working Group is calling on the yearly meeting to make Earthcare one of its named priorities, I don't see how we could fail to include consideration

of Earthcare Priorities in our laboring over our response to the PWG when we meet on the 29th of June.

Blessings,  
John [Edminster]