

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.