

Your name

Your Address, City, State ZIP

Date:

To: _____ Monthly Meeting
Meeting's Town, Meeting's State Meeting's ZIP

I'm writing to ask you to consider supporting an organization that has become a very important part of my spiritual journey, Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC). It's a national Quaker community that deeply honors, affirms, and upholds that of God in all people. My participation with the group has allowed me to join in our shared learning that radical inclusion and radical love bring further light to Quaker testimony and life. We learn from and educate each other about how Spirit is moving in the intersections between our spirituality, gender, and sexuality. We find these discussions enrich not only ourselves, but also our Meetings when we carry back a renewed commitment to justice and equality and an enriched spiritual life. I'll include below a paragraph from a recent communication from FLGBTQC that summarizes many of the themes around which we're learning from Spirit.

I'm concerned that others who need this community must continue to be able to travel to join its twice-yearly gatherings regardless of their economic means. To ensure that, and to continue to send our newsletter around the world, the organization has realized it needs to ask for collective financial support from Friends who understand the importance of such community. If our Meeting is able to help make that possible, I'd deeply appreciate it.

Any contribution Meeting feels led to make should be sent to the FLGBTQC treasurer, Stasa Morgan-Appel at this address:

FLGBTQC
c/o Su Penn
2206 Iroquois Rd.
Okemos, MI 28864

Thanks very much for considering whether this is something you're led to do.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Portland, Oregon
February, 2009

As FLGBTQC continues to listen in faithful expectation of continuous revelation, we have watched our leadings evolve into ministries such as these:

- In the same way that once our gatherings provided sanctuary and respite and places to mourn as our community was ravaged by AIDS-related deaths, so today we find ourselves making safe and nourishing **space for families** beleaguered by a vicious public discourse that officially denies their existence and legitimacy.
- In ways reminiscent of how early feminist consciousness-raising helped sustain identities and open new ways of seeing everyday life, so today **bisexual and transgender** Friends are sparking new dialogues about gender and sexual identity that challenge assumptions and suggest new possibilities for integrity and wholeness.
- In the same way that the Religious Society of Friends' understanding of marriage has been enriched by the decades-long, hard work of Meetings that have taken our relationships under their care without regard to gender or sexual orientation, so today we find that the richness born of this radical inclusion can shape **a unique Quaker voice to join the public discourse about marriage equality**, in the absence of which the vacuum would be filled with divisive and judgmental messages from faith communities whose experience is wholly different.
- As beloved Quaker role models once schooled older ones of us in Quaker history and in the discipline of rigorous attention to "right order" of Quaker process, so today yesterday's learners take their turn at hearing into speech new voices as they assume **leadership roles outside as well as inside our community**.

We continue to aspire to faithfulness to these callings.