

An Open Invitation from the NYYM Sessions Committee

Dear friends:

Next year will be an auspicious year for us — 2015 will be the 320th anniversary of the creation of the New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. 2015 is also the 60th anniversary of our becoming a united yearly meeting, approved at Summer Sessions 1955. And finally, 2015 will be the first calendar year during which we will consider and worship on our shared Leadings and Priorities, approved at the 2014 NYYM Summer Sessions. (Find the full text of the Leadings and Priorities online at nyym.org)

Given these three historic events, NYYM's Session Committee has chosen to work them together into a theme for the 2015 Summer Sessions, being held July 19-25, at Silver Bay Association. Along with our two anniversaries, the first two envision statements from our Leadings and Priorities are; "We Envision A Yearly Meeting Deeply Grounded In The Practice Of Our Faith" and "We Envision A Yearly Meeting Made Up Of Strong, Vital Monthly Meetings." And while we are all encouraged to consider the six envision statements as one piece, our theme will be;

320 Years, One Faith.

60 Years, One Meeting.

Today, One Vision.

We invite all f/Friends to consider this theme as a starting point for every level of their Quaker work and worship through-out the entire year. For instance, the NYYM Communications Committee is already dedicating the January issue of Spark to these first two envision statements. The articles will surely provide "food for thought" and prayer and action. Perhaps your Meeting could host discussion groups to consider the envision statements and the articles in Spark. Perhaps your committee could consider its work with the envision statements in mind – how does our work further the practice of our faith and strengthen our Meetings? Certainly, First Day Schools and Youth Groups need a strong foundation in understanding Quakerism and a strong Meeting to support them as they discover their own faithful gifts.

We hope you will join us in celebrating New York Yearly Meeting, which is, after all, nothing without our Faith and our Meetings. We are 320 years strong because of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

NYYM Sessions Committee