

The following statement was prepared by Philip Gulley and Dale Graves and approved by the Executive Committee of Western Yearly Meeting, December 4, 2010:

Western Yearly Meeting of Friends is comprised of Friend's churches and meetings in Indiana and Illinois. Because of our geographical and theological diversity, it has sometimes been difficult in our long history to affirm theological statements upon which we all agree. Despite this, our mutual love for, and commitment to, Jesus Christ and one another has enabled us to express and accomplish together the many common convictions we do share.

Occasionally, our differences become sharp and even painful, causing hurt in our Quaker community. Words are spoken or written that are erroneously interpreted to be "the Quaker position," though not all Friends would claim those words. This has become especially evident in the public ministry of Philip Gulley, a Quaker pastor, writer, and speaker. While we value our freedom to question, seek, and explore, we also believe no one person can speak for the many. To that end, we affirm the beliefs expressed in Western Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*, having found them to be consistent with historical Quakerism and our experience of the Divine.

We pray God's peace and wisdom to all as they sincerely endeavor to know, love, and serve Christ Jesus.