

## **GUIDED BY SPIRIT: LIVING OUR FAITH IN A CHALLENGING WORLD**

From early days Friends have been admonished to let our lives speak. Remaining grounded in Spirit is more challenging than ever. Today's world is rife with conflict, Friends face a host of social ills including racism, materialism, and militarism set against a backdrop of climate destruction and the breakdown of political institutions and core shared values. How do we remain "in the world but not of the world?" How do we bring the power of Spirit to make our lives speak in the midst of such urgency and long-standing injustice?

We wait in expectant silence, knowing that Spirit is accessible and will guide our lives if we listen attentively and follow faithfully. When we depend on Spirit's guidance, we can live in hope and be confident that our Beloved Community is possible.

As we gather in faith, let us examine and refresh ourselves in deep listening for Spirit. Let us seek Spirit's guidance to take our next right actions — as individuals and as a body — to let our lives speak in this world. Let Spirit lead and sustain us as we endeavor to heal our broken world, bringing it closer to the Beloved Community for all.