Part I. State of the Meeting Reports

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State of the Meeting Report for 2016
Flagstaff Friends Meeting

How does the Truth prosper in your Meeting? This is the query that Intermountain Friends Meetings were given by IMYM clerk, Molly Wingate, for our State of the Meeting reports.

By offering spiritual hospitality our Meeting has become a place that people can, with safety and support, search for the Truth both individually and as a community. Our Sunday worship has grown to have a steady 15 to 23 people in attendance. A seasoned Quaker from Austin, Texas has become part of our meeting and we have one new member. A beloved attender, Chuck Avery, died in January. Two very active members, Maria and Charlie Horton, felt called to live near Washington, DC to act as a loving, active presence during these chaotic times. They now attend Sandy Spring Meeting.

After several years of struggle to make the Verde Valley Worship group viable, in December the remaining attenders decided to lay down their worship group. Our sense is that knowing Truth sometimes means laying something down. Several of the Verde Valley people now attend the Flagstaff Meeting regularly. We are enriched by their attendance.

At a called Meeting in September, we sought to discern the future of the Meeting and the expectations of the people who serve it. The following minute was adopted, “There is unity regarding a felt strength and spiritual depth in the Meeting and the need for the continued presence of the Meeting in people's lives. The Meeting structure should reflect the ability and willingness of people to serve, discerning the measure of the Light in each of us and in the Meeting as a whole.” We now have about two-thirds of members and attenders serving our meeting; new and old, young and aged in positions that fit for them. Ministry and Oversight completed a major rewriting of “Guidelines on the Purpose and Function of Officers and Committees.”

Financial support remains strong. We were able to contribute what we did not use in 2015 to International, National and Regional Quaker causes. Even though we are a small meeting, we continue to have several people serve in positions at both AHYM and IMYM.

In terms of communication, our website is a work in progress as we change to Quaker Cloud as our host. Our newsletter is now in color with pictures. We often use an email listserv for more immediate contact.

Discerning Truth in the presence of the Light and in day to day reality involves developing awareness as individuals as well as a community. As a Meeting, we have cultivated this awareness by providing gatherings for study and spiritual exploration. Our Spring retreat examined the Quaker Testimonies and was well received by all who attended. We met in Friends’ homes to watch and discuss the Jewels of Quakerism videos, gaining insights into history and process and how it can expand our connections to the Light. An online course on Radical Spirituality and Quakerism 101 were recommended to the Meeting, and several individuals looked to these for insights. Two clearness committees and a caring committee were formed to help individuals find the Truth of their situations. We continue to have Meeting for Healing on the fifth Sunday of a month.

The Meetinghouse is a resource for the larger community and we make it available to groups who need a space to meet and have events including a folk concert by Tom Neilson in March. Our yard has been much improved by a sorely needed professional pruning of the trees, the laying of more gravel for parking and the tender ministrations of the new garden committee. Workdays in the Spring and Fall provided for more appreciation of our community and got the place spruced up inside and out. To deal with the possible loss of our parking...
caused by Northern Arizona University’s purchase of the credit union parking lot, we have changed from a building steward to a building committee, which will see if solutions will be necessary and formulate them if they are.

As a Meeting, we sent a letter to President Obama, The Daily Sun and the Arizona Republic urging the creation of Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. The Meeting continues to meet its commitment to the Family Food Center through serving dinner once a month and regular financial support.

In looking ahead to 2017, there is a growing concern in the Meeting for 1. social action and working for justice for those who are being marginalized by the government and 2. for coordinating our efforts with those of other organizations that share our spiritual values. We have been inundated with requests from local and Quaker community organizations for financial support, to make contact with legislators, to write letters to the editor, to join interfaith organizations, and to attend lectures. We will be seeking clarity on what our meeting’s role is in passing on this information, joining efforts, writing letters, educating, or other ways of promoting justice and peace. We are also becoming more aware of the need to support individuals in their social justice leadings. Clarity of our meeting’s role and support for individuals are made more difficult because we do not have a Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We know that Way will open as we continue to deepen our spiritual contact with Truth to which our meeting is actively committed.
Phoenix Meeting  
Religious Society of Friends  
April 1, 2017, AZ Half Yearly Meeting at Pima Meeting, Tucson, AZ

This past year can perhaps be described as enjoyment of some new energy and effective coping with concerns which arose.

The Meeting now has 30 members with one recent transfer from the east. Attenders have increased including more young adults who are adding to our activity. We are pleased to have a family of Peruvian heritage join us with children who encourage a range of volunteers to teach Sunday School (without formal meetings).

We wish to encourage more ethnic diversity.

Concern continues for several folks within Meeting with ongoing medical issues.

New attenders have taken on the tasks of updating our internet connections, writing a regular newsletter, creating a web page and establishing a permanent filing location for important Meeting documents.

Building and Property has been addressing needed repairs and updates. Our garden crew has shifted the most strenuous yard work to Tiger Mountain Foundation, a landscaping business representing persons in need of skill development and work experience (often newly released from incarceration). Their quarterly work gets the bulk pick-up out to the curb. Aware of a homeless vet sleeping on the property, we originally discussed trying to block the space but some of us began communication and support, and he has taken on yard work tasks. Plumbing needs and exterior lighting have been addressed. A new kitchen refrigerator and stove were purchased and installed. An on-the-spot water heater for the kitchen sink and next-door washroom will come after a bit more shopping.

Fiddler’s Dream continues to occupy the Ramada with at least 25 years with us, providing acoustic music most Thursdays through Sundays. Our residence is occupied by three socially active students and community activists.

Peace and Social Concerns continues to support 1) Marley House, affiliated with Lincoln Hospital as a care center for small children, 2) Grace Lutheran Church’s homeless program, 3) Kenilworth School’s need for art supplies, necessitated by educational budget cuts, 4) the Humane Society’s need for supplies, and 5) the unofficial support for a Syrian family whose liaison to the community is an attender of our Meeting.

Peace and Social Concerns led the discussions re approval of Minutes re LGBTQ rights, support for Reproductive Health (though without a sense of the Meeting regarding Planned Parenthood as an agency). Discussion has begun regarding a Minute regarding Deportation as being proposed by the new administration.
The committee formerly known as Pastoral Care and Clearness has been renamed to Ministry and Care. (M and C). Contact has been approved for a member to visit a DOC Lewis Complex prisoner who currently has membership in a Massachusetts Meeting. M and C is discussing a combined sub-committee to identify ways in which we might become more inviting to new attenders in search of a supportive worship environment.

A series of discussion groups have been happening since last fall, each hosted by an individual who chose a topic to share, such as the variety of beliefs re our values, history, importance of theism, human nature, eastern religions. Interest continues.

Two of our very experienced members attended IMYM at Ghost Ranch in 2016 and were able to host two of our children attenders who are all set to go again this summer. As a Meeting we have concerns about the cost of IMYM attendance.

We continue discussion groups prior to Meeting on first Sundays and potluck luncheons after Meeting that same day

We are aware of waining interest and energy to fill suggested posts/tasks, not only in our own Meeting, but also in our connections with AZ Half Yearly Meeting and IMYM. Some of our group are expressing some need to draw back from active leadership. We held a special discussion on ways we might connect with the helpful participation of a representative from AZ HYM. The Meeting has also cut back on Meetings for Worship for Business to only 8 months of the year.
Pima Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Annual State of the Meeting Report 2016

IMYM presented the following query as guidance for our State of the Meeting report:

How does the Truth prosper in your meeting this year?

