

## **Report from Faith & Practice Committee**

### **Quarterly Meeting, October 28, 2023**

As a committee, we have been listening and seeking language that can capture who we are. We have listened through surveys, interviews, on the session floor, through special workshops and through our sandwich board signs which are here at Quarterly once again for your participation.

This time, the signs have language that came from Eugene Friends Church—what they call their core values. These also available online in the form of slides for Zoom attenders of Quarterly.

As a committee we are bound by previous decisions of the Yearly Meeting to capture Christ-centered, Quaker, and LGBTQ inclusion at the center as we develop our Faith and Practice. We have talked about poetic simplicity, warmth, and directness in language.

We know that the Faith and Practice is critical to this trust-building stage of the Meeting's life— that we be who we say we are, and do as we say we will do. We are working in cooperation with the Structures Committee as they accept Meeting feedback, and research needs of

SCYMF, and we commit our service to working with them on the development of language that may support that process.

Titled “Our Quaker Beliefs,” the following identity and mission statements are the fruits of a working group from Eugene Friends Church from about 2005, and are published together as a set on their website.

<https://www.eugenefriendschurch.org/visitor-resources>

When we found this statement, it spoke to our condition. We felt that it spoke the heart of what it means to be Christ-centered and Quaker with truth, authenticity and beauty. Tom Stave, Judy Maurer, Pam Nash and others contributed to this work.

We now bring them to you for threshing, as a conversation starting point.

This is who Eugene Friends Church is. A segment of Sierra Cascades has already seasoned and adopted this. We invite worshipful listening to Eugene’s statements.

Our ask of you is to help us discern. Speaking from your own condition:

What resonates? What tugs at your heart?

What words open up for you? What words hinder you?  
Take a moment and leave a comment.

As we reviewed our report, we wanted to add another value that we'll season along with the input we get from you:

- **We are building a trustworthy church.** If you feel drawn to our community, you are very welcome among us, whatever your faith language, theology, or previous experiences.

Thank you from Faith and Practice:  
Jade, Amy, Leslea, Jed, Johan, Derek.

- **Jesus Christ is present.**
- **God is the source of life, and all human life is sacred.**
- **The Holy Spirit transforms and empowers us.**
- **Scripture calls us to account and helps us know God's will.**
- **We are called to be and to make followers of Christ.**
- **We are called to live out Christ's love.**
- **We are called to be agents of God's peace and love to everyone.**