

Adult First Day Program Notes – 14 November 2021

Tampa Friends continued reading *Walking in the World as a Friend* by Nadine Hoover. We finished Chapter 3, Experiences of the Living Spirit, by discussing conviction, which is, per Hoover, “When we are brought low into the clay feet of our humanness” and are shown our mistakes and failings. She goes on to say, however, that “The blessing of our woundedness allows us to see beyond our egos and experience the Spirit in a whole new way with love, grace, and healing.” Friends appreciated that our Quaker practice is supportive instead of scolding and provides a way for us to move forward instead of staying stuck in our failings. There was deep, heartfelt sharing by several Friends who recounted their personal experience of being convicted. For some, they became aware of being convicted over time (weeks or longer) while others experienced conviction immediately. Hoover ended this chapter noting the irony “that through failings, mistakes, and pain along with the glorious and all-is-well moments, the Spirit can heal us. [And] Then we see life as beautiful, joyful, and uplifting, and we become a cheerful, energetic, loving people.”

Please join us each First Day from 9 to 9:45 am, online or at the meeting house. On 21 November we will start Chapter 5, “Experiment with the Living Spirit.” There is an accompanying video at the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/resource/walking-in-the-world-as-a-friend>).