Carl Stieren Report re FGC Gathering REV

- - - - Report from Carl Stieren, host of Workshop 39, Using Theatre of the Oppressed for Quaker Purposes, Friends General Conference Gathering 2019, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa - - --

The Workshop I led from July 1 to 5 at Friends General Conference Gathering 2019, had eight participants ranging in age from 17 to 83. With the help of my two assistants, KT Glusac and Dillon Sebastian, two young women from Quaker Voluntary Service in St. Paul, Minnesota, we managed to collect, script and perform 7 plays of oppression - and the second performance of each one, in which someone else takes over the role of the oppressed and does their best to turn the outcome around to one of liberation from oppression. We had not only people of different ages, but also different races and sexual identities. We held the workshop in an atmosphere of confidentiality and mutual support. To teach the methods of Theatre of the Oppressed, we began with theatre games starting with physical exercises and culminating with silent role playing of oppressor and oppressed: professor-student, boss-worker, racist-PersonOfColour, woman-Sexual-Aggressor, and others. I am still awaiting the overall scores from the evaluations, but from the comments the last day, the participants were very pleased with my workshop.

-edited original report by removing personal details