

Lopez Island Friends Meeting in Washington State has approved a minute on Women's Reproductive Rights. We initially formed a working group nearly a year ago on the subject because of the request for discernment from FCNL from their policy committee. The working committee, of which I am a member, decided to host a worship sharing, with all invited, using a couple of the queries provided by FCNL to learn the "temperature" of our meeting on the subject. The result was very deep testimonies from those attending, all supporting the right to abortion and equal access.

The working group wrote this minute with the inspiration from the worship sharing and brought it to our Business Meeting. The minute was published in the Business Meeting minutes and also in our newsletter. We asked for feedback and commentary. We seasoned this for several months, although there was no dissent, and recently the minute was approved.

Lopez Island Friends Meeting Minute on Women's Reproductive Rights

Lopez Island Friends Meeting (LIFIM) recognizes that human life is sacred, and that Spirit can guide us individually and collectively. LIFM supports individual discernment in a spirit of love and truth in making reproductive healthcare decisions, as we do in other areas of conscientious moral choice. We respect the right every person has to determine their role in human reproduction and family planning and believe that no other rights of any government, group or individual supersedes this right. A pregnant woman has the singular right to choose an abortion or not, without restrictions. Governments must ensure that women have the legal right to make these decisions. We oppose the criminalization of people seeking, undergoing, or involved in abortion services. We support equitable access to abortion services. We support policies that reduce unplanned pregnancies by ensuring equitable access to contraception, sex education, family planning, fertility and adoption services, and support for all who decide to have and raise children. We seek a country with an equitable healthcare system that does not impose the greatest burdens on those least able to bear them.