

2020 Intermountain Yearly Meeting
State of the Meeting Reports

Arizona Half-yearly Meeting:

Flagstaff Monthly Meeting

Pima Monthly Meeting

Tempe Monthly Meeting

Colorado Regional Meeting:

Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Colorado Springs Monthly Meeting

Fort Collins Friends Meeting

Mountain View Friends Meeting

New Mexico Regional Meeting:

Durango Friends Meeting

El Paso Monthly Meeting

Gila Friends Meeting

Quaker House Santa Fe Meeting

Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of Friends

Utah Friends:

Moab Monthly Meeting

Salt Lake Monthly Meeting

Flagstaff Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

State of the Meeting Report 2019

The quality of worship is deep and the sense of community is strong. The expansion of ways and events to become involved in the Meeting has led to an increase in trust, participation and understanding among Friends.

Attendance has continued steady with between 15 to 23 people at Meetings for Worship and between 10 to 15 people present at Meetings for Business. The Meeting has benefited from this increase in input and participation. It also leads to greater understanding for those not familiar with how things are run to see how the Meeting is structured and the benefits of using Quaker process.

Although it was not a stated goal of the Meeting, 2019 has seen an increased emphasis on the Testimony of Community in our activities within the Meeting and in the wider community. We continue to support the Family Food Center with our monthly assist in serving a dinner, and regular donation of money. Several people from Meeting have taken to helping there at other times as well.

We arranged a public presentation by AFSC, with much input from involved community members, about private prisons in Arizona. Sierra Cottle, an FCNL Advocate, gave the Meeting a talk about the arming of police departments around the country with surplus military equipment.

Several people in the Meeting had a leading concerning immigration. This was recognized by having them form an Ad Hoc committee to see how the Meeting could become involved.

The Murdoch Center is the community center for the Southside of Flagstaff. We have taken more of an interest in the Center this year with several people attending Miss Cleo's Tea and the Welcome Back to Black NAU Students. We now have a member on the board of the Southside Community Association focusing on the flood plain plan for the area and have agreed to help design and build a garden for the Center.

We have joined a Faith based coalition that was founded in Flagstaff to give the spiritual community a more unified political voice to address local action about climate change.

A member felt a leading to restart our long defunct Peace and Social Concerns committee. The committee had been laid down because the urgency of addressing concerns without seasoning and the anger that came when the Meeting would not follow the dictates of the committee had caused severe damage to the Meeting. It was agreed that a committee to review and coordinate the growing interest in social concerns could be valuable but it would be necessary to address the reasons the previous committee had been laid down. After considered seasoning it was felt that the committee should not be restarted at this time.

Our spiritual explorations have continued. There were four house meetings, with a meal and discussion at each one. The subjects were; Peace, Equality, Community and Light Meditation. We had our annual retreat in April around Thomas Kelly's Testament of Devotion. Having an early Meeting on the first Sunday of the month based on Light Meditation and

2020 State of the Meeting Report – Pima Monthly Meeting

2019 has been a year of both loss and renewal for Pima Monthly Meeting. We lost a well-loved member to cancer, achieved greater unity around an important concern, and are facing our edge of growth on another. Additionally, Pima Monthly Meeting has undertaken a structural change that has the promise of creating both increased efficiency and spiritual growth in our community.

The year began with the heartbreaking news that our longtime member, Friend, and former clerk, Shawna Thompson, had been diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. Although only 52 at the time of the diagnosis, Shawna had already survived metastatic breast cancer once, and, knowing her odds, chose to eschew further chemotherapy and accept only palliative care. As we helped Shawna travel this last and difficult journey, we worshiped with her in her home, convened Meetings for Sufferings, supported her mother, and provided home help for Shawna. One of Shawna's last wishes was to return to her homeland in Kayenta AZ on the Navajo Reservation. This was an arduous journey as Shawna's health condition necessitated hiring a vehicle which could accommodate a hospital bed, medical coordination with hospice and funding. The trip was, as one Friend put it, "A horrible idea that must absolutely happen anyway." Meeting decided to support this trip by making it financially and logistically possible. The trip to Navajoland gave Shawna spiritual comfort as it pulled the meeting together with a sense of love and common purpose. In this way, Shawna, even in her dying, continued to mentor and nurture Pima Monthly Meeting. Shawna Thompson left this world on May 20, 2019. She will be remembered and dearly missed.

A second area of unity and gathering in Pima meeting has been in regard to migrant work. Pima Monthly Meeting has been involved with migrant concerns since the 1980s with the first Sanctuary Movement, and many members and attenders have been involved in the new sanctuary movement. For example, Pima Monthly Meeting has provided meals for the Migrant Trail Walk held each May. This 5-day experience of retracing a common migration route serves as a witness to the migrant experience. This effort, and other notable individual efforts notwithstanding, the migrant cause had not risen to a focused meeting-wide concern before 2019. Slowly momentum has been growing, and as a meeting we have been more committed toward the migrant cause. Pima Meeting's dedicated committee to support friends who seek a new life in the United States is the Migration Action Committee. Through the work and leadership of the Migration Action Committee, Pima Monthly Meeting has increased our bond support for those in government detention, provided more hospitality of migrants, and made it easier to donate directly to migrant-related endeavors. One concrete change we made is to create a donation box for migrant action within the meeting house. This is a visible reminder of our commitment to migrants.

worship sharing has been valuable and will be continued. The short readings at the start of the Meeting are now being done on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

After consideration and approval by a Clearness Committee, the Meeting agreed to hold the Commitment of a couple in the care of the Meeting. The Commitment Meeting was held in November. This ceremony was held to celebrate the relationship of an older man and woman from our meeting who wished to commit to each other without legal marriage.

Jeanne Malsada, a member for seven years, died, after a long illness, July 7, 2019. She was 88 years old.

An awareness has been growing in the Meeting that we have been losing our history. There has been no procedure in place to maintain or access our records. An Ad Hoc committee was set up to address this situation. After several meetings it became apparent there is a lot involved to create an archive that we didn't know. The need for an archivist was discussed. In a slightly miraculous manner, a professional and interested Quaker archivist has appeared and is starting to make our archive a reality.

A Finance Committee was started in September. This was done to enable a larger view of financial affairs that comes with several points of view and to ease the work of the Treasurer.

A third major issue arose in Pima Monthly Meeting in 2019. Mid-year, young adult Friends in our meeting proposed that we make our men's and women's restrooms gender neutral. We had a trial period of three months and at the end of it, due to some privacy concerns of multi-stall bathrooms being all gender, we did not move forward on this proposal. The all-gender bathroom issue was a window into a deeper concern among some in meeting that we were not inclusive of those who are non-gender conforming, as well as not inclusive of other minorities. A conversation has begun. Late in the year, a non-binary Friend approached Ministry and Care about their concerns as a ethnic and gender minority in PMM. We are in the beginning stages of this concern and look forward to working on our edge of growth in the coming year. We hope that through examining ourselves, both individually and as a community, we can create a community that is more inclusive and more closely follows Spirit's leading in this area.

