

Pima Monthly Meeting, Tucson Arizona State of the Meeting 2018

Pima Monthly Meeting is blessed with 79 members. One Friend left us through transfer and two died. Two Friends became members or transferred membership to Pima Meeting. One Friend resigned. Our average worship attendance is 15 at the early meeting and 35 at later meeting. We hold our Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business with an average of 20 Friends and attenders participating.

This was a year of faith for Pima Monthly Meeting. We held a worshipful discernment addressing the quality of Pima Meeting's worship after reading the description of a Gathered Meeting from the Intermountain Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice. This opportunity allowed a deeper understanding of how we strive individually and collectively to find God's presence as we gather in worship.

We continue to trust Spirit to guide us without the wisdom of a Nominating Committee. People have followed their personal leading to fill committee positions. When the clerk laid down her service midyear, we started a Clerking Project Committee. Four clerks-in-training test the waters of clerkship with seasoned clerks by their side. The Clerking Project Committee meetings have deepened our experience of Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business by teaching us to hear each other and the spirit working among us. We experienced a gathered MWCB more often.

We deepen the spiritual life of the Meeting through:

- Prison ministry at the federal prison: Friends participate in the Prison Visitation and Support program and the Alternatives to Violence Project;
- Sanctuary for migrants: We held a threshing session to increase our involvement in sanctuary through hospitality, special bond fund, visitation and support of the Tucson Sanctuary Coalition and the Migrant Trail Walk;
- Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business: We continue to offer reports, agenda and consent agenda a week in advance of the MWCB.

We strengthen and sustain our sense of community through:

- Homeless outreach working group: Provide meals at a homeless shelter;
- Migrant Support: Collect and distribute items and make food at Casa Alitas (a temporary shelter for migrants);
- Harvest and Holiday parties and monthly pot luck: Share food, crafts, poetry, music, games;
- Young Adult Friends Wednesday gathering: Share food, conversation, worship and learn more about Quakers;
- Adult Spiritual Development: Twice each month education offerings; a highlight was an intergenerational question and answer session;
- Quakerism 101: Documents available through google classroom;
- Meet and Greet: A gathering of early (8:00) and later (10:30) First Day meetings on the Fifth First Day to enhance fellowship;
- Sewing circle: Once a month gathering of crafters;
- Work Days: Special needs of our meetinghouse are addressed at the two work days held each year;
- Christmas Candle light Worship: Reminds us of the Light of Christmas in a room of darkness;
- Invest in Greening our Meetinghouse: We get all our electricity from the sun and harvest our water.

Opportunities we are led to explore and develop

- Library update: Library holdings are being listed on a data base;

- Children and Families: Exploring our leading to engage more children and families and attend to them with consistent love and care;
- End of Life documents: Each member of meeting will be asked to provide information that will assist Meeting in supporting the person at the end of their life;
- Workshop on the use of our technology: As we move closer to fully use G-suites, we will learn how to communicate within committees and archive our documents;
- Christ Centered Fellowship: We gather twice a month to worship with attention to Jesus Christ's teachings;
- Increase our meeting's outreach: We are developing a T-shirt and planning an ad campaign;

A Friend shared that, {We wish to explore} "how to live our lives, as Quakers, in local, national and international arenas. The world is kind of a scary place to be in these days, and I need continual replenishment that what I am doing is important and matters."

Another Friend stated. "We should not hang on to parts of the past out of nostalgia when they are no longer serving us, or attempt to shove young people into old slots when that's obviously no longer working. We should also not pander to newer people, compromise values or good procedures, or be less than honest about who we are out of fear of losing young people or desperateness that the visible organization continue.... Really, the Light will lead us forward into the future the Spirit desires for the organization, and is indeed, already doing so. That is a wonderful thing."

Pima Monthly Meeting
www.pmm.life