**Responses to 2019 FMC Climate Questionnaire**

Responses gathered for April 7 CQEW Forum

***It's all over***

“My strongest concern is that we are destroying the earth and that our children and grandchildren will live in a fiery hell that only distantly resembles the apparently stable civilization in which we now live; that the oceans will be barren of life, with corals and cetaceans being a thing of the past; that the abundance of food we now experience will be replaced by food scarcity; that people will experience the environment and seasons as a hostile rather than a benevolent source; that within formerly stable countries civil society will break down and territory will instead be ruled by local warlords; that fights will escalate over geo-engineering, leading to climate catastrophes beyond even those coming directly from GHG emissions.”

“I think ecological collapse will be accompanied by international financial collapse,, and those with wealth and power will do everything they can to hold onto it; this will mean harsh government control.   I think there will be widespread famine, illness, a huge and desperate migration, such as has already begun.  Violent weather will cause emergencies that can't be dealt with.  It's over.”

***Spiritual life***

“Yes, the climate crisis is a spiritual crisis.  I seek to cherish and practice the interrelatedness - interdependency -- of all that is.  To experience with my whole being this utterly beautiful and demanding reality. I feel a deepening need for community sharing of this at our Meeting.”

“Our species' role as integral and powerful agents within creation is of ultimate concern to me, and essential to my sense of being ... my spiritual consciousness resides in the sense that we are all part of interrelated, infinitely complex, infinitely numerous sets of material systems...all beginning and ending with Spirit.  This is AWESOME!”

***Responsibility***

“I agree with a growing number of climate scientists and climate activists that personal lifestyle choices should not be emphasized as important at this time..  That potential benefit from these personal choices is infinitesimal and so we should not encourage feelings of guilt or ask individuals to bear the burden of the social shift that is necessary.

”In the community of FMC, finding a way to collectively take actions that grow our interconnectedness within FMC and the wider community around a fossil-free future.

***Fears and Coping***

“I am trying to prepare for it the same way as I am preparing for my own death.”

“Numbness.           I know I will not survive.”

“Perhaps I am most physically afraid of becoming a refugee at my age and with my dependence on modern drugs and equipment.”

“I ignore it a lot of the time, which is how I deal with such an insane and dangerous thing.”

Compelling Resources on Climate Disruption

“It’s Happening”. A research science-based slide show illustrating the environmental crisis that the Earth is currently experiencing, that will grow in destructiveness, and which needs our urgent attention if we wish to lessen that devastation. By IPCC author Michael Oppenheimer

“Grieve, Play, Love” by Jem Bendell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQwhZSdHh-Q>

<https://www.lifeworth.com/deepadaptation.pdf> A thoroughly researched paper by Jem Bendell, a British university professor. Clear-eyed and grim in detailing the science causing ongoing, inevitable environmental degradation, and the measures needed to minimize it.

**Finding Hope in Hopelessness**

*--by*[*Margaret Wheatley*](http://www.dailygood.org/search.php?op=auth&name=Margaret%20Wheatley)*, syndicated from*[*lionsroar.com*](https://www.lionsroar.com/finding-hope-in-hopelessness/)*, Dec 26, 2018*

‘Quakerism of the Future; Mystical, Prophetic and Evangelical”         Pamphlet #194

*By John Yungblut, forward by Harvard Theological*