Pima Monthly Meeting struggles. We are enriched and blessed while in conflict within and without, but we felt the presence of Spirit guiding us onward. We are a blessed community in all that we’ve done: from the Adult Spiritual Enrichment classes to our participation in the SOA Watch – Convergence at the Border. We repeatedly learn that conflict is natural, normal, and growth-promoting for individuals and our community. The subtle gifts of others continually lead us to accept each other as we are. Together we dealt with outside issues from a spiritual perspective that included holding our meetinghouse open Election Day for Listening to the Silence and resting in God’s Presence, including a meeting for worship in the evening. Throughout the year, we continued to be challenged by the query, “How can we strengthen AHYM?” Two other leadings include: first, a decision to consider more deeply our white privilege as we are a homogeneous group; second, a discovery that we are now the elders as many elders we once relied on have died or are no longer able to attend meeting.

Looking at the numbers, we ended the year with 82 members; three new members were added and three members were lost to death; one member transferred membership and one member resigned. We held a memorial meeting for a much beloved elder, and at the request of another, we celebrated the life of his wife while she was still alive to enjoy the party. Additionally, one marriage was taken under the care of the meeting. The numbers tell only a small story.

Ministry & Oversight Committee set in motion a policy for the First Day School, Keeping Children Safe, which meeting adopted. The policy required fulfilling related legal obligations for the state of Arizona. M & O held a retreat for its members and sponsored an All Clerks’ Gathering that led to increased communication between committees, as well as pointed out our committees’ needs and challenges. A pastoral care coordinator position was created in response to those needing support with physical illness and/or emotional distress. M & O also initiated a change to transfer spiritual education to the purview of the Adult Spiritual Development Committee, which presents thoughtful and spiritually deep classes every 1st and 3rd week between our 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. meetings for worship. The discernment that oversight needs to be handled differently has arisen but has not been completely worked out. M & O members felt overburdened and responded by adjusting the workload.

House Committee created a new description of the caretaker’s role, installed a “new” previously used water heater with a future commitment to greening the meeting, received meeting’s approval for additional solar panels to be installed, installed a hearing assistance system, and purchased new chairs for the meetinghouse. Finance Committee continued its work on a bold new budget creating clarity in financial reports. As we now know our financial status,
Finance Committee proposed investment in Friends Fiduciary. As Kitchen Committee felt stretched beyond their Light, Meeting switched over to potluck meals for business meeting and workshops. Two new committees were created: Migrant Action Committee and Communications Committee.

Other spiritual work was undertaken: 25 members attended IMYM and a number presented workshops; two members attended a clerking workshop at FGC where two other members presented a workshop. PMM members were present at AHYM in Prescott. Many members continue their prison visitations, while others prepare meals for the residents of Five Points (Transitional) Housing and yet others continue to teach and study Alternatives to Violence (AVP) in the Tucson area. Pima Monthly Meeting has developed an important fellowship with the Islamic Center of Tucson (ICT), a local mosque, and members and attenders have exchanged visits back and forth. An ongoing part of this relationship is a monthly movie and potluck night with women from PMM and ICT, along with women of other faiths, which includes deep spiritual conversation. These gatherings enrich the life of the whole meeting. The meeting also found time to gather joyfully for a Thanksgiving party, a Holiday Party, and Christmas Eve Worship. Our celebrations enriched the life of meeting and renewed spiritual energies.

Our chosen community sustains us but, as in all families, there are pluses and minuses. This year we also had a new clerk and recording clerk begin their service in 6th month. A consent agenda was implemented and has had a positive effect on MWCB process. On the other hand, too great adherence to process frustrated concerns that needed quick attention. We found a need for more ways to participate in community and committees remotely. The clerk and recording clerk lovingly chose to send out MWCB packets one week prior to business meeting via the listserv and provide physical copies for those without internet connectivity. Burnout led to decreased functioning of committees, and it became increasingly difficult to enlist people to serve all our meeting functions. Some people withdrew from meeting. Losses of members and attenders affected the entire community. We recognized that not having enough people to do the work creates opportunity for developing a different family structure. Regardless, we feel the continued sustenance and a well of positivity push us forward in the face of difficulties.

All told, we learned that there is a reciprocity between relationships and spiritual development. Meeting relationships lead to an enhanced spiritual approach to the world. In our 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. meetings on first day, we spend an hour together in unprogrammed worship. Then, continuing in the spirit of worship, we share joys and sorrows. We find this is a time of getting “real” with each other; it is almost conversational to share our joys and sorrows. Additionally, there is an increased attention to newcomers who introduce themselves. At the later meeting, the First Day School and Young Friends share their worship sessions and feelings, announcements are made, then we, the blessed community, rise and begin our week with joyous fellowship.
In reflecting on the year that has passed since our last report, we find strengths in our spiritual life and opportunities to improve it.

Our meetings for worship continue to be well attended and are a steady source of divine guidance and comfort. Vocal ministry is regularly given and appreciated, but some have noted an occasional diminution in vocal ministry and would like to hear more. The arrival of Senior Young Friends and Young Friends during the last quarter hour of worship continues to bring us joy. A group of Friends continues monthly mid-week worship at Friendship Village, a nearby retirement community. A group of Friends has begun meeting for worship at the home of a Member of the Meeting on Second Day on three weeks of the month. We purchased signs this past year to place in front of our meetinghouse and at a nearby intersection to make ourselves more visible to newcomers on First Day. We feel that we have done reasonably well in speaking to newcomers, making them feel welcome, and encouraging them to return. That has been done both by the greeter (a member of the Counsel and Oversight or Worship and Ministry Committees) and a good number of other Friends. We see opportunities to improve our engagement with returning visitors, particularly during the fellowship that follows worship. We have not in the past year had Friends gather before worship for singing. Perhaps one or more Friends will be led to revive these sessions in the year ahead.

Our monthly business meetings have been well attended and have been conducted with love and mutual respect. Of note during the past year, we approved our Nominating Committee departing from certain guidelines in our Blue Book as to the size of particular committees. We also formed an ad hoc committee to review and recommend improvements to the Meeting’s maintenance of its minutes and policies. The ad hoc committee’s work is continuing.

We have had two retreats since our last report. Both were planned by our Worship and Ministry Committee. During Fifth Month 2016, Jacob and Gretta Stone led a retreat on intimate communication, in which they shared the communication model that is used by the Friends Couples Enrichment Organization, to the benefit of both individual participants and our meeting as a whole. The retreat included an evening singalong led by Jacob and Gretta. During Second Month 2017, we were fortunate to have the services of George Lakey to lead a retreat titled “How can Spirit support and lead us in the turbulent times ahead?” George was able to take a break from a tour promoting his book, Viking Economics, to address both Tempe and Phoenix meetings. His message and personality left an impact on those who were able to hear him speak. We did not in the past year have any worship sharing sessions or similar opportunities to enhance our collective and individual spiritual lives. This is one potential area for improvement in the coming year.
We are blessed by the number of Young Friends and Senior Young Friends we see each week and by the work of our Children’s Religious Education Committee. Under the Committee’s guidance, we have successfully used Godly Play® and implemented a system that has greatly expanded the number of adult Members and Attenders who participate as teachers in First Day School.

We have not had similar success in providing adult religious education. Our Adult Religious Education Committee prepared several programs during the past year, including a presentation on Black Lives Matter, but recently expressed discouragement about the low level of attendance and difficulty in scheduling programs, and has suggested that the Committee might be laid down. The Meeting is considering the question, including alternative ways to provide adult religious education opportunities.

Our spiritual life has been enriched through shared service in I-HELP, a program that provides meals to the homeless. Tempe Friends also participate in prisoner visitation and advocacy programs, such as FCNL’s Advocacy Teams on incarceration. We remain in touch with absent Members and Attenders, offering help in various ways. Our community has been strengthened by Friendly Eights dinners, and gatherings such as potlucks, the holiday pageant, and carol singing. Seizing opportunities to engage with one another in addition to our time together on First Days is an evergreen opportunity to improve our spiritual life, which we trust Members and Attenders will pursue in the coming year. As in years past, differing views create strains in our community. We have, as our Faith and Practice counsels, sought to maintain love and unity as we attempt to resolve differences that have arisen within Tempe Meeting, and will continue to do so.

