

Sierra Cascade Yearly Meeting of Friends is thriving and good Quaker order is serving them well. The theme this year was “Led by Love”.

Paraphrasing the message from Ruba Byrd, the opening speaker who referred to John 15: 1-8 and later 15: 9-17, talking about the last conversation Jesus had with his disciples. This was a time of tumult and their lives were being turned upside down and inside out. The disciples were told not to give up, but carry on and stay connected. “I am the vine and God is the gardener. You are not my servants: you are my friends. Abide in me as I abide in you. Love each other as I have loved you.”

Ruba pointed out that in trying to make things better we may fail, but by failing well, messing things up, we can learn from our mistakes and learn from listening to the marginalized. Sometimes we walk a path of failure. That failure can be the cracks to let the Light Shine in.

This opening sermon was poignant for what is happening in our world of being physically separated from each other due to the virus, and confronting the painful separation that comes from racism.

SCYMF worked to pass a minute on racism.

A basic and necessary practice of SCYMF is recognizing and recording Friends called into ministry. Both pastoral and public ministry (ministry among us) is recorded. This year there were three recordings: one pastoral and two public.

The pain of their schism is present but, staying connected and being “Led by Love” is moving our extraordinary Friends in SCYMF forward. It was a gift to be among them.

There were at least six Friends from NPYM who attended SCYMF.

Thy Friend,

Johanna MacNee

NPYM Representative to SCYMF