

**152nd Annual Sessions of Western Yearly Meeting
held 31st day of Seventh Month to 3rd day of Eighth Month, 2009
Plainfield, Indiana**

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you..." (Acts 1:8) was the guiding theme of our annual sessions. Linda Cabe, from Indiana Yearly Meeting, led us in three Bible studies, focused on "Power to Worship," "Power to Live Right," and "Power to Serve." Meetings for worship with a concern for business were convened in both morning and afternoon sessions. A Memorial Service allowed us to recall the lives and testimonies of Friends who have passed in the last year. Multi-generational worship by our Youth Cabinet, with choruses, testimonial stories, and an original play based on Matthew 5:14-16 were encouraging signs of discipleship and leadership among those who are becoming our spirit-filled hope for the future.

There was a protracted discussion of the variety of theological views among us, focused on the rescinding of the recording of one of our ministers. Because there was no unity, the recommendation was not approved.

Program boards presented workshops on issues in their areas of work. A United Society of Friends Women's tea and Quaker Men's banquet were held. We were glad to welcome Ben and Jody Richmond, Friends United Meeting workers returned from Kenya, who broadened our knowledge of the work at Friends Theological College.

Carole Dale Spencer, teacher of Church History and Spiritual Formation at George Fox Evangelical Seminary, spoke on the "Essence of Holiness" during Sunday morning worship, showing from Scriptures that Jesus is the incarnate holiness of God, and that through Him we have access to the power to comprehend the fullness of God.

A musical worship of hymns and praises provided enjoyment and inspiration.

Carole Dale Spencer delivered the Quaker Lecture "Holiness: The Soul of Quakerism," expanding on her morning presentation by providing a history of the holiness movement among Friends and restoring insights about the interaction between God and persons through direct experiences and participation in God's promise of perfection.

Bill Glendineng, pastor of Plainfield Friends Meeting, led us in a powerful Sunday evening "waiting worship." Several who were present were urged by the Spirit to speak about moving ever toward the Light of Jesus, as we have been blessed, broken and offered in communion with Christ, to live and serve in a fragmented world.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Tetrick
Marilyn Bell