Finally, PMM went through some substantial structural changes this year that we hope will help us function more efficiently and deepen our spiritual lives. Like many meetings, we had a burgeoning committee structure with many committees and positions to fill. As a result, many felt over-burdened and spiritually taxed. Nominating committee became inactive and for over a year we had no functioning nominating committee because not enough individuals were willing to take on such arduous and discouraging responsibilities. In response, we held threshing sessions and continued to discern Spirit's leading. Out of this discernment, an ad hoc Committee on Committees (COCO) was formed to evaluate our current committee structure. COCO consulted each standing committee, surveyed members, researched other monthly meetings' practice, and incorporated ideas offered by Arizona Half Yearly Meeting's plenary speaker, Marty Smith. The Committee on Committees proposed a streamlined committee structure which Pima meeting approved in October. The aim was to serve the spiritual goals and growth of individual members and meeting as a whole, rather than to have an over-complicated structure that we as Quakers serve. We will continue to evaluate our new structure in 2020 to make sure our committees continue to enliven and enrich us spiritually as a meeting.

As of the end of 2019 we had 79 members. During the year, three members died -- Shawna Thompson, Allison Justine Clough, and Betsy Rieke. We added three members: two by application and one by transfer. Also, our meetinghouse caretaker, Sherrie, who has been with us for eight years, will be moving away to be with family. We are upgrading the apartment and seeking a new live-in caretaker.

Tempe Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report, 2019-2020

Tempe Monthly Meeting remains committed to building the Beloved Community. We find comfort in our gatherings for worship, corporately searching in silence and with the benefit of vocal ministry for our sense of God's hand in our lives and the world's affairs. Many of us find fulfillment in serving our Meeting, our community, and Quaker organizations.

The Society of Friends has been described as a "do it yourself religion," which means that if Friends see something that needs doing, they do it. That description aptly describes our Meeting this past year. We are blessed with members of our community who have stepped up to serve in a number of leadership and committee positions. Friends who did not think of themselves in certain roles have discovered gifts they did not feel previously confident about exercising. A number of members of our community have, as a result, shared those gifts and strengthened our community of seekers.

Tempe Friends Meeting has also been blessed with wonderful seekers who have found a home with us in the last year and bring richness to the fabric of our gatherings. Some have left us, which they do with our blessings. Our hope is that they find community with those among whom they travel and share some of the generous spirit they have brought to us. Others, who remain among us, have found opportunities to contribute to different Quaker, Christian and Ecumenical witness for which we offer grateful praise.

Marcelle Martin who had a recently published the well-received book entitled "Our Life Is Love" visited us in the spring of 2018 to share openings. Friends were blessed to hear her words and to reflect upon own insights. Friends anticipate continuing with regular gatherings to worship and share focused on her book.

In 6th month of 2019, we hosted Donna Higgins Smith of Redwoods Forest Friends Meeting, who was traveling with Jane Snyder and Miguel Costop from the Guatemala Friends Scholarship program. They provided information about the program which is supported and funded through Redwood Forest Friends Meeting in Santa Rosa, California.Meeting.

We began reading periodically from the book "Healing After Loss: Daily Meditations For Working Through Grief." As with our practice of reading monthly from Faith and Practice, these regular readings during worship have been well received and give our gathered fellowship of seekers much to ponder.

Anne Pomeroy led our spiritual retreat in 2nd month 2019. She challenged us to find opportunities for grace, to consider what is needed for hope, to practice gratitude, and to consider what is authentic in our sharing. We were also asked to measure how we might practice gratitude in order to interrupt negative patterns.

Our 2020 spiritual retreat in 2nd month, was led by Mary Klein, who came for two days of worship and activities focused on "faith into practice into faith into practice." Friends shared insights about our lives and beliefs and considered our ties to the greater society of Friends as well as our meeting community. Because Friends are non-creedal, the diversity among us was an interesting exploration. It revealed how little difference that diversity makes to our gathered meetings waiting on the coming of the Presence.

Tempe Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting Report, 2019-2020

In early 2020, Diane Randall and Sarah Kennedy came from FCNL for a potluck supper on 6th day, worship and then an address and questions in a gathering of Arizona Friends. We heard news of Friendly lobbying and efforts to bring our values to our national government for the benefit of all. That visit was a further reflection of our Meeting's great appreciation for FCNL's important work. In early 2019, we gathered to discern our sense of Quaker leadings in response to FCNL's inquiry about legislative priorities. We understand that our contribution like that of Friends across the country was accepted with appreciation. We are busy with the 2020 discernment for FCNL. A minute concerning immigration and our concern with abuse of the strangers in our land by our government was approved in 4th month 2019.

Tempe with Phoenix Friends Meeting and others have renewed the FCNL advocacy team which had previously existed. Through advocacy at the local level, FCNL and Quakers can exercise influence on national policy. We anticipate exciting work for all involved.

We had a threshing session on our practices and policy toward gun violence and the dangers it poses to our community. Tempe Friends were not able to come to a unified resolution, but did adopt a policy prohibiting firearms on our meeting property and have put up a notice by the meetinghouse entrance. We adopted a minute of concern over climate change and forwarded it to Intermountain Yearly Meeting. We also approved a letter which asked our congressional leaders to support the Energy Innovation and Carbon Tax Dividend Act (H.R. 763). We supported Kurandza Fund Raising "I stand for girls." We have raised funds for Ramallah Friends School. Friends have also been asked to assist with and host Quaker involvement with the White Privilege Conference scheduled in early 4th month 2020 in Mesa. Friends faithfully and joyfully meet our obligations with respect to I-Help, the homeless feeding and housing program to which we contribute ourselves.

Our Children's Religious Education program is a credit to wonderful contributions by dedicated adult Friends who deserve more support from the rest of us. It is also a credit to the marvelous young people who are faithful in their attendance at First Day school. Our Adult Religious Education Committee has not been as successful. The hard work of members of our community to enhance our religious education is appreciated but not sufficiently experienced. We will do better in the coming year.

We lost our dear Friend Bob Dolphin and miss his physical presence even as we feel his continuing spiritual impact. Jeffrey Janney, son of Rinda and Mark and a young Friend with us when our meeting house was new, sadly also died prematurely. We continue to grieve their passing as well as the loss of others who were important presences in our lives and the life of the meeting. Their importance in our spiritual lives is continuing.

Tempe Monthly Meeting continues to enjoy special blessings of additions to our community of weighty Friends who have found our community in their retirement. The wisdom of Friends who have years of experience with Quaker process is a special benefit that the meeting treasures and counts upon for help in finding God's way for us in difficult times.

Tempe Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting Report, 2019-2020

We are also grateful for winter visitors and other traveling Friends who come among us regularly. We feel torn when the weather turns and we know they will leave but take solace in our anticipation of their return.

In this year, Tempe Meeting has had two Friends request release from their membership. One Friend has been approved for membership. A member has died, leaving 47 adult members.

