

## **Excerpts from the Faith and Practice (draft) of Intermountain Yearly Meeting, 2006.**

### **Mutual Care**

#### Advices

p. 74-draft of 2006

4. Different ways of understanding the Divine are present in Intermountain Yearly Meeting. It is important that these differences not be ignored for the sake of superficial agreement. When they recognized and understood, a deeper and more vital unity can be reached. From the wide diversity among us we can broaden our awareness of the spirit flowing through and among us. We are reminded to refrain from applying our prejudices to the life journeys of others. Our community is maintained through faith and fellowship with each other as we wait in the Light for the unity that draws us together.

#### Queries

p. 74-draft of 2006

4. How well do we respect that of God in every person, even though the Spirit may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or be difficult to discern? In what ways do we welcome diversity of culture, language and expressions of faith in our monthly meeting, yearly meeting, and the world community of Friends? Do we seek to gain from the range of rich heritages and spiritual insights that diversity presents?

### **Family**

#### Queries

p. 75 - draft of 2006

3. Is there a climate of trust in our meeting that invites all members and attenders to be open about individual and family lifestyles, including their satisfactions and problems? Does there exist in our meeting a sense of spiritual kinship for those who participate in it?

### **Simplicity**

#### Advices

p. 81 - draft of 2006

5. We are advised to be aware of and to take a stand against the great waste of human and economic resources resulting from all forms of addiction, knowing that they lead to self-absorption and to forgetfulness that each person's humanity is shared by all persons. It is the experience of Friends that engaging in addictive behaviors such as gambling or the abuse of drugs and intoxicants can lead to feelings of emptiness and an inability to listen for the voice of God. In addition to self-destructive behavior such as domestic violence and child abuse. Friends are reminded that being a Quaker is no absolute defense against having these problems. We must be ready as a community to intervene when necessary. When our lives are filled with the Spirit, there is no need to indulge in excessive and addictive use of tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs, or to engage in gambling or other addictive behaviors. Let us remember to live and work in the spirit of a true follower of the Light.