

Ministry and Care  
April 18, 2024

Gretchen Haynes, Val Liveoak, Bill Wilkinson, Stephen Shearer, James Goslin, and Julie Crum met on April 18.

Jim Spickard gave us an update on the worsening situation at the meetinghouse. Our unhoused/homeless visitors are leaving the porch and grounds in an unsafe condition, requiring daily cleanups by just a couple of Friends. This is unsustainable; we do not at present have the resources to continue.

We were briefed on the work of the ad hoc committee, which continues to identify short- and long-term issues. They expect to present a report at the May Meeting for Business.

The presentation by the Christian Assistance Ministry was very informative. This is a difficult and emotional issue for Friends, who must balance the urge to take care of the immediate needs of people with the often difficult need to take effective but challenging action. Our failure to set boundaries can hold people back from taking action to seek the help they need to change.

We are convening clearness committees for friends seeking membership and counsel. We invite anyone who would like to help in discerning their way forward to talk to someone on Ministry and Care.

The Community Fair is set for the morning of May 4. There are still a few spots available for friends who would like to set up a table, and most of the tasks are covered. Gretchen still needs a few people to help. Friends are also encouraged to bring books for the book table.

We discussed concerns for friends near and far.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 15 at 2 pm.