

**The Montana Gathering of Friends,
a Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minute on Fear and Healing**

As Quakers, we believe that there is that of God in everyone. We find ourselves in a time of increasing fear for many who feel threatened and marginalized because of their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status or political beliefs. We witness this same fear in communities across our country and around the world. We cannot ignore this conflict without violating our belief in the just, equitable and democratic principles of our country and our faith.

We acknowledge that labeling people as the “other” emphasizes differences between people and violates the testimony of equality we have shared around the world for the past 365 years. We therefore speak truth to power. When anyone’s safety and security are violated with labels, hate and violence, we must reach out in love, offer protection and build connections between communities. We are committed to the hard work of building bridges and without judgement, opening our hearts to one another to address the fear of those delivering anger rather than love.

We step forward to protect all people who feel endangered by their differences. We seek to magnify our presence by working in alliance with individuals and organizations also offering loving protection. We are committed to healing, love and growth of understanding that there is that of God in everyone.

Action Steps:

1. *Meet again over Easter Weekend 2017 to continue to develop this leading and work to which Montana Friends are called.*
2. *As soon as possible share this Minute and an invitation to the called Easter Weekend Gathering with our entire mailing list .*
3. *Develop and address steps to address situations where “anyone’s safety and security are violated with labels, hate and violence.”*
4. *Share this Minute widely with other faith groups and allied social justice groups in Montana.*
5. *Send this Minute to local Montana papers.*

Adopted on February 26, 2017