We have also been enriched by our engagement with Quakers outside our Meeting. We hosted Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting’s spring 2016 gathering, and a good number of Tempe Friends attended the fall 2016 gathering in Prescott. A number of Tempe Friends remain engaged with IMYM, as officers, through committee service, and by attendance at the annual gathering. During Tenth Month 2016, Nancy Marshall of Phoenix Meeting gave us a presentation on the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund. Several Tempe Friends participated in FCNL’s annual meeting and lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. during Eleventh Month 2016. We hosted FGC’s Development Committee during Second Month 2017.

We have 48 recorded members and approximately 25 regular attenders. Over the past year, we gained one new member by application, and lost one member by transfer.

The Oversight and Membership Committee convened one clearness committee for Membership, and held a joyous welcoming party that included six new members and transfers. They completed the triennial process to update our membership rolls and also completed contacting former Associate Members about the revised policy on youth membership. They provided pastoral care for several Friends. O&M was grateful to three Friends who helped to fill in during absences of regular committee members through the year.

As always, the Ministry and Worship committee’s primary task was monitoring the quality of worship and the general spiritual health of the Meeting. While they found that both were on the whole sound, they were engaged in the Meeting’s efforts to get to the bottom of various longstanding conflicts and to help resolve them. A culmination came with a threshing session on internal conflicts relating especially to the relationship between Meeting and its committees. M&W also sought new ways to enhance communication within the Meeting community, such as the creation of Q-Tips, which will be a short monthly article on spiritual matters in The Miscellany. The committee also plans to renew the Fall Picnic. M&W will coordinate more carefully with the new Welcome and Outreach Committee, with the intention of deepening the sense of community in Meeting. M&W has an interest in streamlining the announcements portion of Meeting for Worship, and a better way of incorporating Joys and Sorrows into worship.

The Library Committee continues to provide books, pamphlets, periodicals as well as DVDs and CDs to the members and attenders of Boulder Friends Meeting. It maintains and develops our library collection through timely ordering and processing of new materials, and reminding members to return past due materials. The Library Committee remains committed to its mission to keep our collection accessible, current, and relevant. Highlights of this year include acquiring an attractive brochure holder and new brochures/handouts to inform our newcomers. In addition, a Spiritual Book Group as a project of the Library Committee continued to meet. Finally, the spiritual journey collection continues to evolve with the Library Committee’s collaboration with the Web Committee to make the spiritual journeys accessible through our website.

The focus of the Service Committee has been on the needs of the homeless and the practical needs of our Meeting community. They also organized an annual potluck and raised over $900 for supplies for Echo House, an emergency shelter for families with children. In addition to financial support, the Service Committee organizes the Meeting community in providing active support to several agencies that support the homeless and emergency outreach: every third Saturday Meeting members cooked at the Boulder Homeless Shelter (13 Friends involved). On Wednesdays they distributed over-the-counter medications and hygiene products at the Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow’s shelter locations, in addition to the day shelter. A committee member is involved with Bridge House and the Boulder Homeless Women’s Initiative. Year round they continue to collect socks for the homeless. The committee also organized rides to Meeting for those members and attenders who cannot drive and tried to keep track of illnesses, food and other practical needs of members of our community.
**Religious Education Committee** continues to deal with the challenging reality of having a small group of kids and inconsistent attendance. They have continued to organize First Day School and childcare, staff the classes with teachers and assistants, and follow a Quaker curriculum combined with play, crafts, and loving support of our children. The number of K-5 children has decreased somewhat from the previous year. JYF and SYF were combined this year, and met weekly. Once a month they gathered to hear an adult of the Meeting sharing his/her own personal “This I Believe”. This has been a strong program, but will end this May. There has been a special emphasis this year on childcare during every Program Hour. Attendance has generally been very small: only one or two kids. Childcare will likely be rethought over time, particularly with the anticipated new guidelines concerning the number of childcare givers required. There remains the on-going concern for the separation of FDS and young families from the rest of the Meeting. To bridge that gap, they have organized two intergenerational potlucks and game nights, with one more planned this period.

**Fellowship** — The committee has done the usual tasks, supplying coffee, teas and snacks after 10 o’clock meeting for worship. We have also started providing coffee and hot water for tea for the 8:30 Meeting to encourage attenders to linger and our 10:00 worshippers to come a bit early to meet and get to know our early folks. One of the members hosted 3 barbecue lunches during the summer. They were such a success that Fellowship Committee decided to continue, once a month, hosting a light brunch on the Sundays before business meetings. They maintained the tradition of Christmas and Easter potlucks. They also provide receptions for all memorial services.

**The Finance Committee** oversees the Meeting’s finances and advises the Meeting on financial issues. The committee performed the following tasks: reviewed the Treasurer’s quarterly reports, gave assistance and advice to the Treasurer, prepared the budget for the Fiscal Year, updated our contract with New Horizons for the years 2017-2019, sent an annual donation appeal letter to member and attenders in September, documented the policy for expenditures which require the approval of Business Meeting, and set in motion a plan to move the Meeting accounts out of Wells Fargo Bank. They also began discussions to improve the budget process in light of our recent Threshing Sessions about this topic.

**The Welcoming & Outreach Committee** is a new part of our community life. The committee started with 3 friends in the summer of 2016 and now has 10 members. It is developing programs to help members, attenders and newcomers feel welcome at Boulder Friends Meeting. They would also like to increase awareness in the larger Boulder community that BMF is present and would welcome interaction, mutual support and spiritual growth for all. Their initial projects include updating Friends’ pictures in the front hallway and building a network to offer support to new attenders. The committee has been involved in creating a new BFM Facebook page. They are making a welcoming brochure and want to promote to the area community events at the Meetinghouse, such as the film, “Two Rivers”.

**Our Web committee** has finished several usability improvements to the website. A program hour was held to inform the Meeting about the website, how it’s organized, how to navigate it, and what kind of information it contains. Web site analytics was implemented to maintain a view of how often the site is accessed and from where. The committee has been in discussions with the Library committee regarding Spiritual Journeys and the web
The Higher Education Scholarship Committee has four members, plus the Associate Clerk. This school year, the committee received five applications from our Meeting’s students. The committee approved all five applicants and rewarded each a $600 scholarship per semester for a total of $6000 in scholarship disbursements for the year. The committee also corresponded with students and the students reported on their school experiences and work throughout the year.

This year the Building and Grounds committee assessed condition of our trees and began a program of trimming and cleaning out deadwood and nuisances around the property. They continued the effort to improve air quality in the meeting house, to benefit several chemically sensitive members. They repurposed a classroom for use by Young Friends. This included new paint and repair of windows. They began improvement in landscaping along parking area. They updated their annual maintenance list and accomplished required items. They also conducted well-attended cleanup days. In addition to routine yard work, they repaired a wind damaged fence and cleaned out unused items throughout the Meeting House.

The Peace and Social Justice Committee determined that they would like to act as a conduit of knowledge, information and hope about social justice and peace issues. They determined that how they do their work could make a difference in how our Meeting is engaged in the wider world. They hope to activate the Meeting as a whole, and also individuals, to live the Quaker testimonies in the world, in addition to simply donating funds to other organizations. They completed the legislative priority process for FCNL. They offered two program hours: “Respectful Listening on Israel/Palestine,” and “Black Lives Matter: What Next?” They co-sponsored a minute on Standing Rock, along with the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee. They also wrote a letter to Boulder Community Health Center about accessibility for chemically sensitive individuals. They continued the monthly letter writing opportunities during Fellowship. Individual PSJ members were active in peace, environmental, anti-racist, and accessibility causes. They remain interested in reworking their budget and releases to outside organizations.

Program Committee has worked with REC to encourage more attendance by parents and grandparents, by instituting an “experimental” 9-month Child Care program for all post-Meeting planned program hours. Early on, they planned for balance in three program areas of interest: 1) Peace & Social Justice, and Care of the Earth; 2) Communication & Community; and 3) Quaker History & Practice. They continue our long tradition of having individuals share their “spiritual journey” on the first Sunday program hour.

