

## **SFMM Response to 2018 IMYM Fall Queries**

A group of Santa Fe Monthly Meeting Friends met on First Day, December 2, 2018 following 11 a.m. worship, to consider several queries requested by the IMYM Representatives Committee for consideration.

The queries regarding Early Days and whether to continue them or not were discussed thoroughly by the group with the following results:

Generally all were in favor of continuing Early Days and believe that Pay As Led, will allow Friends who previously have not been able to attend Early Days because of costs, to attend. There was discussion by several Friends about working or running a sole proprietor type business and taking off for the additional time, but it did not lead them to suggest doing away with Early Days. Friends pointed out that Early Days is a time to reacquaint with old Friends, meet new ones and attend interesting workshops. One Friend suggested it is a warm up time to be ready for IMYM Meeting for Business. A former member of our meeting who has moved to the East Coast also wrote to us of her unbridled support for Early Days. She continues to attend annually when she can. It is also an important time for Senior Young Friends and other youth to spend time together. There was some thought that if cost is an issue one idea might be to have Early Day workshops both mornings and afternoons, which might eliminate one day. It was acknowledged this could create childcare issues though for some.

Some other ideas included the possibility of adding another "regular day," which would include a Meeting for Business, because in some recent years we did not have enough time to prayerfully consider all of the business that was before the Yearly Meeting. Another "regular day" could also include reports from our representatives to Quaker organizations, and a Meeting for Memorial Minutes. Also, it could allow for another Interest Groups time slot, as it has been problematic to schedule other Interest Groups at the same time as the speaker's Interest Group. There was discussion by several Friends about strengthening the "buddy system" for newcomers as a way to welcome and integrate folks and children who arrive at the beginning of "regular days," who missed out on the bonding that happens during Early Days. And also as a way to help newcomers understand what goes on. Especially, there needs to be a better way to connect newcomers with their buddies. It is not enough to have someone assigned, when they can't find who they are assigned too.

Pay as Led: All present liked the Pay as Led system. Some had used it to help pay their way, while others had not. Some were confused about how the system works and did not seem to understand that our Monthly Meeting had contributed what it normally gave out as scholarships for IMYM directly to IMYM instead. Afterwards it was decided by the Clerk that more information about how it works will be provided in February or March before registration for IMYM begins.

About the Relationship between IMYM and MM: Are there programs or other things you would like IMYM to provide during the year?

Some of us were concerned about Memorial Minutes not being read or considered in the way they used to be. Several Friends suggested IMYM should create a data base that includes names, addresses, emails and meeting times of all meetings in the IMYM Region and post it on line. Another thought it would be helpful to list Friends who are well versed or experts in one area or another. These might be a list of Friends who have experience working with immigrant issues, have or are going through the process of building on or seeking a larger or different meeting place, have dealt with problems around sexual abuse, know something about keeping records or archives, have a deep understanding of environmental issues, are experts in financial issues and those that are deeply rooted in peace and social concern issues. This is not considered a complete list, by any means!

All in all Friends responded enthusiastically to these queries.

Allen Winchester  
Clerk of Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of Friends