

August 2017

*SAFE, WELCOMED, VALUED, RESPECTED*

*At Chichester Quaker Meeting all are welcome, respected, valued and safe to fully participate as their true selves, free from gender assumptions and stereotypes as we seek to discover and follow the inward light in which we walk.*

*In our sharing of personal stories, we have come to recognise the need to support both those who are transgender and non-binary and their friends and families who may be struggling to come to terms with their own personal responses and feelings.*

*We acknowledge too that we are all at different stages of our personal journeys in our understanding of gender identity. We do not want to be divided by the words we use but rather “feel where the words come from” .\**  
*We trust that together we can deepen our understanding so that Chichester Quaker Meeting truly becomes a place where all are welcomed, supported and nurtured.*

*We rejoice in our own diversity and in creating a place where we can listen to and connect with one another and, “helping one another up with a tender hand” \*\*, accompany one another with love.*

*\* Taken from John Woolman’s Journal for 1763*

*\*\* Isaac Penington, 1667 Quaker Faith and Practice 10.01.*

We approve this statement and we agree that it should be posted up in the Meeting House and also sent to AM for wider consideration.