

Arizona Faith Network

Report to AHYM by AHYM's Interim Representative to AFN
Emmanuel Pines, AZ Sept. 21-23, 2018

Vision: People of faith uniting to create positive change for the common good.

Mission: "Inviting people into meaningful relationships, shared prayer and dialogue rooted in our faith traditions, and actions that influence public awareness, engagement and policy."

ORGANIZATION:

AHYM is a World Religions Partner of [Arizona Faith Network \(AFN\)](#), an Arizona-based 501(c)3 organization with an annual budget of just over \$100,000 and 1-3 (full to part-time) employees (in transition). Staff serves the Executive Board (which seeks to operate by consensus). As a coalition/collaboration/network organization, its budget is its staff who work with large numbers of volunteers from different faith communities. AHYM chooses to affiliate with AFN out of a sense of shared vision and mission (noted above), and making a shared organizational commitment to "responsible stewardship in supporting the needs of AFN". In this partnership, AHYM is given a World Religions Partner position on [AFN's Board](#). The AHYM Nominating Committee is currently seeking a Friend Called to serve AHYM on AFN's Board.¹ AFN welcomes volunteers to participate in its programs and on its three all-volunteer commissions (Earth Care, Theological Dialogue and Public Policy). Quakers are appropriately associated with this interfaith work because of our own commitments to building peace through constructive engagement across boundaries of difference, and our inclination toward putting our faith into practice and speaking out when injustice is present in society. Ours is a unique and important contribution to interfaith conversations, one in which our size belies the depth and breadth of our faith community's ability to direct the conversation in important directions because of our past experience and the impressive expertise of our associated Quaker Organizations like AFSC and FCNL.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

AFN is frequently called upon for statements that elevate a "faith voice" ([examples](#) include: Family Separation 6/20/18, Schools 4/25/18, Criminal Legal Reform 4/22/2018, Response to Hate Crime 3/16/18) For AHYM to actively participate in these activities would require us to identify an appropriate process given our organizational structure and the distances between us to find Unity within our own disperse community.

2019 GOALS:

Each year, through an open, inclusive and iterative process, AFN affirms an on-going or chooses a new "Mission Focus Topic". The Board has just affirmed a focus on partnering to bring **Criminal Legal Reform to Arizona's system of Incarceration**. AFN assumes that this is an arena where it will not provide leadership overall (that will fall to its allies), but will instead first learn, and then teach, its constituent partners how to behave as trustworthy allies to those already "in the trenches". This is an example of where Quaker organizations can provide direction/service. AFN has recently (2015) begun the transition from Ecumenical to Interfaith, and is currently seeking to hire a permanent Executive Director.

AFN ACTIVITIES:

Typically events are captured on [Arizona Quakers \(Facebook\)](#) and TMM's "Other Events of Interest" [Google Calendar](#) as well as the [AFN Website calendar](#) and [facebook @ArizonaFaithNetwork](#).

¹ **Details for Nominating Committee:** Responsibilities of the Board of Directors include: Attendance at all Board Meetings (or send an alternate - nine times each year, September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May and June) i. Promulgate the vision and mission of AFN, ii. Serve as the policy making board for AFN, especially regarding the selection of any Mission Focus Topic, iii. Serve on at least one Commission or Standing Committee iv. Promote AFN events and attend as able, v. Approve policies and procedures that are established for the operation and administration of AFN, vi. Approve the annual budget, viii. Approve any contract or hiring document for the position of Executive Director, viii. Approve Personnel Policies, ix. Hire the Executive Director, x. Review the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director., xi. Approve any additional staffing positions that the Executive Director is authorized to fill., xii. Ensure ongoing Board training and development in governance, using best practices for nonprofit religious organizations. Fiscal Expectations of Board Directors: Each Board Director shall make a financial contribution to AFN each year, over and above that which their affiliated status group contributes; or secure a financial commitment of at least two (2) other financial supporters.

