

Ministry, Care, and Guidance
January

The newly renamed Ministry, Care, and Guidance Committee met on Jan. 10th. Present were: Oliver Gerken, Stephen Shearer, Julie Crum, Gretchen Haynes, Val Liveoak and FMSA Clerk, Jim Spickard.

We began with worship.

1. Reviewing worship since our last committee meeting, we noted that for some members of the committee, worship had deepened recently, that in-person attendance was stable or increasing slightly (mostly due to the special Christmas Eve worship service and to attendance of parents of children in two families on Jan. 9). On-line attendance has remained stable with about 15 people joining on Sunday mornings.
2. We need Friends to step forward to facilitate the early worship. Julie Crum will commit to doing it through Feb. We need to be able to let folks know if there won't be early Meeting if other Friends do not volunteer. "If this is important, then who's going to do it?" is a question we ask Friends to consider. As far as the attenders of early worship, we don't know if people prefer it because it is Zoom-free or for the timing—feedback would be useful. Would Friends want to form a team to spread the commitment to 1 or 2 Sundays a month?
3. Regarding the current surge in Covid spread, Jim stated that with our current filters and masked participants, he believes that healthy, vaccinated and boosted attenders should be safe, and that those who are unvaccinated should be asked to join via Zoom until the surge declines. We need to encourage social distancing, also. Jim will send out a statement to that effect in the weekly Announcements. Also we want to reduce the amount of time Friends spend in the Community Room, and do most activities outside—coffee and refreshments can be set up on the patio, weather permitting.
4. We reviewed planned Forums:
 - Jan. 23: Preparation for the State of Meeting report. Jim will facilitate, Julie will draft a SoM report based on the input.
 - Jan. 30: (With CGQM) Spoken Ministry. Facilitated by Jim and Gary.
 - Feb. 27: Address problematic issues brought up in the State of Meeting process. Val will facilitate a worship sharing/brainstorming session.
5. Update on children's program: Gretchen can take the 'reservations' of families that want to attend on any given Sunday. There are 3 families with a total of seven children who want to attend next week, and even with Renata and maybe another helper in addition to Gretchen, there is a need for other Friends to volunteer to commit to working regularly with the Children. Any volunteer will pair with Gretchen or Hannah for sessions until she/he feels ready to go solo. Renata will join when there are more than three children.

6. Members of the Nominating Committee said they are proceeding with approaching Friends to consider service as Assoc clerk.
7. MC&G approved the following draft Minute:

Minute 2022.01.01: FMSA authorizes the purchase of two Oransi MOD Jr. HEPA filters at the estimated price of \$718 – plus tax, if this California corporation fails to recognize our Texas tax-exempt status. These filters will be used in the Children's Room and the Library, supplementing our current filters in the Meeting Room (3) and the Community Room (1). This will be regarded as an off-budget depreciable capital expense, using money from whichever accounts the Treasurer and Finance Committee deem wise.

8. Memorial for Mark Hickman: We reviewed the arrangements for the Memorial. Memorial Minute: Gary, Brochure layout, Jim, tech clerk, Val. We do not plan a light lunch following the Memorial, but we'll have usual coffee, etc.
9. We deferred the planned Book Exchange to March 6, since we will have the Memorial Meeting for Mark Hickman on Feb. 5.
10. If volunteers to do coordination, set-up, publicity, and other details come forward, we propose holding a Spring Fair on May 7. If any of our tenant groups ask to use the Meetinghouse on that date, Jim, who schedules the Meetinghouse will ask them to plan on another date. Gretchen will be unable to do active coordination, but will happily mentor others.
11. Announced an opportunity to participation in Interfaith SA Alliance, and an on-line event on Jan. 11. Jim said he intends to attend a part of the event.
12. Queries: We invited James Goslin to continue to draft queries for each month.
13. We discussed concerns re: Individual Friends.
14. We scheduled an open Worship Sharing meeting on-line to consider "How to deal with burnout in the Meeting," on Mon. Jan. 24th 7pm. We hope all Friends who are concerned with the health of FMSA will participate.
15. We deferred discussion of Open carry law/signs for several months.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Feb.7 at 7pm on-line. Please contact us with any concerns you have for us to consider.

Respectfully submitted by Val Liveoak, Clerk MC&G