

## Statement on the 9/11 Attacks

After the 9/11 attacks, our Meeting had a worship sharing session around the query: "What can we (as individuals and as a Meeting) say in this current situation that will provide us with a foundation for action?" Out of that session a statement was written by three Friends, and adopted by the Meeting as a minute of our search for a basis for moving forward in the face of developments on September 11 and subsequently, and to use as a foundation for action in our continuing search for peace in a troubled world.

What can we (as individuals and as a Meeting) say in this current situation that will provide us with a foundation for action?

In our response to this query we seek neither a prescription for nor a call to action; but we want to provide the foundation our faith offers for action.

This is a time of trial, leaving many of us feeling lost, overwhelmed, anxious, and grieving in the aftermath of September 11. The question arises: what is the response to terrorism that we are called to make?

The heart of our Quaker faith and experience is that there is an infinite Source of unrelenting love in the universe. Each of us has the capacity to access this directly. Quakers refer to this as "that of God in everyone".

In Meeting for Worship we join together in the expectancy of encountering the Presence. In Meeting we covenant together to listen earnestly to Spirit and one another. Meeting is a place where we can be heard and challenged.

A natural consequence of our faith is the Peace Testimony. This testimony stems from our belief in "that of God in everyone" and points to a way of life; it is not a set of rules or admonitions. "The Peace Testimony is about deeds, not creeds; not a form of words, but a way of living. It is the cumulative lived witness of generations of Quakers." (London Yearly Meeting Book of Christian Discipline 24.11)

Terrorism on this scale, on our soil, is something new for us. Many of us question our government's current response to terrorism. We need to seek new ways to apply our commitment to nonviolence; we rely on continuing revelation.

Meeting provides a space for the deepening and seasoning of leadings. We help one another to maintain balance, through listening, gently questioning, sharing, praying, discerning, affirming. We offer support to one another as we seek our way to corporate and individual actions.

We hope that out of these processes a corporate witness will emerge.

There is work to be done; there is room for all manner of leadings.

In all these matters, we encourage each of you to "turn thy mind to the Light" for direction; and bring your emerging truth to Meeting, to deepen us all.

*minute approved 11th month 2001*