Ministry and Worship Committee

Annual report 2017

July 10, 2017

Our committee has been focused mainly on making the 10:30 “large” meeting a more “gathered” or “centered” meeting. We want to deepen both the silence and the vocal ministry. We expect this to continue to be our primary focus over the next year.

One way to make our meeting more spiritual is to improve its social life. In that vein, we surveyed friends in January to discuss barriers to greater participation in the life of the meeting. The committee continues to follow through on our findings presented in our recent report on the spiritual state of the meeting.

Our committee has embraced several initiatives, most notably the Pastoral Care workshops. Pastoral care can be helpful for individuals and families in need but also the community as a whole. We are discussing ways to revive eldering, which, among other benefits, we see as a tool to nurture the vocal ministry in the 10:30 “large” meeting.

To further our goal to educate the meeting on Quaker practice, we have held well-attended monthly discussions for seekers wanting to explore “what is means to be a Quaker.”

During last year’s holiday season, we held a “meeting with a special concern for loss” and we will do so again this year.

We worked on a proposed harassment policy now being considered by the meeting. This area will continue to receive our special attention. One question before us is how to provide a space for victims of past harassment to come forward and share their stories.

We’ve had a busy year. Some of our plans have been put aside until we can find friends to help run them. For instance, we want to hold a series of discussions with individual FMW friends to discuss how they bring their Quaker values to their work life. This project needs a coordinator.

If you have an interest, please approach one of the committee members. Join our committee. See the world.