In turbulent times we are mindful of Jesus' message that we are called to love not only those who are natural objects of our caring and affection but even those who in the world would count as enemies. We are taught that they are God's children too, on whom the sun also rises and on whom the rain also falls.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT BOULDER MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (2019-2020)

The Boulder Meeting of Friends, the second largest Monthly Meeting in Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM), is a community of faithful individuals with diverse leadings, needs, and strengths. Without the willing gifts and commitments of all our members and attenders, we could never have met the challenges, suffered the losses individually or corporately, or experienced the joys of the past year. This included working our way through painful committee and personal conflicts while seeking to respond to *that of God in all*, and remembering that we are indeed “better together.”

We do our work in committees. And then bring that work forward for decisions made as a whole in Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. While not always successful, we remain Seekers in “Quaker process” who work to value each others’ gifts and passions, who worship to discern the Spirit of the whole, and who wait for Light to open our Way. This report offers a small window into the tremendous amount of personal and committee work required to keep our Meeting’s body and Spirit nurtured.

Ministry & Worship Committee watches over the spiritual life of the Meeting and seeks to strengthen and deepen the spiritual life of individuals within the Meeting community.

We organized Spring potlucks, as a way for Friends to get to know each other and talk about our spiritual life together. The potluck discussion topic was “Quality of Worship and Vocal Ministry.” We had ongoing discernment around quality of worship, welcoming newcomers, and Quaker process, especially as it concerns the Meeting's committees. We sponsored a well-received series of Quaker Studies meetings over six weeks in Fall 2019. More than 20 Friends attended the sessions, which served both as education for newer attenders and a place for seasoned Friends to discuss our Meeting's traditions. We responded to concerns about the health of several committees, offering guidance and assistance where needed. We also planned a very well-attended and meaningful Christmas Eve gathering.

Oversight and Membership (O&M) Committee oversees care of the membership, coordinating with the Service Committee and the M&W Committee as needed.

This year, we worked with Religious Education Committee and Lee Quinby (O&M Liaison) to review and update our Child Protection Policies. We convened 1 Clearness Committee for Membership, 1 Clearness Committee involving conflict, performed the triennial membership accountability, transferred memberships for the Clarke-Sathers to Duluth Meeting, accepted a membership transfer of Sharon Chase from Herndon Friends Meeting, and recommended full membership (from Associate Membership) for Flora Quinby.

The Grief and Bereavement Committee hosted memorial services this year for Richard Segel and Sami Puzé; Presented a book to the Meeting “Going into the Light” that offers support for families who are experiencing the death of a loved one and also is a way to look ahead in one’s life, create Advanced Directives, and prepare for a peaceful death. We hosted a well-attended Death Café and a program hour led by member Grant Marylander (chaplain, Boulder Community Hospital), answering questions how to set up advanced directives, etc. We also offered a program hour where we invited the Natural Funeral Home from Lafayette to talk with our members about green funerals and other services that they offer.

The Library Committee continues to provide books, pamphlets, periodicals as well as DVDs and CDs to the members and attenders of Boulder Friends Meeting. We maintain and develop our library collection through timely ordering. We endeavor to keep our collection accessible, current, and relevant. Our Meeting's spiritual journey collection continues to grow and we have also made DVDs of notable program hours’ workshops available. In collaboration with the Web Committee, most of our Meeting’s spiritual journey collection has become available on the Meeting’s website in audio format.

The Religious Education Committee is a strong, though small committee of six members. Besides quality childcare workers in the nursery, our all-volunteer teachers and assistants in the elementary, junior and senior levels are doing an excellent job.

The number of youngsters who come to class continues to be inconsistent, with the K-5 class having between four and nine participants. That group follows a curriculum based on Quaker testimonies, with two months reserved for exploring Bible stories and teachings. The junior young friends (JYFs) meet twice a month with between one and three participants. The senior young friends (SYFs) also meet twice a month, with one time being a “walk to a coffee shop” with both teen groups in attendance.

REC has organized two (so far) family food and fun Sunday afternoons as a new avenue for fellowship among our young people. Childcare is provided for program hours, business meetings and other special events.

The summer program has been based on a nature or cultural theme. It encourages adults, who might not usually teach during the year, to volunteer their expertise and interests and also get to know the young people better.

The **Fellowship Committee** had a busy year. We have done the usual tasks, supplying coffee, teas and snacks after both the 8:30 and the 10:00 Meeting for Worship. It helped to bridge the gap between the 2 groups. We held three summer barbecues. After hamburgers, hot dogs and grilled portabello mushrooms we have been holding a discussion about Meeting wide issues. We have continued hosting a light lunch such as soup or chili, before the Meeting for Business. We held the regular Christmas and Easter potlucks.

It’s been a lot of work but we all feel that that the work is important to the Meeting community. Several Friends who are not on the committee have helped us clean up after the potlucks.

The **Program Committee** of Boulder Friends Meeting organizes Program Hours after Meeting on three First Days of each month, from September through May.

Priorities include requests from BFM’s committees, or issues raised by members and attenders. The primary focus areas for our work include: 1) building community; 2) Quaker history and practice; 3) spirituality, testimonies, and activism; and 4) spiritual journeys of members. 5th Sunday Singing is always a highlight with other programs last year including presentatons on Indigenous Peacemaking, a panel on the question: ”What does Jesus have to do with it?”, the work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), building an anti-racist Quaker Meeting and a presentation by George Lakey on Nonviolent Action and Social Change.

Service Committee We remain true to the long-held leadings of Quakers to help those in need, near and far, and address social concerns. We organized and/or volunteered to support Friends and these local organizations: Offer respite time and support group services for caregiver Friends; Be available to provide food and transport for Friends in need; Fall Echo House fundraiser to stock household supplies in one unit offered to homeless families; Donate/deliver non-perishable food items to EFAA (Emergency Family Assistance Association); Cook/serve one meal per month at Boulder Shelter for the Homeless; Volunteer at the Safehouse (SPAN) crisis phone line as it provides shelter, food and basic needs for domestic abuse survivors; Donate and deliver a non-perishable food donation to the Harvest of Hope food pantry; Support Bridge House in its Ready to Work program offering paid work experience, housing and case management for homeless people.

Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee seeks to build respectful relationships between Friends and Native Peoples through educational programs and financial support. This year we facilitated a 3-day seminar at IMYM hosted a Program Hour with Brett Shelton (Oglala Sioux) who directs the Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative of the Native American Rights Fund; collaborated with Right Relationship; Boulder’s Indigenous People Day event;helped plan and fund a Language/Culture Camp for Arapahoe youth; renewed our relationship with Isna Wicca Owayawa Loneman School of the Pine Ridge Reservation; hosted educational film screenings and discussions; and continued to support Paula Palmer’s Toward Right Relations with Native Peoples ministry as it became part of Friends Peace Teams.

The Peace and Social Justice Committee (PSJ) has had a busy year. We sponsored a number of workshops. We worked closely with the Building and Grounds Committed to craft a new Building Use Policy that was approved by Meeting in February 2020. We keep Boulder Friends informed and involved through a monthly letter-writing campaign, which deals with topics of national (as suggested by FCNL) and local interest (including legislation at the state level).

