

**Clerk's welcome SAYMA Session I,
June 14, 2025**

Welcome Friends.

It seems appropriate that we are gathered in this community today with the backdrop of a questionable celebration of the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the army by the 2nd continental congress in 1775. What better way for Friends, if we aren't in the streets protesting, to carry on with our worship and business as usual building community and focusing on repairing and transforming conflict where the world seems broken.

In reading the reports submitted by 6 of our wider Quaker organizations I am moved by the work of Friends in the world - standing in opposition to wars and genocide across the globe, grappling with immigration violence, structural racism and ongoing and new oppression within our own country. Friends are finding ways to build, strengthen, and support communities working for justice and peace including strengthening Quaker communities in a time of broad challenges to Spiritual life and in a world that seems broken.

Today we will hear from the finance committee and the nominating committee. We will be reminded by the treasure to approach our discernment with the spirit of generosity and abundance. What does this look like for you? For us? in a world where there should be plenty for everyone, but there isn't enough because of the greed of a few. In a country of plenty where migrants are being captured, jailed, and deported because of the false belief that there isn't enough to go around, where reparations for Indigenous and African American citizens is off the table because we refuse to accept responsibility for our past, what does a spirit of generosity and abundance look like in SAYMA?

I invite you to join me in listening for that of God/Spirit/Divine/Love in what rises today. Let us live into a Spirit of abundance and generosity for each other.

Jennifer Dickie
SAYMA Presiding Clerk