The Indigenous Peoples Concern Committee continues to study the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Two members of the committee, in addition to a member of the Peace and Social Justice committee, attended the White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia. The Standing Rock Sioux “Water Protectors” demonstration, protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline, was a major concern. This concern inspired the Meeting to approve a minute in “Solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux and Other Indigenous Peoples in Protecting the Earth”. The film, “Two Rivers,” was shown three times, with audiences between 60 and 100 people each time and raised money for the “Water Protectors.” As a result of the film, a working group is underway to consider what “right relationship” with Native peoples could look like in the Boulder Valley. The committee also donated money to several Native organizations and projects.
The committee continues to participated in and support the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples ministry. Many committee members participate in Boulder’s Inaugural Indigenous Peoples Day celebration. A video was made of Paula Palmer’s slide presentation about the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools, and the committee mailed eighty DVDs of the talk to monthly and yearly meetings, Quaker colleges and organizations, and Native organizations. The committee keeps updated on Native American Legislation through FCNL.

Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples (TRR) continues to be under the care of the Meeting. We provide an oversight committee, fund reception and accountability, and a spiritual care committee for its director Paula Palmer.

The Nominating Committee strives to find individuals who are willing and able to accept and commit to nominated positions that are necessary for the functioning of the Meeting. This presented difficulties this year: there were fewer individuals who were available, for a variety of reasons. For positions and committees that are not nominated, they invited people to volunteer by signing up. The two Colorado Regional committees, Nominating and Planning, were not under consideration this year, but will need people in Nov 2017.

Grief and Bereavement committee was available for advice and counsel around death and grief. It conducted two memorial services, one for Aya Medrud and one for Janet Kilby. Our new archivist will continue the task of writing the memorial minutes.

Quaker Activities Assistance Committee uses guidelines for offering financial help to members and attenders in need. A $500 limit is set for the first member of a family and $250 for each additional member. We allocated $4,127 for 3 individuals, 3 families, and 3 for Mountain Friends Camp.

Friends of AFSC grocery card program donates approximately $5,000 annually to the Colorado Immigrants Rights program of the AFSC. Two new volunteers from our finance committee have agreed to take over coordination of this long active program. Our monthly Miscellany newsletter continues to serve and inform us. It is available online and also in print and is still mailed to those who wish to receive a paper copy. New Horizons continues to occupy the northern end of our building. This is a bilingual, cooperative 5-Star rated preschool. Most of their Hispanic families have members and friends without legal papers, living now in daily fear. Share the Spirit is the Meeting's annual holiday gathering of gifts for needy kids, continues to bless many in the Boulder area.

This year an ad hoc committee to draft a new Child Protection policy was formed. Its mission was to establish best practices around legally required mandatory reporting of abuse, plus establishing safe procedures for screening all who work with our children.

Grace and Peace and Joy and Imagination in our Life Together!

Submitted by,
Gale Toko-Ross, Clerk, compiled by Stan Grotegut, Associate Clerk
April 9, 2017
Colorado Springs Monthly Meeting

State of the Meeting Report, April, 2017

Our Meeting is growing! This year we have enjoyed welcoming new attenders and a new member. Our Meetings for Worship are rich of messages from many different perspectives as we continue our search for the Truth.

During the past year Friends gathered for Soup and Sharing at a Friend’s home sharing delicious food and spiritual reflections on the topic of “Spoken Ministry.” Bill and Genie Durland once again led Quakerism 101 as an introduction to Friends history. We have an Occasional Book group that reads and discusses books with Quaker themes. After five years, we are still grateful that we now have a meeting house in which to meet and gather, not only for Meeting for Worship, but as a place that kindred groups in the community like the Heart Warrior’s Project and others can gather. We also benefited from presentations from representatives from both AFSC and FCNL about immigration issues and legislative priorities.

Several oral histories of beloved elder Friends were recorded, and will be preserved as a part of the Meeting’s history.

We have 16 members and often have 10 or more active attenders. Friends new to our Meeting are involved in committees and community outreach, especially regarding immigration issues. Our three Senior Young Friends visit when they can and we enjoy the presence of two Junior young friends in First Day School from time to time.

We continue to benefit from the many talents and contributions of Friends. We look forward to continued growth in the Spirit in the coming year.

In the Light,  
Ann Grant Martin, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight
State of the Fort Collins Friends Meeting  May 12, 2017

The Fort Collins Friends Meeting has 32 assessed members and 30 Attenders. On a typical Meeting we will have 15 to 25 Members and Attenders at Meeting for Worship and 10 to 15 at Meeting for Worship With a Concern for Business. There are usually 3 to 5 children of either members or attenders at meeting.

In 2016 the winds of change blew hard on our meeting. Four of our most active members moved to other cities and hence to other Meetings. For a small Meeting like ours this created the need for a new Clerk and a re-evaluation of what committees could be repopulated and/or which could be laid aside. However, we have been blessed with newcomers who have more advanced computer skills that make our communications and visibility on the internet more accessible in this digital age.

Our first Day School continues to benefit from the assistance of students from the Occupational Therapy department at Colorado State University, a collaboration made possible through the unflagging efforts of one of our regular attenders who is employed by that department.

We continue to provided support to Faith Family Hospitality and help host several homeless families at the Trinity Lutheran Church. This has also given us an opportunity to meet others in the faith based community who are interested in issues of social justice.

Every January we continue to enjoy a ski trip to the Snowy Range in southern Wyoming that is great fun for all concerned. We also hold a regular Meeting for Worship in the first part of August at a members lovely ranch 30 miles north of Fort Collins.

In 2012 we began a monthly Meeting for Learning that meets prior to regular Meeting and is well attended and that studies and discusses a variety of topics dealing with Quaker background and faith. In addition, this Spring we hosted a presentation by Robert Grisswoold from Mountain View Monthly Meeting who led us in a two day discussion on his Pendle Hill pamphlet Marking the Quaker Path.

Our Meeting also continues to support Mike Gray and his ongoing ministry to the Lakota and Seri peoples. We also have provided financial support to Friends to attend a Clerking Workshop at Pendle Hill, attenders at Regional Meeting, IMYM, and also a women's retreat at Allenspark, Colorado in the Spring.

Like so many others, we are trying to find ways to deal with the changes in our political landscape. Our clerk and another attender are currently on the Interfaith Steering Committee investigating participation in a Sanctuary movement here in Northern Colorado. Mindful of our philosophy that sees that of God in everyone, we are preparing to listen to each other non-judgmentally and to do what is within our power to bring the beloved community to our corner of the world.

Peace,
Bob Doak, Clerk
Mountain View Friends Meeting (MVFM) is an unprogrammed meeting in Denver, Colorado, affiliated with Intermountain Yearly Meeting. Current membership stands at 166 adult members and 7 child members.

We have three Meetings for Worship that meet every Sunday. People from each of these meetings take part in the monthly Meeting for Worship for Business and in committee work. This year each of these meetings has grown in attendance.

Westside worship, with approximately 12 to 20 in attendance, meets in Wheat Ridge. They tend to have careful discernment before vocal ministry is offered. They value a sharing time for “afterthoughts” after Meeting, sharing spiritual insights not spoken in worship, which over time fosters spiritual intimacy.

Two meetings for worship share the meetinghouse in Denver. The early Meeting for Worship (9:00) is the smaller group, often 15 to 25 Friends, and tends to be still and gathered. This is a close-knit group.

The later Meeting for Worship (10:30) is a large group of 60-80 worshippers. First Day School is offered at this time, so many families with children attend. The Children and the Life of the Meeting committee (CALM) offers First Day School for five different age levels from September through May. Children’s attendance varies widely with about 8 to 20 present. The young people bring great energy and life to the meeting. There are often visitors and newcomers. Following worship, there is a time for sharing joys and sorrows, a time for introduction of visitors, and a time for announcements. Often there are programs following which offer opportunities to become involved in social action projects and to strengthen connections with one another. Regular programs include Spiritual Journeys, presentations from Peace and Justice Committee, and a potluck once a month.