The highlights of the past year were the two workshops that PSJ sponsored in February of 2020. Regan Byrd presented on Racism on February 15th. George Lakey presented a workshop on nonviolent activism on February 29th.

PSJ currently has 4 active members, so there are only a limited number of issues we can actively work on. The issues are aligned with our 3 focus areas: Environmental Justice and Stewardship, Peace Building and Prevention of Violence, and Immigration and Racial Justice.

Finance Committee, oversees the Meeting's finances and advises the Meeting on financial issues. Among the many activities the committee performed, it spent many hours converting our QuickBooks procedures to maximize digital ease and accuracy; reviewed the Treasurer's reports and gave assistance and advice to the Treasurer; prepared the budget for Fiscal Year 2020; sent an annual donation appeal letter to members and attenders in October; released finances of Toward Right Relationship to Friends Peace Teams and laid down Grocery Card Program.

Building & Grounds committee completed several projects. Among others:

Expanded the western landscape bed and retaining wall, including the planting of xeric plants and trees and finishing with mulch. Continued six energy saving updates; routine repairs and maintenance; and investigated needed improvements to airing, accessibility and sound mitigation in the Meeting. Met with an engineer to discuss the meetinghouse's vulnerability during floods.

Nominating Committee struggled initially due to Nominating Committee vacancies. But while we had a late start, our process for discerning whom to invite for the nominated committees was ultimately fruitful. We had two difficult-to-fill positions (Associate Treasurer and *Miscellany* Editor) for the current year that were eventually filled. A few stubborn vacancies persisted throughout the year. As the time for nominating a new slate approached, we worked to make members and attenders aware of the need for volunteer committees and individual work. We encouraged the community to volunteer where they feel called for the volunteer committees and other positions needed for our community to thrive. We compiled the yearly slate for approval by Meeting for Business in April. There are many, many faithful Friends who do the work of Boulder Meeting, for which we are all grateful. Nevertheless, it seems that we need to continually strive to right-size the amount of work that we set out to do by identifying and prioritizing the work that is essential to the health of our Meeting.

Higher Education Scholarship Committee met about four times last year to get the word out about the availability of the scholarships, to consider financial sustainability of the fiduciary fund, to identify our high school students who are likely to apply and those who are graduating. Five students received scholarships of \$650 for the Spring semester, and 5 students received \$650 for the Fall semester. The total 2019 scholarships awards were \$5,200.

The committee encourages college graduates to give a 5-10 minute presentation of their studies.

Web Committee strives to keep our website relevant, inviting, responsive, secure, running smoothly, with up-to-date content, and useful to both our Meeting and the larger community. The Committee continuously puts effort into working with all committees, the clerk, and other Friends to ensure that the website is a place where everyone in our Meeting can go to find the information they need. And yet, that information is only as good as the information that is given to us by our community. Our goal is also that our website be a place where our community can share with each other, via our blog, photos, spiritual journeys, art work, and more.

Colorado Springs Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

State of the Meeting, IMYM June 13, 2020

The Colorado Springs Religious Society of Friends continues to prosper in the search for the Truth. After more than 50 years as a Meeting, we are celebrating our 8th year in residence at our Meeting House and continue looking into “bringing the bathrooms inside.” We hope to have a small addition built that will have a basic kitchen, First Day School space and the bathrooms. Other Meeting House projects included the removal of two big shrubs so that the front south facing window could be repaired and painted. A sturdy handicap ramp was built by the back door with funds generously donated by a Friend.

We remain of modest size but continue to slowly grow and contribute to the greater Quaker and Peace communities. Currently we have 13 members and several new attenders, five of whom (almost half of our total membership) serve both the monthly meeting and the Quaker community at large, either in Colorado Regional Meeting or Intermountain Yearly Meeting. We support our members who are struggling with life transitions, despite the burden COVID-19 imposes on us. Sadly, one of our long time members died in a house fire. Because of the COVID-19 virus, we have enjoyed worshipping on Zoom since March. In addition to our usual community, several Friends who live out of town or have moved away have been able to worship with us.

Our adult Religious Education program/Quakerism 101 met monthly (before we closed the Meeting House) to study and discuss the Advices and Queries of the Britain Yearly Meeting. We loosely followed a Worship Sharing style of discussion. In addition, our 5th Sunday Occasional Book group continues to focus on reading and discuss Quaker fiction. We heartily recommend the Midwife Series by Edith Maxwell.

Several members of our Meeting served on the Sanctuary Coalition this past year. We continued to focus on getting information about a variety of resources for “End of Life” arrangements. We encouraged Friends to update their wishes and arrangements. Our books are balanced and things are steady.

When it is safe, we look forward to once again meeting for Worship in our Meeting House and are committed to welcoming new attenders and Friends. As always, we encourage young families to participate in our First Day School.

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

Fort Collins Friends Meeting State of the Meeting May 2020

New co-clerks Carol Reilly and Bob Shively (clerk@fortcollinsquakers.org) started July 1. They attended the Joy of Clerking workshop at the Quaker Center in Ben Lomond, California in September.

We are saddened by Mary Carol Randall's death in February. Her previously scheduled memorial has been postponed due to covid-19. A recent update of our census shows twenty-five members. Prior to the covid-19 Stay-at-Home order, our Meeting House was often full on Sundays. We have added two new Members and accepted two transfers to our Meeting in 2020. We have a number of new attenders including families. Our First Day School program is growing, and we have started an older youth program this fall that meets twice a month. This is in addition to our weekly young children's program. We have held numerous adult education activities including monthly Meeting for Learning to discuss various books on Quakers. Last fall we held two Friday Night with Friends covering current issues including the concept called the Radical Center with Rick Knight of CSU and a discussion of the book "White Fragility." In December we hosted a meeting of the Fort Collins Interfaith Council that was attended by about 30 participants from various faith communities. We presented an overview of our Meeting and how we practice the beliefs of Quakers.

We continue to participate quarterly with the local interfaith Faith Family Hospitality program that provides housing and other services to homeless families. We are active in Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition which helps support refugees and immigrants in our community. We also host monthly meetings of Veterans for Peace. We continue to support our Member Mike Gray in his work with indigenous peoples in Sonora, Mexico and Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Last summer our Meeting adopted a land acknowledgement statement, that recognizes the native peoples on whose historic lands our Meeting House sits. The statement was added to our Meeting House sign. We also keep a Little Free Library outside our Meeting House stocked with books for residents of our neighboring community.

We enjoyed a joint campout with Mountain View Friends Meeting in August. And as always, we hold an annual snow outing in January at Snowy Range, Wyoming and hold an outside Meeting for Worship in August at the Judson Ranch in Livermore.

Although we have struggled to fill committees and part of the year operated without a nominating committee, the situation has improved greatly in recent months. A new nominating committee was approved in October. We held a Committee Day to educate and encourage Friends to join committees and have filled many previously vacant positions. We have found that reaching out to new attenders has been fruitful in increasing participation. Finance Committee is working diligently to modernize our bookkeeping and budgeting process and we now use Quicken to manage our books. We are grateful that our financial situation is stable.

