

Friends begin Traveling Ministry about the Climate Crisis

Two Yearly Meeting Friends are following a long-time Quaker tradition by undertaking a traveling ministry. Steve Olshevski (Radnor Meeting) and Ed Dreby (Providence Meeting) are seeking opportunities to visit other monthly meetings to share their concern over the climate crisis and its systemic causes that drive increasing carbon emissions, indiscriminate consumption, and the concentration of wealth in a world of finite resources.

They followed good Quaker process by sharing their calling with their Monthly Meetings. Both received approval from a clearness committee and a Traveling Minute from their Meetings.

Their ministry began with a visit to Germantown Meeting on November 24 (see picture at left), where they were invited by the Adult Religious Education Committee to talk about the social and economic justice issues of climate change. The session was well attended and included discussion of solutions like RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in which PA is preparing to participate, and public banking that is being advanced in NJ and Philly. They also discussed the moral imperative for Friends to deal with this crisis as a priority.



Pictured (L-R) are Steve Olshevski, Ed Dreby & Bill Cozzens (Clerk-GMM).

Steve and Ed are convinced that our historic testimonies for peace, justice, and stewardship call us to make climate disruption a clear and urgent concern for corporate witness. The man-made causes of climate change, if unabated, will impact every human on the planet. Those with the least ability to deal with the impacts will be the most affected, causing large scale human injustice.

The continued exploitation of the earth's resources is leading to mass extinctions. This is in opposition to the care of the earth and its resources to which our faith calls us. The conflicts caused by rising sea levels, threats to sources of food and water, and massive population migration endangers world peace.

When Steve and Ed visit Meetings, they will share information about the underlying causes of the climate crisis, and strategic opportunities that call for Friends to provide leadership. Topics for discussion include why we live in a world driven by constant growth, and changes needed in the financial system to address the climate crisis and create just and sustainable economic system.

If your Meeting is interested in inviting Ed or Steve to talk with your members and attenders, please contact them by email at Steve.Olshevski@gmail.com.