Participation in and preparation for Meeting for Business has 25-40 people attending. Meeting for Business is held in the light by a member of the Worship and Ministry Committee. It has been noted that there has been a growth in our willingness to listen more deeply.

Queries and Conversations

2016 was an eventful year in the life of Mountain View Friends. As the Worship and Ministry Committee prepared to draft this report, we sought to engage the wider community in reflecting on the challenges we have faced and how we have prospered in the past year. Each Meeting committee was invited to participate in worship sharing centered on four queries. The following themes emerged as we considered the state of our meeting:
Query 1. In what ways does the meeting support, develop or enhance your spiritual life?

Friends shared that through silence and meaningful ministry in Meeting for Worship, various social and educational activities, and attention to individual concerns, our meeting provides a sense of community, belonging, trust, and caring that is central to creating an environment in which we can grow spiritually and experience the spirit moving within us and among us. We recognize that we are in challenging and uncertain times which require even deeper levels of discernment and tenderness to keep us grounded in the spirit.

Query 2. Is there anything you would like to share about the Quality of worship of our Meeting?

Differences in the character of our three Meetings for Worship – the 9:00 and 10:30 meetings at Columbine and the West Side meeting - were noted by several Friends, such as more or less vocal ministry, the relative focus on social concerns, how gathered the meetings are, and the presence or lack of distractions – all qualities which are perceived to affect the depth of the worship experience. There were differences of opinion about the quality of worship in each gathering, even divergent views on the shift in the seating arrangement in the Columbine meetinghouse. While there is an implicit desire to accommodate individual perspectives and spiritual needs, there is recognition that there is always room for improvement. One suggestion was to investigate the Friends General Conference Deepening Worship Program.

Query 3. In what ways have we acted as a community of faith this year?

As we sought the guidance of the spirit this past year, there were many examples of sharing our faith in action.

Gratitude was expressed for the many examples over the past year of how the Mountain View community has been faithful in its support for individual members, attenders, and families in both physical and spiritual crises and in joyful life events such as marriage.

There was much work in the past year to examine our leadings as a larger community. Some found the process of coming to unity on the decision about our meeting home to be an expression of our faith. Others cited our willingness to grapple with questions about how to support a member who might be released from a long prison term while also supporting other meeting members who might be distressed by his presence.

Our commitment to provide Sanctuary to those in danger of deportation and separation from their families and to examining and dismantling the racism in our own community and the broader community of Friends were recognized as powerful examples of acting on our faith in the world.

Query 4. Is there anything else you would like to share about the spiritual state of our meeting?

There were more expressions of appreciation for who we are as a loving community and our growth in the past year. At the same time, Friends reflected on long-standing questions about the nature of our community and their place in it. What is Quaker spirituality in this community in this time and place? How do we increase engagement with the children and make their First Day experience more meaningful? How do we make our presence known in the outside world? How do we stay grounded in the spirit in the midst of such a troubled political environment?
Three Valleys Worship Group

Three Valleys Worship Group (TVWG) in Montrose is a preparatory meeting under the care of Mountain View. TVWG is entering their fifth year of meeting for worship in the manner of Friends. During that period TVWG has met every first day and has met monthly to attend to business. The number of attenders is normally in the range of 7-10. TVWG continues to meet at the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Montrose, sharing the facility with other religious groups and the Montrose Boys and Girls Club. The core group that meets regularly is growing closer and developing much mutual support and developing in the way of Friends.

Financial support has been adequate to support the needs of the community, provide a comfortable balance, and to support several other organizations. Primary recipients have been the Abraham Connection homeless shelter in Delta and the Hispanic Affairs Project in Montrose.

TVWG has started a discussion asking if it is time to consider becoming a monthly meeting.

Meetinghouse Remodeling

During the 2016 calendar year, Mountain View Friends reached a conclusion to a several-year discernment process regarding a minuted decision that our meetinghouse no longer met our needs as it was. Physical accessibility to people with disabilities was one of the most pressing of several concerns.

Having thoroughly considered the possibilities of buying and remodeling a building, buying land and building new, or renovating our existing facility, we decided on the renovation option. We had begun a capital funds campaign, which had raised nearly $200,000. As our discernment process matured, one member of the meeting pledged a significant additional contribution on a matching basis, and another member pledged his considerable construction experience and skill to the supervision of a remodeling project.

The meeting accepted both of those generous offers, and began the remodeling with construction of a new ramp at the meetinghouse front entrance. Installation of an elevator, and relocating the building's kitchen and library will also be major components of the remodeling.

Sanctuary

Mountain View Friends Meeting has actively participated in the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition (MDSC), an interfaith group facilitated by the Colorado AFSC, since 2014. Members of MVFM continue to serve on various committees of MDSC.

At a special called Meeting in 2015, the membership of MVFM committed to become a sanctuary congregation. On November 28, 2016, that commitment was realized for a second time when Ingrid Encalada Latorre requested sanctuary during a period when there was a gap between when her stay of deportation expired and her next court date. An extension of her stay was requested, and she and her one-year old son, Anibal, took sanctuary. Ingrid’s older son, Bryant (8), visits often on evenings after school and weekends. Once again, young Friends turned their usual place for congregating into a living space for Ingrid and her young children.
Dismantling our Racism

2016 has made us painfully aware that racism has not disappeared from our hearts and minds, not in our Quaker world nor in our world at large. We must begin again to learn our history, and to understand more deeply the experiences of people of color. The Work Group on Dismantling Our Racism was formed to grapple with how to go about this.

The group is planning to present a variety of programs for Mountain View in 2017.

Prison Ministry

One of our members has been serving a life sentence in Colorado State prisons for the last 40 years. He came to Quaker faith and practice through the prison ministry of this Meeting and became a member of Mountain View in 2012.

In 2016, for the first time, it looked possible that he might be paroled. In preparation for that possibility, the Meeting put some resources in place. His ongoing support committee worked to find resources in the community and wrote a letter of support. The Meeting also wrote a letter to the parole board on his behalf. Because of the nature of his crimes, an ad hoc committee and Care and Counsel also met regularly with his support committee to provide care and resources to members of the Meeting who might need support in light of his release. In November, the parole board met and his release was denied.

Post-election Notes

As the November election drew near, Mountain View's Worship & Ministry Committee felt guided to call a special meeting for worship, to be held two days after the election, in anticipation that the difficult election season would have impacted some Friends, emotionally and spiritually. The meeting was held, and was attended by approximately fifty Friends. Sharing was meaningful and spiritual. Many Friends expressed appreciation that we could be together to support one another.

Mountain View Friends Meeting approved: 4th month 9th day, 2017
There is much work to do in a Quaker Meeting, and while many Quakers are enlivened in their spirits by participating in the Meeting’s joyful duties, we sometimes lose perspective of the Meeting as a whole. So it was with joy and reflection that we received a visitor to our first Meeting for Worship for Business in 2017 who gamely asked the question, “What is the purpose of this Meeting for Business?”

As the saying goes, Ask ten different Quakers and you’ll get twelve different answers. And what ensued was a heartfelt reflection on what it is we do, and have been doing for the past year in the life of the Albuquerque Monthly Meeting.

It is at Meeting for Business that we clerk ourselves and figure out how to make our way through challenges and commitments that we undertake. With this in mind, as a Meeting, we began 2016 with a return to regular monthly business Meetings. While the weight of self-governance can be heavy, there was a sense of renewal and invigoration as we handled the Meeting’s business month after month. While we lacked a regular Clerk of the Meeting for much of 2016, individual Friends stepped in to take on the role of Clerk of the Day, which provided an opportunity for many to participate in the running of the Meeting for Business. And our patience was rewarded when an able Friend felt led to fill the vacancy in the fall. The Meeting continually chose to extend the alternative schedule of beginning Meetings for Business a half hour earlier. This change was not without some concern for the continuity and concern for the worship gathering, but the effort was rewarded by the presence of younger parents who began attending more regularly and adding their voices to the discussions, and this seems to have given Meeting for Business more depth of spirit. The Meeting continues to search for ways to strengthen and deepen our spiritual practice. We continue our struggle to include every voice as we find our way to unity.

