

Ministry, Care, and Guidance May 2022

M, C, & G met Monday May 9. In attendance were James Goslin, Gretchen Haynes, Julie Crum, Stephen Shearer, Val Liveoak, Clerk.

Review of Worship:

Very few attenders to early worship, and it's been very quiet, but meaningful. Worth reflecting on reason of Early Meeting—Avoiding tech intervention affecting purity, and now in a different place. Some attenders seem to have come because of it's there and convenient. Good attendance at 10am. Need to reunify—Maybe help those who are disturbed become more comfortable. Relatively deep worship in some meetings. Tech issues/problems have been affecting Zoomers. We were pleased with the children's quiet entrances to Meeting, which the teachers model for them by handing them a jar with water and sand which after being shaken up, slowly settles to become clear.

Is it time to discontinue Early Worship? Julie, who has attended (and opened), enjoys it, but now sees that only a very few attend, seemingly for convenience. We believe it would be good for all to be back together.

MCG approves MfB consider laying down the Early worship and returning to a unified Meeting at 10am. We recommend setting a period of notice before laying it down.

Upcoming Forums:

1. As a follow up on Flawed Heroes, we plan to try the Rex Ambler method of Experiment with Light on May 22. Val will lead it, and Gretchen has both the books and a shorter summary article about it to distribute.
2. We addressed a Friend's request that we work together to articulate our shared intent in worship. Our plan is to:
 - Begin twice monthly evening blended Meetings with worship, worship sharing and journaling to reflect and respond to the queries the Friend suggested over the summer with a longer 'retreat' at beginning and end. Allow observers to participate in retreats but ask for a commitment for the ongoing series.
 - Start June: 2nd and 4th Thursdays, evenings June 9-August 26. The opening and closing dates will include the 6-9pm retreats, and the other Thursday evenings will be from 7-9pm.
3. We recommend extending worship on May 29 for 30 minutes to hold in the Light our world at war, the many victims including civilians and soldiers, and how we are led to work for peace and justice.

We did not discuss any other Sunday forums for June.

Review of Community Life

- Opening and closing sign-up: Just as keeping Meeting going through the pandemic fell on a few Friends, opening and closing Meeting has as well. And generally, it has fallen on the same Friends, a double responsibility. We believe it is time to set up a rotating calendar for opening and closing, and ask all Friends (at least those who have keys) to take responsibility for opening/closing, by signing up. We should remember that potluck Sundays involve setting up and putting away tables and additional effort. Gretchen will review, revise and reprint the lists of things to be done. [We may need to announce the need for volunteers for closing at rise of Meeting until this system is in place.]
- Update on children's program: With a new family this week, we have 4 families in regular attendance plus 1 once a month, totaling 11 children. 4 adult Friends are working along with Renata

Update re Nom Comm. and Associate Clerk.

- No new openings, but hoping to meet soon. They may need to find another member for Property Committee.

We discussed concerns about individual Friends

Other

- We received a request for transfer of membership for Judith Grant. If MfB approves, the Clerk of MCG will write a letter releasing her to send to her new Meeting.

Next meeting proposed date and time June 13, 7pm.