

## **2010 Young Adult Friends Gathering in Wichita**

### **Bearing Witness to the Word Among Us: Witness, Testimony, and Transformation**

#### **Expectations for Community**

As Friends we come from a tradition that has long emphasized that our entire lives are changed by our encounter with God. We now have different expectations as to what the out-ward signs of a changed life are, and this reality becomes evident when we are suddenly living together in close proximity with strangers from other branches of Friends. How can we create a safer space where young adult Friends can focus on worshipping the living God and learning from each other? How do we remove distractions to this experience? **Our goal is that this conference will be a welcoming place for all Friends.**

We'll need clear boundaries, self-discipline, and accountability to each other. At the 2008 Young Adult Friends Conference in Richmond, Indiana, Friends followed a brief list of guidelines which are the basis for what we expect of each other at this gathering. We want to be sure that Friends understand that these guidelines don't come from a place of legalism, but are meant to build a healthy community at the conference. The underlying goal of each guideline is shown below to clarify this.

Some young adult Friends may find these unusually restrictive, while others will wonder why we even have to spell them out. All of us will probably be taken a little out of our comfort zones during the conference, but that's also part of building an inclusive and respectful gathering.

All of these commitments are in harmony with Friends' traditional understanding of holy living and respect for others. Remember that there will be a Pastoral Care Team available for you to talk to about any concerns you have.

We do have to hold each other accountable. If you are unable to function within the specific guidelines in italics below, you will be asked to leave the conference at your own expense.

*See next page for expectations for community>*

**Expectations for Community:**

Our minds and hearts will be entirely open to God's work within us.

*We will abstain from alcohol and other intoxicants, wherever we are, for the duration of our time together.*

We will not let sexuality disrupt, distract or divide us.

*We will abstain from sexual activity, including within committed relationships.*

*We will dress modestly. This means not wearing tank tops, sleeveless or low cut dresses or tops, midriffs showing, skirts or shorts above mid thigh, bikinis, speedos, or bare chests.*

We will speak to each other in a way that glorifies God.

*We will use respectful language, avoiding profanity.*

We will show love and support in ways that are comfortable to those around us.

*We will avoid showing physical affection without asking. Every person has different levels of comfort about touch.*

We will be grateful and respectful of our hosts.

*We will abide by the guidelines of Friends University.*

*We will remember that our actions towards Friends University, University Friends Meeting, and the people of Wichita reflect on us as young people, as Friends, and as members of the Body of Christ.*