We continue to appreciate our Meeting House and grounds and have a number of dedicated Friends who keep it in good condition. We have new tenants for our apartment.

In March, we transitioned Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business to virtual. While some Friends struggle with the needed technology or choose not to meet online, we regularly have 15 to 18 Friends on a typical Sunday. To reach out to all Members and Attenders during this difficult time, we are developing a phone tree that will result in all interested individuals getting a weekly phone call to see how they are doing. Our religious education committee is exploring ways to provide virtual First Day School for our youth as they transition into summer vacation.

We are grateful for the opportunity to gather each First Day to enter the silence and listen for the still small voice as we seek the way forward, whether we gather in person, virtually, or simply in spirit.

State of the Meeting-2019
Mountain View Friends Meeting
Denver, Colorado USA

<http://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/mountain-view-friends-meeting>

OVERVIEW

Mountain View Friends Meeting (MVFM) is an unprogrammed meeting in Denver, Colorado, affiliated with Intermountain Yearly Meeting. Membership stood at about 160 adult members and 6 junior 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.

Westside worship, which is growing with 15 to 30 in attendance at 10am, meets in Edgewater, a suburb west of Denver. 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. They also invite joys/sorrows, call for announcements, and urge newcomers to introduce themselves.

Two meetings for worship share the Columbine Street 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. Early Meeting is generally warm, welcoming, and quiet. Recently they seem to have more new people. The new schedule with added time between the rise of 9:00 gathering and the settling of the later Meeting seems to be working well. This is a close-knit group. The later Meeting for Worship (10:30/10:45) continues to be well-attended with a larger group of 50-70 worshippers. First Day School is offered at this time, so many families with children attend. There are usually visitors and newcomers.

Following both meetings for worship at Columbine, there is a time for sharing joys and sorrows, a time for introduction of visitors, a time for announcements, and time for fellowship. Following fellowship after the later meeting, there are programs and activities which offer opportunities to strengthen connections with one another and become involved in social action projects. Throughout most of the year, we schedule a monthly potluck, the sharing of a spiritual journey, and a peace and justice forum.

Participation in Meeting for Business continues to be good with 40 or more people attending. The tradition of holding the business meeting in the Light has changed from having an individual member of Worship and Ministry Committee do this to having the whole meeting be responsible.

The Archives Committee noted that many people are serving on multiple committees. In our latest list of committees, about half the people serving on a committee serve on multiple committees; a few people serve on as many as four.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR CHANGES FOR MOUNTAIN VIEW MEETING IN 2019

With the help of many members of the meeting and especially Paul Motz, Storey, Michael Garren and David Huhn, this meeting reached the end of the main phase of the Meetinghouse remodeling project in late summer 2019, including the ability and approval to use the elevator. As with any remodeling project, there has been stress at times for both the people actively doing the remodel and for those around them who are affected by it. There is still some work to be done and in December we scheduled a called business meeting in January 2020 to discern how to move forward on the remaining parts of the project. There will be a new committee to help with this project.

We experimented with different worship times during the summer and early fall to allow for increased time for interaction for Friends between the early and later meetings at Columbine. In October of 2019, we approved changing the later meeting time to 10:45 am. Westside meeting time has not changed.

Our business meeting clerk is now posing and sharing queries at the beginning of each business meeting to which responses are encouraged. We have found this to be a lovely, intentional way to bring the light into our business affairs.

We struggled with the issue of a person who had joined our meeting while in prison and who might be released and able to come to meeting in 2019. Our concerns centered on how to treat this person's presence at meeting vs. an overall policy for sex offenders or those accused of sexual harassment or assault. As a part of this consideration, at one business meeting the clerk handed out 3x5 cards to give everyone the opportunity to write out their experience and knowledge of these issues anonymously. The clerk and assistant clerk read the responses silently and then shared that there were many powerful responses and suggested that we develop a policy. We have not yet come to unity on a policy for how to limit or monitor such a person's involvement in meeting. This will be an ongoing concern.

Our meeting's liability insurance was reviewed in conjunction with this and with a related issue of how to handle the presence of someone known to have been accused of or convicted of sexual assault. Our liability company requested that we inform them of anyone attending the meeting who was accused or convicted of sexual assault, so that they could tell us how they would like to handle that situation. We would then discern how to proceed at a meeting for business.

While a number of seasoned members have moved away, and are missed, we have new members who have transferred their memberships after relocating to the Denver area from other parts of the country.

COMMITTEES: The work of Mountain View Friends Meeting is accomplished by well over a dozen committees, all of which provide important services for our Meeting and our members and attenders. Below are some highlights:

CARE and COUNSEL: We've found that a growing number of older members/attenders in our community have become an increasing part of our pastoral care. Some have little support outside of members of our community. We anticipate that our members/attenders will be increasingly called upon to help. This is of concern since Meeting resources both financial and time available are limited.

FREE: Mountain View Friends Meeting established a new committee in 2019, Friends for Racial Equity and Education (FREE). The Work Group for Dismantling Our Racism had operated for the 3 years prior, offering workshops, films, discussions and other opportunities for the Meeting to engage in racial equity education and action. In 2019, in acknowledgement of the need for a deep and ongoing commitment to dismantling the racism in our culture and in our Meeting and Yearly Meeting, Mountain View Friends Meeting established FREE as a standing committee to carry forward this important work.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS JOURNAL: This digital, quarterly magazine was started by two Meeting Friends in the Spring of 2019. Five editions have been published to date. It features articles written by meeting participants on personal views and happenings significant to the life of the Meeting. It features quality color photographs of activities and the people in the Meeting. The photos of our children are especially appreciated. This Journal is making one of the most important contributions to community building that we have seen in the Meeting in many a year.

PEACE and JUSTICE: The MVFM Peace & Justice Committee serves as home base for many activities that reach beyond our Meeting, but it does not direct them. The Committee continues to support a number of Quaker and non-Quaker organizations that perform social action in our community and world. In serving the Meeting directly, the committee's education work in 2019 included forums on: FCNL Policy Discernment for The World We Seek, 2001 World Trade Center Research Findings, AFSC Strategic Plan, Organizations Funded by the MVFM Outreach Budget, Climate Crisis, and Immigration/Refugees and Sanctuary Movement. Major recent activism assisted by the Peace & Justice Committee includes: lobbying and advocating for legislative action at the state and federal levels; hosting presentations by visiting authors and activists; developing a plan to identify and publish reliable news source URLs for Friends. The Peace & Justice Committee is exploring ways to celebrate and recognize the social justice work of all Friends of Mountain View Friends Meeting.

SANCTURARY COMMITTEE/IMMIGRANT ADVOCACY and SUPPORT COMMITTEE: We reviewed and discerned our commitment to providing residential sanctuary to immigrants, which had been interrupted during our reconstruction. We approved two requests for sanctuary which did not materialize as we expected; that led us to realize that the role of sanctuary had changed. At the same time we found that the strategies and governance of the

Coalition had become inconsistent with our values, and so we ended our membership in the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition. We then re-formed the Meeting's Sanctuary Committee as the Immigrant Advocacy and Support Committee. We have continued our relationships with families who were or had been in Sanctuary. As we moved into 2020, we reallocated the Meeting's designated sanctuary funds to families under threat of separation by deportation, and to a trio of local projects working with immigrants in detention: Casa de Paz which supports immigrants held in and released from the GEO ICE Immigrant Detention Center; the Immigrant Freedom Fund for bonding immigrants out of detention; and the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) which provides legal services to those in detention.

