



## 2016 FGC Gathering

July 3 to July 9, 2016

College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota



# Text of Message Shared by Associate Secretary for Development Traci Hjelt Sullivan Prior to Dr. Levy-Pound's Address

Delivered 7 July 2016

Good evening. My name is Traci Hjelt Sullivan, and I serve on the FGC staff as the Associate Secretary for Development.

I am a Friend because I have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in my life, and I believe that power is more accessible to me within the community and the discipline of Friends.

I work for FGC because I believe in the transformational potential of the Quaker path.

Yesterday, I thought I would be standing here telling you about all the ways FGC serves Friends throughout the year. However, last night Philando Castile was killed in his car outside Minneapolis after being stopped by police for a broken taillight. Tonight is not the night to tell you more about FGC.

The transformational potential of Quaker faith and practice is offered to us, but it is not guaranteed. Without faithful action, transformation is impossible. Today, as one Friend to another, I ask myself and I ask you to be faithful to the nudge for change and action that God has already sown in our hearts. Except in worship just now, it occurred to me that as a White Friend when I look around at other White Friends, I suspect it is not a "nudge". I suspect it is the insistent siren for change and that we have to take out our earplugs.

We must trust that as we humbly step forward to make changes that our world and our God demand of us-- that we must trust in unfolding Guidance, that it will continue to be available to us. Just as George Fox walked into the bog, seeing one step at a time, he did not need to see the end of the path to know that it was important to step forward.