In terms of our witness to the wider world, in 2016, we minuted support for the pardoning of Leonard Peltier, for the Standing Rock Tribe of the Sioux Nation in their fight for clean water, and for Planned Parenthood and the important work it does in support of women’s health. We also had valuable worship sharing around the issue of White Privilege, and how we as a Meeting can make positive changes within ourselves to help bring equality to our wider community. To help us create a more inclusive atmosphere, the Meeting held workshops on Compassionate Listening in October, and Trans 101 in November. As a means of more ably governing ourselves, we also had in-depth reports on budgeting and stewardship within the Meeting. Also, we sought to ease our transition from worship to sharing at the rise of Meeting by trying out new procedures for introductions and announcements.

The Oversight and Counsel Committee brought to bear a lot of effort on behalf of the pastoral care of Albuquerque Monthly Meeting. Committee members helped three individuals become new members of the Meeting. They supported other friends by organizing three clearness committees. They also supported three Friends in need through creating care committees, which provided the framework for an element of our Friendly community that has positive impact. The practical and spiritual care provided by the care committees allow hope for both the Friend and the care committee.

We also reactivated our Hospitality Committee, which focused on meeting, greeting and reaching out to Meeting newcomers, as well as preparation and clean-up after Meeting activities. Working together, Worship & Ministry and Adult Ed began offering weekly sessions related to our IMYM Faith & Practice. Monthly themes have helped re-ground us in our Quaker practice and we have enjoyed consistent discussion or worship sharing every First Day. Better familiarity with our Faith and Practice has helped
us discuss and address recurring concerns about right practice within the Meeting. Other activities, like the contemplative reading group and Experiment with Light group offered Friends a chance to meet and share with each other in smaller groups, extending the sense of spiritual community throughout the week.

Building and Grounds suspended regular committee meetings in favor of gathering for work days, gardening days, needed repair work and all the tasks of keeping our physical space in good order. The work has energized the committee to a degree that they now contemplate a return to regular committee meetings to pursue long-term planning on the care and upkeep.

Children’s Programming Committee had several highlights throughout the year, including the annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the Harmon-Keeneys, a well-attended camping trip in the Pecos, the annual Simple Gifts and Holiday Card Sundays, and joining in with Meeting for Worship on Christmas Day to sing carols and fellowship with the adults upstairs.

As a Meeting, we regained a sense of clarity in our purpose, in part through coming together as a Committee of the Whole to serve as a steering committee to chart our path on the rejuvenation we began this year. We still faced some challenges. The ever more fast-paced culture in which we live day-to-day seems to discourage us from spending the time that Quakerism requires; we are dissuaded from taking as much time for discernment of our Faith and Practice as perhaps we should. We are also challenged in finding Friends to serve on committees this year. The Nominating Committee still has open positions, and still finds it difficult to put forward a sufficient number of names to fill the committee vacancies that still remain.

We were also saddened by the loss of Shirley Hicks, who was a faithful Friend to this Meeting.

Overall, it feels like cohesion is returning to our Meeting. We feel ourselves more accommodating of each other, and more inclusive. Though the rejuvenation still feels somewhat fragile, it benefits from the Committee of the Whole, whereby we can all hold hands and go through it together. The spirit of rejuvenation seems to have taken root and will benefit from the care and nurture we give it moving forward into the new year. We will need to remind ourselves to review and reflect upon the implementation of the recommendations that were made in the report from the temporary committee on rejuvenation. The process is ongoing, and we must hold ourselves accountable to the commitment we have made to revitalize our Meeting.

What is the purpose of this Meeting of Friends? To celebrate the Light of divinity that exists in all of us, both inside and outside the Albuquerque Monthly Meeting, and to support each other as we learn to live into and express that Light. The year provided many examples of ways in which we were able to accomplish that, and we move forward now with the knowledge that we can build upon the progress we made in 2016.
State of the Meeting
Durango Friends Meeting
April 2, 2017

Behold, I will do new things. Now it shall spring forth. Shall you not know it?
Isaiah 43:19

In what ways has the spirit been moving amongst us in the past year? Friends noted that the query requires deep, prayerful recollection and discernment. How do we differentiate our human activity from the life-filled movement of the Spirit of God? Surely there is some overlap, some collaboration between the human and the divine.

The leading of the Spirit is a two way action: we have found a new enthusiasm in our group, and recognize that some Friends are “traveling ministers” while other Friends feel nourished and held. We feel our spiritual perspective has been expanded through both.

In the spring of 2016 we received a request from Travis Etling, a student at Earlham School of Religion, to do a Supervised Ministry internship program with Durango Friends. After careful consideration of his request, we accepted his proposal and with the guidance of a support committee, our Meeting has blossomed with his energy, ideas and outreach. Through Travis’ work, we are engaged in a wider ecumenical community and have enjoyed weekly spirit filled “Delighting Together” sessions. He evidences a living faith and has supported and encouraged our spiritual lives, aspirations, goals and practices both individually and collectively. We feel blessed to have his thoughtfulness and participation in our committees, Adult Education, business meetings and our Meeting for Worship.

We felt energized to host New Mexico Regional Meeting and led to minister to the current world situation with our theme of Spirit Led: The Power of Quaker Narrative in Times of Crisis and Change. We also decided to host Quakerism 101 once again and we are delighted with the attendance (even outsiders with announcements in the newspaper) and the many that read the background materials and come prepared to discuss. Friends who participated found new Light with a better understanding of our Quaker principles. The Spirit moves in our sharing of joys, concerns, and after thoughts at rise of Meeting for Worship. Committee work is described as “light-hearted, deep and meaningful, important spiritually in both the preparation as well as the learning for our Young Friends and the whole Meeting”. We have broadened our horizons by supporting F/friends in non-traditional endeavors, careers and other dimensions of their lives and continue to help and support those who have dealt with injuries, illnesses, retirement, moving and anything else that life presents.

In the Spirit of being open, receptive and embracing change, we are happy to report a renewed connection to Ft. Lewis College and their Peace and Social Justice Committee, supporting their efforts with Standing Rock. We have also joined an Interfaith Partnership to support Thrive! – an organization promoting “living wages.” We continue to be grateful to Friends in our Meeting who provide us an opportunity to support and give back, both locally and abroad.

We are heartened by the revival of our Mancos Worship Group with its new attenders. We feel the loss of elders who are no longer able to attend our Meeting. We continue to engage, both individually and as a Meeting, to do God's work in this world.
The first three months of 2015 were devoted to planning the annual gathering of the New Mexico Regional Meeting, in cooperation with Las Cruces Meeting. The meeting was held April 17-18 at First Christian Church in El Paso and focused on immigration as well as the rich cultural heritage of our shared border with Mexico. In addition, many of those attending stayed for First Day meeting for worship at the home of Jim Tolbert on April 19.

Our individual gifts and talents came together to host a successful meeting. Jim Tolbert planned the program and recruited speakers for a panel on border issues, Vona Van Cleef handled registration and she and her husband Rich (with help from Fred and Diana Koster of the Albuquerque Meeting) made two pots of chili (one “con carne” and one without) for the Saturday lunch, Connie Crawford managed the budget, Cyndi Rains ordered t-shirts (“Quakers Keep Calm and Seek the Light,”) John Russell and Dee Cameron were in charge of Friday night entertainment, and Autumn Holder made arrangements for the Friday night catered buffet. The Las Cruces Meeting delivered the Saturday morning breakfast, coordinated by Larry and Anna Underwood. Vicki Aldrich and Tim Green, also of the Las Cruces meeting, attended many of our planning sessions and gave us valuable advice and suggestions.

