

Agate Passage Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report 2023

While continuing to meet weekly both in person and in zoom groups for worship, our meeting opened the year with an in depth discernment about the state of the meeting. Everyone in the meeting was invited to engage in worship sharing groups to consider several queries over several months. At the May Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business a State of the Meeting Working Paper was approved. This Working Paper called us to:

- (1) preserve what is right and good in our community
- (2) form better personal relationships
- (3) decide what form, or forms, our community should take
- (4) educate ourselves about Quaker process
- (5) create more structure in our Meeting

A nominating committee was formed in early summer, and by the fall the committee was able to ask the Meeting for approval of individuals to fill the offices of clerk and recording clerk; create two new offices of Assistant Clerk and Archivist and find people to fill them; and divide the work of the Ministry, Care & Counsel Committee into two committees called Worship & Ministry and Pastoral Care. When the treasurer resigned, another person stepped forward to fill the role. After two years of temporary and interim leadership in several important roles, the Meeting community feels strengthened in structure and supported by all of this new leadership.

Meeting also approved two new members of the Meeting, and a welcoming pot luck celebration was held in October.

Several small group activities were made available or continued for interested participants:

- Discernment and actions by the Friends Working Group regarding concerns about the issues of climate change, equity in education, immigration and right relations with indigenous peoples.
- Bimonthly Wednesday meetings about religion and explorations of Quaker faith..
- A monthly meeting of Quaker 101 for learning about Quaker history, testimonies, faith, and practice.

Several individuals participated in Quarterly and Yearly Meeting gatherings and worked with Quaker organizations at the state, national and international level.

We continued financial support for Meeting activities and approved donations to various Quaker and other local humanitarian causes.

As the new year begins, we continue our conversations to find way forward about the form our Meeting should have and how we can continue to grow our loving circles of caring for one another.