

## **Memorial Minute for Freda Anne Ensign**

**August 16, 1939 – February 26, 2018**

Freda Anne Ensign came to Ann Arbor Friends Meeting in 2008 and became a member in 2009. In 2013 she moved to Redlands, California, with her husband, Rich, but maintained her connections with the Meeting until her death this year.

Freda's life in the Spirit began in her childhood with the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (RLDS). In her college years she was active with a RLDS-affiliated fellowship that supported her spiritual journey. In that period she deepened her love for music and music education. After her church splintered and a period of exploration, she turned to a Methodist Church for her spiritual nourishment as well as an opportunity to play the organ. Meanwhile she developed her work with young children and Orff instruments. For Freda, musical creativity with children was an important part of her spiritual life.

When Freda's husband, Rich, found his path leading to Quakerism, Freda gladly joined him. She found Quaker worship and social concerns to be fully in concert with her own experience. With Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Freda served on the Care and Visitation Committee. Friends warmly recall her many acts of kindness and her concern for those in need of encouragement. She had a fine selection of cards, and took pleasure in finding just the right card for the situation.

Freda brought an eagerness to share in the pleasures of life, large and small. One Friend recalls with great fondness the love that Freda had for shoes. Delicious food was also a priority: she provided a good number of birthday cakes at monthly potlucks. Freda enjoyed playing piano accompaniment for carol singing each December, laying out the Christmas story in song and joining in with her beautiful voice. She applied her Orff training for an improvisation workshop at Friends Lake. An unflappable teacher who worked with a wide range of talent and training, Freda led a life of teaching and service that testified to her sense of the Holy Spirit as a vital force.