Approximately 50 Quakers from New Mexico Regional Meeting attended the gathering. They came from Durango, Colorado; throughout New Mexico; El Paso, Texas; and Arizona. We were also pleased to have Mary Klein, editor of Western Friend, with us from California and Ruth Flower, a staff executive with Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) from Washington, D.C.

El Paso and Las Cruces Quakers, a member of First Christian, and the Columban Mission in El Paso provided lodging for some of those attending and some went to motels.

Connie and Vona attended the Women’s Retreat in Silver City in May, and several of us marched or rode floats in the Gay Pride Parade in June. Jim continues to be active in various movements such as those to promote wiser use of natural resources and to abolish the death penalty. Vona and Rich have participated in several study sessions with the local Pax Christi group.

Two of our regular attenders, Connie Crawford and John Russell, formally joined the meeting. Connie is a representative to FCNL, she and John attended Intermountain Yearly Meeting and John stayed for an extra week to help with one of the youth camps. In addition, John has volunteered at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Sol y Tierra farm in Anthony, NM, and John and Connie have helped with a burrito-making project once a week for immigrants staying at Annunciation House who need food to carry with them as they board buses carrying them out of El Paso to other destinations.

Jim Tolbert is our faithful email communicator. Cyndi Rains continues as clerk of the meeting, Rich Van Cleef is secretary, and John Russell is treasurer. EPMM has 11 members, nine of whom live here and are active. An average weekly attendance of six continues to enjoy Jim Tolbert’s hospitality at his home, 2701 Frankfort. We meet at 10 a.m. every First Day and usually at 9 a.m. the first First Day of the month to discuss the various topics in Quakerism 102 and at least once a month for worship for business.

We endeavor to honor the SPICES (simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship) in our daily lives and throughout the community and the greater world.

Report prepared by Vona and Rich Van Cleef
In 2016, we were encouraged by Callid Keefe-Perry, Intermountain Yearly Meeting Keynote Speaker, to focus our State of the Meeting Report on the query: How has Truth prospered among us in the past year? The query challenges us to engage in a more deeply seasoned conversation about the movement of Spirit in our meeting.

Gila Friends have been active in leadership and participation in local, regional and yearly meeting in the past year. On a typical First Day, anywhere from 6-15 gather to worship. There was a large turn-out from our meeting for both New Mexico Regional and Intermountain Yearly Meeting gatherings. There are 26 members. Ed Anthes has asked to be released from membership, after many years of absence living in Vermont. Friend Jim McQuaide moved to Maine for health reasons, where he attends meeting as a Sojourning Friend. A third Friend, Dorothy Pine, has also moved to be closer to family, while retaining her membership in Gila Friends. We have been blessed with visitors and new attenders, so our numbers have remained fairly constant.

Over the past year, our community has consciously chosen to reach deeper into our collective sense of the Spirit. We have had active participation by most attenders in monthly adult education. The first three months focused on prayer, sharing our prayer practices and fruits of prayer in our daily lives. After regional meeting, we have watched Quaker Speak video segments, a project of Friends Journal, followed by worship sharing. Friends who participated in the School of the Americas Watch Convergence in Tucson and Nogales shared their pictures and experience of the Truth with us. Additionally, Ministry and Oversight provides queries for Third Sunday worship sharing during the last half of Meeting for Worship. This, too, has encouraged sharing by those who rarely speak in meeting.

These activities have deepened the spiritual life and the connection among us in our community. We are more accepting of the diversity of the naming of the Spirit/God/Spiritual Authority/Holy Power/The Inward Teacher/Jesus/Creator among us, discovering that where language limits us, the Spirit expands us. We seem to have been drawn closer by sharing our unique experiences, while experiencing acceptance from one another. When the conversation was avoided for the sake of unity, that unity was surface deep only. Now that unity has a greater substance to it. We hope to continue this deepening in the coming year.

We have written a “Fair Share” letter, to be updated and sent annually after the approval of the annual budget. The letter has served to remind Friends that we value their contribution and participation in the meeting community. The letter also helped us to reach out to members from whom we have not heard in some time, and we received a heartwarming response. We have tried to engage with those who have been inactive, trying to keep our membership rolls up-to-date in order to reflect a deeper integrity about who we are.

Active members and attenders are all engaged in participation and responsibility in the meeting at a level at which they are able. We struggle with how to keep the responsibilities manageable for our small community. We have continued to be active in spirit-led social concerns in our community and beyond. (List attached) New this year, has been the extension of our definition of community to include gathering for meeting with Las Cruces and El Paso Friends. We hope to continue that mutual outreach in the coming year.

We have faith that our community will continue to grow in the Light in 2017.
State of the Meeting Report for 2016, Gila Friends Meeting – Summary of Events

January
- Two Gila Friends assisted with youth advocacy workshop in Santa Fe

March
- Passed a minute in support of United Nations Resolution 70/48
- Approved cosigning of a letter from the Romero Institute requesting that Pope Francis revoke the three 15th century papal bulls that promulgated the Doctrine of Discovery

April
- Memorial service for Elizabeth Simon
- Many members attended regional meeting in Albuquerque

June
- Many Members attended IMYM

July
- Gila Friends participation in Silver city's 4th of July parade. We organized a peace coalition and were joined by many community groups and individuals of all ages.

August
- 30th annual commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. Attendance included Friends from Las Cruces and El Paso and many community members.
- Gila Friends sponsored an address by Jill Hruby, President and Director of Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. The talk, titled “Sandia: A Vibrant, Multi-mission Engineering National Laboratory” was cosponsored by the Western New Mexico University, Gila/Mimbres Community Radio, Gila Resources Information Project and the Silver City Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.
- It was intended that Gila Friends Meeting would, once again, have an outreach presence at the Western New Mexico University Welcome Back Bash but the event was rained out.

September
- Approved Fair Share Letter template regarding financial support and membership in the Gila Monthly Meeting. This letter is to be sent annually following the approval of the budget.

October
- World Quaker Day was celebrated with worship and refreshments. The public was invited.
- Two people from Gila Friends Meeting attended the convergence on the US/ Mexican Border in Arizona which was sponsored by School of the Americas Watch.
- Friends approved the process, form letters and response forms for contacting inactive members and, when necessary, releasing them from membership.
- 5 Members of Gila Friend Meeting attended a special 5th Sunday joint meeting with Las Cruces and El Paso Meeting Friends in El Paso.

November
- Approved revision of the duties and responsibilities Gila Friends Meetings Officers, Representatives and Committees
- 1 Member attended the FCNL annual Lobbying effort in Washington DC and hand delivered letters to our senators and congressman.
The state of the meeting of the Las Cruces Religious Society of Friends April 6, 2017

During the last year the Meeting held a memorable memorial meeting for Mary Brown, a long time member. New members were also welcomed into the Meeting. This spring a Friendly Bible Study group was formed to meet early on first day mornings.

Attenders and members of the Las Cruces Religious Society of Friends expressed appreciations for the activities involving the Meeting House building as well as the landscaping. Friends found feelings of community and shared effort of childcare and closings of the meetings. The feelings of community were nurtured by the potlucks and other such planned events.
Twenty sixteen was a regenerative time in Santa Fe Monthly Meeting, supported by contributions from old-timers and newcomers, members and attenders, and parents who brought their children and enlivened our worship, First Day School and activities. 2016 was the first full year with a clerk who came to the meeting from the outside, and she brought new ways of looking at faith and practice within the meeting. This was reflected in consistency within the business meetings, new ways of looking at procedures and practices, and more. After a period of quietude, it seemed like we were regrouping, regathering, and recreating ourselves.