TRUSTEES AND RESPONSE COMMITTEE: This year the meeting has turned its attention again to the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct in our community. Building on our work of 10 years ago, the Response Committee is taking a look at our physical space and the policies and procedures that safeguard our entire community, using a checklist provided by Church Mutual, our insurance company, as well as our own past experiences. The role of the Response Committee has been expanded by the Meeting for Business to include receiving and responding to any concern or information regarding the presence in the meeting of an accused or convicted sex offender. The Response Committee will also receive any concerning information obtained from background checks for First Day School teachers. (Only information about previous sex offenses will be pertinent). Along similar lines, the Trustees have worked with Church Mutual to understand our obligations under the insurance contract in terms of alerting our insurer to the presence of an accused or convicted sex offender in the meeting.

Durango Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Reflection, 2020

A small group of members and attenders met together after Meeting for Worship for communal discernment in an effort to begin to articulate our annual "state of the meeting report." As we reflected on the spiritual vitality of our meeting, an interesting meditation on the nature of community began to take shape. We celebrated and affirmed relationships and connections. And yet, we also confessed to a desire for greater intimacy, better communication and more authentic relationships. We confessed to at times feeling overwhelmed and stretched thin by the work before us.

We reflected on our participation in the wider community of the Regional and Yearly Meetings. Durango Friends participate in these bodies through clerking the regional meeting, serving on the Arrangements and Representative Committees. Working with the Program Working Group and the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight committee. Durango Friends also worked to support the educational programming for young Friends at the Annual Gathering. This year, we also hosted the Arrangement's Committee, providing meals and hospitality so that the committee could complete their work.

We noted that we have a number of important connections beyond the Quaker world. These include: Mancos United Methodist Church and the UU Fellowship in Durango. Both of these communities have a particular concern for the rights of immigrants that we resonate with and support. This year, many Friends participated in "Love Out Loud," an ecumenical week of city-wide service opportunities. Quakers even led the closing worship service hosted by First United Methodist Church (now Summit Church).

We reflected with genuine delight on the activity and life of the young Friends in our community. At the rise of Meeting, the Young Friends typically share what they're learning about. They also share about the ways that they each feel called to action: though environmental education and advocacy, supporting LGBTQ youth and advocacy around mental health and substance abuse. This year, we noticed and celebrated our Young Friends Teachers with a minute of appreciation.

Friends in Durango continue to be involved in a number of peace and social concerns issues including: supporting individuals living in sanctuary, working with Quaker Earthcare Witness, picketing ICE operations, helping members and attenders to set goals for decreasing our carbon footprint, participating in fundraising for Manna Soup Kitchen, and working with the La Plata County Counsel on Aging.

This year, we continue to meet for second hour for Worship Sharing and for learning about our inherited Quaker tradition. This year we read Brian Drayton's *A Language for the Inward Landscape* and the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*. Individuals shared that the meeting community helps them to grow spiritually.

El Paso Monthly Meeting – 2019 – State of the Meeting Report
(Approved March 8, 2020)

A record nineteen people met for worship here one Sunday early in February. Two of those were children, who joined in worship fifteen minutes and then adjourned to the children's room, which our hosts at First Christian Church generously share with us. Through a gift of books from Eileen Redden, children's book editor at *Friends Journal*, we have been able to add some reading matter to that room. Also among that nineteen were some adults younger than forty, leading John Russell to quip, as he introduced a visitor, "This is our youth group."

As in the previous year, local Friends' lives have been enriched by outreach from Quakers all over the United States, who send messages of support and concern, seek ways to help this border community, and in some cases come to the El Paso/Juarez area to work and study. There's a bittersweet irony that Quakers in this remote corner of the country gain fellowship and inspiration as a result of the same events that have caused and continue to cause so much widespread suffering.

In response to new strategies that confine many people who are trying to escape danger and privation in their home countries in crowded, unsafe conditions just across the border in Juarez, our personal and communal responses have had to change. Vona Van Cleef became aware, through Facebook postings by free lance journalist Debbie Nathan, that early morning flights from the El Paso airport remove shackled migrants often to countries in which they have no ties, shortcutting their chances to fully pursue requests for asylum in the United States. Vona replied, "What are we going to do about it?" and she and Debbie called a meeting. Word spread, and those early efforts resulted in the formation of the El Paso Anti-Deportation Squad, acting to expose and oppose this practice. Most recently, the group also coordinates visits to a young woman who is hospitalized with serious injuries after a border patrol car chase.

After the August mass shooting at a Wal-Mart store in the central city, Peter Murchison from Wilton Meeting in Connecticut contacted us and offered his support to growing local efforts like the chapter of Moms Demand Action. Peter is a hardworking and creative activist in gun safety. His young nephew died at Sandy Hook. El Paso Quakers remember Peter from his days as a volunteer in El Paso in the 1960's. His article appears in the February 2020 issue of *Friends Journal*.

Friends here continue with some of their earlier work, including the Prison Visitation and Support program at La Tuna Federal Prison and FCNL.

Recently we learned that our hosts at First Christian Church will put their building up for sale. They have treated us as partners as well as tenants, and we are sad. This is the fourth church that has closed down after letting us use space in their building, and we hope this reputation won't precede us as we go on the road again looking for space.

We have enjoyed planning for this visit from New Mexico Regional Meeting. We hope you will enjoy the results of our work, and we are grateful that you have traveled here to spend time with us.

Peace and hope, El Paso Monthly Meeting

One shared: our community reminds me what is important in life... I come to be gathered when I'm feeling scattered."

The worship group in Mancos continues to provide valuable space for fellowship and worship, though, often, the fellowship is few, and it's frequency sparse.

Durango Friends celebrate the life of Bob Dolphin, and grieve his passing this year. Bob was a founding and foundational member of our community.

As Friends were wrapping up our session, we felt like the process allowed us to get at some important truths, realities, feelings, and relational dynamics. Friends expressed that perhaps we should do this kind of "in-reach" more frequently so that we might be more in tune with one another and with the subterranean life of our meeting community. Perhaps, in so doing, we might improve on our ability to minister to one another, to be present to one another and help one another to discern the divine voice that speaks to each one of us.

State of the Meeting Report, Gila Friends Meeting, March 2020

“In these dark and uncertain times, there can be great value in imagining a bit of star in each human soul. Not just that it gives some hope for humanity at a time when man’s inhumanity to man seems ever on the increase; but also because it points to an inner brightness that can light the way in dark times.” (Michael Meade, The Genius Myth)

At the end of 2019, this conflict between the darker forces of the world we live in and our need to nurture our inner brightness is one Gila Friends have struggled with throughout the year. In a sense, the life of the Meeting community is changing on spiritual, social and physical levels.

