

The ad hoc Right Relationship With Native People's Working Group gathered via Zoom on the 9th day of first month, 2021.

Jonah agreed to serve as clerk for this committee

We began by checking in, and with a period of time to share the concerns and leadings that have been with us as we consider Right Relationship.

In these sharings, some common threads appeared - that we should not attempt to lead an action or forge a new path, but listen to those already doing the work of living into Right Relationship. That living requires action and not just words, whether we are living our own faith, living in relationship with others, or trying to understand the life and spirit of the Native peoples who have stewarded this land. That when we brought the land acknowledgement, we may have been trying to begin with the end of a process, but also that it is important to act, and to begin. We also recognize that we five on the committee have different experiences and understanding of Quaker history with Native peoples, and that this is even more true of the Meeting as a whole.

We determined to take a few actions now, and determined a few more to discuss when next we meet.

- The Meeting is looking at starting at least one book group. We would like to facilitate a discussion of the book "Braiding Sweetgrass".
- Sara has already contributed some resources from the Right Relationship NEYM group to the newsletter. Our committee will be submitting a few pieces to each newsletter that comes out. Our goal will be to have at least a few items items that will give people something to reflect on, something to do, and an event to attend, so that everyone in the Meeting will be able to engage in a way that works best for them
 - We will also look into whether there's an appropriate way to archive these on the website.
- We will research ongoing projects to see if there are existing ways for the Meeting to assist
 - Existing work at the Hannah Dustin monument (Heidi to research)
 - AFSC New England program in ME (Mark)
 - Existing programs throughout NEYM
- We encourage members of the Meeting to provide any additional feedback on the land acknowledgement, and any questions, events, or useful readings they encounter

We recognize that in this meeting, we did not spend time either on the land acknowledgement statement, or on considering the apology to native people that the yearly meeting asked each monthly meeting to consider. We also recognize that Quaker process, and care for specific wordings, can delay important actions for years, or longer (and that our Meeting has recent experience with this). We do intend to consider how best to bring these two important items to the Meeting, but when we considered where the spirit was leading us, we found ourselves led to consider actions, and how to live into a right relationship.