

Climate Minute Approved by Connecticut Valley Quarter (First Day, 2014 05 04)

Quaker testimony urges Friends to be good stewards “so that future generations may inherit an earth on which they can live in hope and dignity” (NEYM *Faith and Practice*, 1985, p. 189). It is time to urgently affirm the overwhelming scientific consensus that greenhouse gases released by human activity are causing climate change, that these changes threaten life in our planet as we know it, and that we have a responsibility to address the very real threats that will impact both rich and poor. Those on earth who have contributed least to this crisis are likely to suffer most from it. While systematic change is necessary, we cannot wait for governing bodies to do what is needed: change must begin with individuals and groups of people acting together. As Friends living in a high-carbon society we have a special responsibility and opportunity to live up to our testimony of stewardship.

We believe that although the problems we face are large, complex, and overwhelming, following our faith can lead us to unity and hope.

Friends are encouraged to move from this affirmation to specific action as led.

CVQM Climate Minute Queries (Approved 2-1-2015)

Stewardship

Am I committed to passing on a habitable planet to future generations and is this evident to others in how I live and how I witness? Do I live in possibility knowing that with the Spirit “way may open”?

Do I acknowledge the scientific facts of global warming and that it is impacting everyone on the planet—rich and poor? Do I witness to myself and others our responsibility to act in ways that encourage adaptation to current realities and that will help mitigate the severity of global warming. How? Why? When?

Do I take whatever small steps are within my present capacity, trusting that if I follow the truth I have more will be given me?

1. Have I made changes in my lifestyle that are reducing greenhouse gases and what might be my next steps?
2. Am I helping my meeting reduce its carbon footprint?
3. Am I uniting with others who share my concern for stewardship and do I bear public witness to the Spirit? How? Why? When?
4. Have I divested from fossil fuel companies? Do I seek to influence any investment/pension funds I have to divest from fossil fuel holdings?
5. Am I open to a Voluntary Carbon Tax Witness or other actions to move public opinion and governments toward better stewardship of all resources?

Request for quarterly and monthly meeting action on climate change

Connecticut Valley Quarterly Meeting urges every quarterly and monthly meeting to take specific actions as led to address global warming, and to create their own minute on stewardship and climate change. We urge every monthly meeting and quarterly meeting to address this critical issue with the intention of bringing it to NEYM Sessions in 2015.