We returned to our former place of worship, the Church of Harmony, at 609 N. Arizona Street in Silver City. There had been a fire; the owner has beautifully refurbished it. In the process, she improved its accessibility by paving a path to the back door; the Meeting donated \$1,000 from a bequest by a deceased member in support. We are still adjusting to the new equipment inside, as well as to the harsher acoustical environment of the bare walls.

There is also a slightly increased cost per meeting for renting the space. This reminds us that our small meeting has limited financial resources. Our active community tends to be old; at a recent meeting for worship, the average age of the attenders was probably well over 60. Many of us are retired and living on fixed incomes. We don’t have a lot, but we always find a way to respond to pressing needs.

The move back into a familiar, but changed, venue has also had a social consequence: We now need to have a designated person to open the meeting house on First Days. Friends pitch in readily, doing what they can to help the opener or to fill in if the opener is late or can’t make it. As one Friend put it, we are becoming a family of Friends.

Our growing interdependence also reflects our older average age. In 2019, several Gila Friends have had injuries or illnesses where they have needed the help of others to get to meeting for worship, medical appointments and other short trips. Friends have cooperated to get it done.

We regret that we still have no Young Friends in attendance, and we are revisiting our First Day School preparations for them should any come. We were delighted in 2019 to welcome a transfer of membership from Tacoma Monthly Meeting and we are enriched by several winter sojourners who worship with us while escaping northern snows! We have gone from five or six to 15 or 16 regularly meeting for worship on Sunday morning.

We come together on First Days to worship in the Light and to sustain ourselves spiritually and as a Meeting. Individually, Gila Friends are quite active. Several Friends hold

positions in regional, yearly and national Friends groups, as well as in local organizations. We financially support groups working on poverty, hunger and social justice in our area, as well as in Palomas, Mexico, and El Salvador.

As a Meeting, we have been especially active in immigration matters at the border. These are contentious issues. A conscious theme of our adult education and Meeting outreach programs has been “Building Bridges,” searching for common ground within the Meeting and with our neighbors.

In this regard, Gila Friends cosponsored a local showing of “Undeterred,” a film about Arivaca, AZ, surrounded by Border Patrol check points. We also cosponsored a local Hispanic college student’s participation in the 2019 FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend in Washington, D.C., where she lobbied our delegation on immigration. We published a “Peace is Patriotic” ad in a local newspaper in July, where we also published our minute on humanitarian aid in July. Our traditional Hiroshima Peace Day observance was held in Gough Park on August 4; we were joined by others who continue to be concerned about nuclear weapons.

Many members of Gila Friends Meeting responded to the humanitarian crisis in nearby Deming, NM, where the Border Patrol began on Mothers Day to drop off asylum seekers who had been cleared to travel to their sponsors. The asylees had not eaten, their belts and shoelaces and rosaries had been confiscated, they had neither tickets nor money to buy them - they were stranded. People in the area opened their hearts and quickly created an exemplary program to house, medically screen, feed and clothe their “guests.” At least half of the 9,000 “guests” of the Deming shelter were children under 12! Art and recreation programs were developed for the children; they received stuffed animals and small toys to ease their journey. Gila Friends went to Deming in various capacities and also worked with the Unitarian Universalists in Silver City to gather and package goods to be sent to Deming. Individual Friends have provided financial, legal and logistical support for local residents facing deportation actions. Friends also participated in a Silver City meeting of remembrance and solidarity following the El Paso Walmart mass shooting in August.

We have felt deeply the conflicts between our testimonies as Friends and the statements and actions we see and hear from the present administration. We struggle as Friends to retain our conviction that there is that of God in all persons, while being utterly opposed to the actions advocated or taken by some. In the face of “man’s inhumanity to man,” we do indeed search for that “bit of star in each human soul” to light our way.

Quaker House Santa Fe Meeting

State of the Meeting Report 2019

Quaker House Santa Fe continues to develop as a new monthly meeting within Intermountain Yearly Meeting. Sunday meeting for worship attendance is typically around 12-18, with lower numbers in the summer.

Singing takes place before worship on selected weeks. Weekly potluck meals following rise of meeting continue to be a popular opportunity for fellowship.

First Sunday discussions throughout the year among other topics included exploration of Quaker Testimonies both as they evolved in early Quaker history and how they are lived today. Discussions have often continued during subsequent weeks. These have helped foster a greater sense of community.

Mid-week worship on Wednesday evening was initiated this year. It is a time for silent worship with a smaller group who wish to deepen their spiritual practice and seek time for additional reflection.

A significant number of members participated in the New Mexico Regional meeting held at Camp Stoney outside Santa Fe in April. Quaker House joined Santa Fe Monthly Meeting in hosting.

Nine members and attenders traveled to IMYM session in June at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu NM, when Quaker House was warmly and officially welcomed as a new monthly meeting.

Friends are increasingly engaged in participating in the committees of the meeting. Attention has been given to spreading responsibility for the many parts of meeting operation more evenly among members and attenders. Buildings and Grounds holds regular workdays to address maintenance inside and outside the building. Attention is being paid to fire safety and inspections. Meeting also purchased a dishwasher which has greatly eased cleanup following potluck meals. Ministry and Counsel coordinates discussions first Sunday of the month, as well as worship sharing and other opportunities for assisting the spiritual life of the meeting. The Treasurer and Finance Committee continue to attend to the stewardship of our budget and funds.

In the latter part of the year, an ad hoc committee explored and presented how QHSF meeting might address hunger in our immediate neighborhood by setting up a Little Free Pantry. The Pantry at present consists of two bins of non-perishable food that are placed on the porch when the building is occupied.

After some tension regarding late arrivals, there are renewed efforts to arrive promptly for worship and cause as little disruption as possible to the settled meeting. This allows those who

are gathered to deepen their worship and diminish distractions. It also encourages more of us to experience the richness of the full time of worship.

While we are young as a meeting, many of our regular attenders are older. Some have health concerns that make attendance a challenge. Parking spaces at the meeting house are reserved for those with limited mobility. Seating in the meeting room is similarly arranged with accessibility in mind. Old and mismatched chairs were replaced with new chairs for more comfortable seating.

Other events at Quaker House Santa Fe included a book discussion group on Primitive Quakerism Revived by Paul Buckley.

Our Christmas Caroling event on 23 December was enjoyed by around 40 people. Families and several neighbors joined in the singing and sharing of cookies.

Quaker House Santa Fe will continue building on the strengths we have developed as a community, seeking to improve our spiritual life and worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ribble, clerk of Meeting

Ann Beauchamp, clerk of Ministry & Counsel Committee

Deborah Holloway, member of Ministry & Counsel Committee

2019 SANTA FE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT

2019 was year of deep discernment and exploration regarding the Meetings physical space needs, how to deal with conflict with thoughtfulness and compassion and the loss of a long-term beloved Friend. We have made progress with questions regarding space with a Minute that recognizes that our current space is inadequate for our First Day and Worship needs and we are continuing to work on holding each other in the Light as we deal with conflict and disagreement.

