

## Ministry and Oversight

We met November 9, 2021

Present: Val Liveoak, Joni Mize, Gretchen Haynes, Jim Spickard, Julie Crum, Oliver Gerken. Regrets from Stephen Shearer

1. Worship:
  - a. Both the 8:30 and 10:00 Meetings for Worship are quiet and deep. The former has attracted 8-10 people; the latter has had 7-12 in-person and 16-19 online. Oliver noted the good feeling of fellowship in the overlap between the two times.
2. Proposal to shift temporary responsibility from Community Engagement, Religious Education, and Long-Range Planning to M & O:
  - a. There is concern of overburdening M&O.
  - b. Adding three people will be a positive step and will strengthen M & O.
3. Janet Southwood Memorial Meeting:
  - a. We will hold a Memorial Meeting on Saturday December 4 at 11:00 followed by a simple lunch. Jane will send invitations, including the zoom link, to family and friends at a distance; we will send to FMSA, Storytelling group, and the Interfaith Alliance. Other details will be finalized later.
  - b. Of the many pleasant memories Friends have of Janet, many center on her friendly welcome to all. Ministry and Oversight thus proposes the establishment of a Janet Southwood Hospitality Fund:
    - MINUTE 2021.11.xx: FMSA approves the establishment of a Janet Southwood Hospitality Fund, to be used for 2 purposes: providing refreshments on Sundays and at other FMSA events and offering basic foods to needy visitors. The Fund will be administered by the Community Engagement Committee or whatever successor committee or arrangement the Meeting establishes to cover that currently inactive committee's roles. FMSA invites Friends and others to donate to this fund as they are led.
4. Reestablishing the Children's Program:
  - a. Ministry and Oversight believes it is time to reestablish the Children's Program so that families can again attend Meetings for Worship and other Meeting events.
    - We propose a short, worshipful call for ideas at the November Business Meeting.
    - We propose a forum on Nov. 28 to generate and refine ideas and pursue a way forward. If needed, we can hold a second planning forum on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - MINUTE 2021.11.xx: FMSA approves Ministry and Oversight's pursuit of reestablishing the Children's Program and encourages Friends to help discern and carry out the means for such reestablishment.
5. Clerk of the Meeting's Concern about the October Blended Meeting for Business:
  - a. The Clerk of the Meeting brought a concern for what he described as the failure of the October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to carry out the Meeting's

business in a worshipful manner. He cited the lack of in-person participation (4 people) as one cause of this failure, along with his own inability to keep track of the responses of the many people on Zoom. He cited two specific instances in which a largely in-person Meeting would have produced a more Quakerly discernment process.

- He noted that the July Called Meeting for Business approved a reopening strategy that centered Meeting activities in the Meetinghouse, while creating Zoom access for those unable to attend for reasons of distance or health.
- He noted that he cannot clerk a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business without the bulk of participants being present to each other. The Clerk expressed his need for the Light of many Friends in decision making.
- Friends offered several reactions, none of which we pursued in depth. The concern will be brought to the Nov. M/B.

6. Christmas Eve Meeting:

- a. We approved holding a Christmas Eve Worship and Simple Meal on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. We will organize this event as we have in the past, with worship in the Meeting Room, followed by food outdoors (weather permitting) or indoors with discretion. Details will be worked out and publicized.

7. Workshop Dec. 9 on Individual Spiritual Discernment: Receiving, Testing and Implementing Guidance from a Higher Power with Jerry Knutson:

- a. This will take the place of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday “Porch/Hatchback/Whatever” events. It will follow a simple meal and will be held in the Meeting Room.
- b. Val will write up a publicity handout for distribution; it will be featured in the newsletter and website.

8. Forums:

- a. We discussed several possibilities for January and February forums.

9. Finance Committee request for 2022 budget:

- a. We agreed to request the same amount as this year.

10. We discussed issues relating to the needs of individual Friends.

11. Several items, previously deferred, were held over due to the late hour.

The next meeting is Dec. 14 at 1 pm. [Friends are reminded that M&O looks forward to being informed about Friends’ needs.]