Several smaller-group activities were offered in 2016 (and continue into 2017). The Light Group, inspired by Rex Ambler’s work, offered an opportunity for smaller-group sharing and worship within a set structure, while our Spiritual Life Sharing groups continued to meet monthly as well. Those interested gathered every other Sunday for chanting, which delighted many people arriving early for Meeting. We also offered two retreats in 2016: one was a training workshop sponsored in cooperation with the Friends Committee on National Legislation about effective lobbying and activism for younger Friends and interested community members; and the other, our second in what will hopefully be an annual event focusing on different aspects of Quaker worship, organized by an ad-hoc committee of SFMM members and attenders. This one-day, in-town retreat drew members and attenders from Santa Fe’s two Meetings and from worship groups under our care up to 100 miles away. Participants said they grew in their relationships with the Light and with each other.

Our First Day School programs—were reinvigorated by an influx of new young Friends. Monthly jaunts to local Canyon Road businesses strengthened our relationship with the immediate community and gave older young Friends an opportunity to spend time relating over tea, treats, artwork, and more. Trick or Treat for UNICEF, a yearly event, saw costumed kids staffing a bedecked table and raised nearly $300; young Friends also prepared holiday gifts for clients of the local homeless shelter. Children from toddler to teens participated in the First Day School programs, frequently assisted by parents as well as paid helpers.

Committee membership remained a challenge for the Santa Fe Monthly Meeting. Our Peace and Social Justice Committee revised its structure to include opportunities for more Friends to participate; other committees limped along with only two or three members. This was somewhat ameliorated by several ad-hoc committees formed with specific purposes in mind: the retreat committee, one to make the Meetinghouse more welcoming of people with different abilities, etc.

As is perhaps the case in many Meetings, we continued to bond over food: our monthly potluck provided a wonderful chance for many people to gather, talk, and partake of tasty delicacies. Much like the parable of the loaves and fishes, there was always enough to eat no matter how many people chose to bring food! We also enjoyed a Meeting for Muffins between the 9:00 and 11:00 Meetings every fifth Sunday, and the 9:00 Meeting had an active Lucretia Mott Breakfast program that graced local restaurants with “primed Quakers” monthly. Food prior to Business Meeting nourished our bodies and souls, and increased attendance.

We were fortunate to have some very committed members and attenders spearheading extra-Meeting activities: there remained an active participation in serving the Interfaith Homeless Shelter, a strong support and commitment to helping the Mountain Friends Camp, and an ongoing support for Santa Fe’s Sanctuary City status. Many members also joined together in non-meeting-sanctioned activities, particularly political ones.

There seemed to be a subtle level of warmth and tenderness in our Meetings for Worship, bringing a new sense of community to the Meeting as a whole. Although we were saddened by the loss of several elders in 2016, others rose to the challenge and became elders themselves. The Meeting was also blessed with an influx of new attenders, bringing with them a new sense of energy and enthusiasm. We saw respect for change in our meeting, with fluctuations of quietism and ministry connected to our civic life.
The Meetings under our care continued to flourish. Quaker House Preparative Meeting completed its capital campaign, and worship groups in Taos, Las Vegas, and Tres Piedras continued to meet regularly, occasionally joined by visiting Friends from Santa Fe.

We found that having a longer period of silent worship before beginning the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business made a significant difference in the meeting’s flow and tenor. Perhaps counterintuitively, the meetings also moved faster!

We’re looking forward to 2017: upcoming programs include our teens helping elders with technology; members and attenders gathering for pop-up dinners; and sessions on death and dying. These are all in the first quarter; let’s see what the rest of the year will bring!

Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of Friends lost two to death and gained three members in 2016. Therefore our total membership for 2016, as of the last day of that year, was 73 members, of whom 42 live in Santa Fe, city or county, and 18 live outside Santa Fe but in New Mexico. 13 members live out of state.
In 2016, Quaker House Santa Fe Meeting continued the practice of worship each Sunday at 10:30, followed by regularly scheduled programs and brunch. Sometimes Friends gathered before worship to sing hymns together. On first Sundays, a Friend presented a topic and guided a conversation. Several attenders and each member of our care committee from Santa Fe Monthly Meeting offered to lead one of these religious education presentations. On third Sundays, between worship and brunch, we held a half-hour of worship sharing, responding to queries with the focus of the monthly topic.

Our meetings for worship for business are held on fourth Sundays. The committees reporting to the meeting include Ministry and Counsel, Building and Grounds, and Finance. In addition to the care of individuals and the spiritual well-being of the meeting, the Ministry and Counsel Committee does the work of our former education committee. Our monthly topics have included the peace testimony, simplicity, and the role of ministry and counsel.

Opportunities for spiritual enrichment included the fall retreat organized by Friends from Santa Fe Monthly Meeting. Some Friends participated in book discussions, spiritual deepening groups, and Experiment with the Light groups. A few of us were able to attend Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting and New Mexico Regional Meeting.

Our Christmas caroling party was part of our neighborhood outreach. Five of our regular attenders walk to meeting from their homes and another handful enjoy bicycling to meeting in fair weather. With a convenient and visible location, Quaker House is used throughout the week by a number of groups that are doing good work in our wider community.
Our small, but intrepid Meeting is always looking for ways to attract new attenders. On any average Sunday, we have only 4-9 Friends attending. There are some disadvantages to a small meeting, such as when you’re the only person in the room, but advantages as well. We are very connected and keep close track of each other. This year brought some transfers plus new attenders who join us regularly. This makes our Meeting more varied and energetic. We puzzle that we don’t attract younger people to the Meeting since our testimonies seem to jive with the many of the areas of concern of younger people. The future of our Meeting doesn’t seem viable without younger members to take over. We will continue to explore how to attract young families who would add stability.

We have ongoing involvement with Cache Community Connections, an interdenominational group bringing all religions of Cache Valley together to promote understanding and conversation. We had a member speak at their Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, the Martin Luther King Celebration. In September we will sponsor an information table at the second Gay Pride Celebration in the valley.

We are thankful to the Presbyterian Church who provide meeting space at a nominal price. We are also welcomed to their church activities.

Several of our members attend the Stand Together demonstrations every Saturday at the county courthouse. In this political climate, every week seems to bring a new issue. We each seem to have a collection of protest signs supporting causes like environmental causes, science-based information, immigrant issues, support of public land, peace, and health care.

Book group and Light group give us a time to discuss Quaker history and philosophy outside of regular Meeting.

We encourage members to support Mountain Friends Camp which seems a good venue for strengthening the participation and interest of young Friends in their local Meetings.
Moab Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting
April 2017

We have experienced an increase in the attendance at our meetings starting last fall. Instead of three to four people for a small meeting it is now five to seven with several of our meetings having more than ten people. After meeting we have had several spirit lead discussions, and from one we were prompted to send a letter to our two local newspapers encouraging people to act from a place of love rather than from fear.

For community outreach we focus on providing money for needed services or purchases for families in crisis in our community. The last item we gave was a big green wagon, so the grandparents (who have no car) are able to transport the two grandchildren they are raising. They are thrilled with the mobility and freedom this gives them. We continue to support one of our local churches with a quarterly donation, so they can continue to provide a community dinner once a week for about 30 people. This is to help our homeless population but others are welcome.

Just this month the local Mormon Church facilitated the start of an Interfaith Leadership Council. We sent two representatives and were impressed with the excitement of those attending to work together on projects that serve the needs of our community. We hope the monthly meetings will see more progress towards this goal.

Members of our group attended Yearly Meeting last June. Our representative to Representatives Committee was not able to attend the meeting in Denver this winter. Our local meeting has 8 members.

We have discontinued our First Day Program since one of our children moved away. The parents of our remaining child would like to find other parents interested in attending, so we could resume the program.

We continue to have potlucks most months and during the summer held several outdoors. Our newsletter has kept us informed and connected. Our monthly worship sharing helps us explore our values and our spiritual journeys. We are grateful for our Meeting and the opportunity it gives us to share our lives with each other.