The **Adult Education Committee** supported the spiritual life of the Meeting in 2019 by exploring fundamental Quaker history, values and practices. We conducted sessions on the Quaker practice of decision-making.

The **Buildings and Grounds Committee** continued to lovingly care for the Meeting's beautiful garden and buildings. This care came with the rewards and difficulties of maintaining and repairing two beloved old adobe structures. The Committee strived for a balance in appreciation of the history of the buildings and grounds while caring for the Meeting's functional and safety needs.

The **Future Space Planning Committee** offered several presentations about a schematic design for new construction in the rear of the Canyon Road property, which uncovered the many multi-faceted aspects and complexities of Spirit moving through Santa Fe Friends. The process left many of us confused and anxious about needs, plans, and concerns regarding our future space options. While at times way opened when the work brought Friends together to discern the complexities more deeply in joint-committee work, or when we reached more clarity about ownership aspects of our property; Friends regularly needed reminding that the Light shines in everyone although we may differ in views. In late 2019, Friends united in an understanding that the current space has been and will remain inadequate for our needs, witnessing an emerging clarity about the need to seek solutions on our own property.

IMMIGRANT ACTION GROUP (IAG) meets monthly and corresponds frequently to inform the Meeting about situations facing immigrants in our part of the world, including our neighbors in Santa Fe as well as those seeking asylum at the US-Mexico border. We are assisting on multiple fronts as individuals and as a Meeting. Members of IAG have made trips to the border to take needed items and help in shelters; participate locally in efforts of Adelante, Somos un Pueblo Unido, Santa Fe Dreamers and other groups providing direct aid to immigrants; engage with the Santa Fe Faith Network for Immigrant Justice, and advocate for immigrant rights in the New Mexico Legislature. The Immigrant Action Group consists of members and attenders of Meeting, as well as others who share the same interests.

Ministry and Counsel (M&C) spent much of the year discerning how to support individuals and relationships amongst Friends so that our life as a spiritual community is not diminished by discord and difficult conversations especially those that arose as the Meeting works its way through decisions about the physical space to address the need for an expanded First Day School and worship space.

Moab Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting
May 2020

Before the Covid 19 outbreak five to six Friends were attending most of our Sunday worship meetings. We continue our practice of having Worship Sharing on the second Sunday with the topic announced in our newsletter. We suspended Meeting until May 10 and then we met in a park and now in a Friend's backyard with our own chairs, masks, and appropriate distancing. It is good to see everyone again.

For community outreach we focus on providing money for needed services or purchases for families in crisis in our community. One of our local churches is providing lunch and a food pantry free to anyone who needs it. We are supporting that and Moab Solutions, which helps find housing for and gives support to our homeless population. Since the outbreak we have sent more money to the church and even more to a local fund to help people pay for their housing.

Several of our group attended Yearly Meeting last June. Our representative to Representatives Committee was able to attend the meeting in Phoenix this winter.

We were having potlucks most months. After skipping two months we met in a park in May bringing our own food and keeping our distance. It felt wonderful to reconnect with our Quaker community. Our newsletter has kept us informed. We are trying to make sure our members have what they need during this time.

We have been very fortunate to have only five cases of Covid 19 in our county so far and none hospitalized. We attribute this to our town shutting down fairly early. As our tourist town slowly opens up we are worried how the influx of people, many not wearing masks, will impact us. Our officials have put good practices in place but people must comply on their own. Our future gatherings and contact with each other will depend on the current health situation in our town.

The sorrow, fear, and uncertainty our nation is now experiencing make us even more grateful for our Meeting and the opportunity it gives us to be connected and support each other and our community.

2019 SANTA FE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT

M&C spent a great deal of time meeting with a number of individuals; forming clearness committees for Membership and other concerns; and, coordinated a day of Compassionate Listening training. M&C also planned a day of Discernment with Regard to Space led by Penny Thron-Webber, which led to a Minute being passed at the Day of Discernment for Space meeting and adopted by the November Meeting for Worship with attention for Business. Because of ongoing concerns M&C working with the Clerk of the Meeting will offer threshing sessions in 2020. Our hope is that the Meeting will ultimately be strengthened in our interpersonal relationships and in our spiritual growth as a community.

The **Olive Rush Collection Working Group** worked to assess the scope and condition of the artworks and related historic materials in the Meeting's collection to plan for improved storage, care and access to them. This information was shared with the Meeting at several educational sessions intended to communicate the significance of the Olive Rush legacy and guide decisions about how the items will be managed in the future. Recommendations for how best the Collection can be preserved and funded were postponed until 2020, the 100th anniversary of Olive's arrival in Santa Fe, and after the Meeting decides on a new building.

Salt Lake Monthly Meeting of Friends

State of the Meeting Report to Intermountain Yearly Meeting of Friends, 2019-20

SLMM endures. Our enrolled membership is relatively stable at about 22. Our relationship with IMYM has become more and more attenuated in the past few years as our membership aged and seemed to divide into IMYM Quakers and Monthly Meeting Quakers.

Nevertheless, we attract a number of seekers, looking for what they find on the internet of Quaker values and faith, and many of them stay with us for a period until the requirements of education, employment, or family take them away from our city. And of course retirement and movement to other cities has diminished some long-term members and attenders in our circle.

But the meeting remains lively and committed. In connection with a local charitable organization, we gathered hundreds of diapers and scores of new winter boots for the homeless last Christmas season. We sponsor a monthly peace vigil attended by a few Quakers and many other peace activists, which reminds others that military violence continues and that as citizens we are a part of it. Every spring, plagues permitting, a member organizes a Quakerfest at which the public is invited to our Meetinghouse to hear Quaker and other musical talent and to get to know us. Recently, a Friend in our meeting has begun fabricating high quality, reusable face shields and donating them, primarily to medical facilities in the Navajo Nation. We have contributed both as a Meeting and as individuals to this project.

Early in the year (2019), an African Pentecostal church, the members of which are African immigrants most of whom do not speaking English, ask to use our Meetinghouse for their services on Sunday afternoons. Since then, their meeting has grown. The contrast with our Quaker meeting is stark. Where we have one or two or no children, they have four or five or six for each adult couple; where we sometimes have completely silent meetings, they have loud amplified music and singing. Although there has been some concern about the wear and tear on our Meetinghouse, we have been glad to provide this space for them, at first for about half the rent we would normally charge.

The Voice of Jesus Church for all Nations, as they call themselves, has helped us substantially with our finances. Twenty Eighteen was the first year that our contributions and other income did not cover our mortgage and expenses. A successful fund-raising letter at the end of that year brought generous responses from many who had moved away or for other reasons we had not seen for a while.

Our Meetings for worship remain well attended and full of the spirit. A few years ago, we began reserving Fourth Sundays for "worship sharing." Our Ministry & Counsel Committee prepares a query and supporting readings, which are distributed through our email list in advance. It's been a great success.

After every Meeting for Worship we adjourn for food and fellowship, visitors welcome.