

## **2023 Pacific Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends Annual Session Epistle**

Year after year we are reminded of how sacred this community truly is. On July 21st, 25 young adult Friends gathered in fellowship for Pacific Yearly Meeting's Annual Session 2023. Many joys were shared this week, along with inevitable sorrow and an overarching sense of gratitude and love.

Annual Session is a deeply meaningful, spiritually rich, and nurturing home, for young adults, from all walks of life. Many of us were raised Quaker in Pacific Yearly Meeting, however, there will always be Friends that find Quakerism later in life. Some young Friends feel fulfillment and a sense of belonging in their monthly meetings while others have not found the connection they desire. As the world is rapidly changing, the needs of our community are too. It is our goal as YAFs to make our community as accepting and accommodating as possible. The exact steps to make this happen are not always very clear. One way forward is down a path that allows Friends to become members of the Yearly Meeting. This level of belonging holds great value to many, and fully supports the evolution of young Friends' involvement in Pacific Yearly Meeting. As Friends move from place to place in young adulthood, connection to a singular meeting can easily be lost. Within Pacific Yearly Meeting, young Friends experience sustained connections with the Quaker community at large. This is just one way we can support the future of the yearly meeting and the next generation of Quakers.

We will return home with fond memories of welcoming baby Robin, swimming in the pond, connecting with Junior Yearly Meeting and the Children's Program, experiencing the abundant beauty of Mount Madonna, and spending yet another wonderful week with our beloved community.