

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

State of the Meeting, March 2020

Greetings to Friends Everywhere

With shared intention and the help of prompts, our community explored the heart of these matters.

**In one word describe our Meeting's last year: Persistent**

On the one hand: growing, blooming, learning; adaptable, strong, welcoming, prudent, persistent, hopeful, care-full, amazing - considering

On the other hand: tenuous, distanced, anomalous

**What are Meeting's strengths? Adaptability**

Dedication of our core, which has become stronger; willingness to sacrifice the richness of in-person worship in favor of the safety of our members; really caring community; technical competence applied to hold the community together; spiritual quiet leading to personal strength; worshipping via zoom with Friends who have moved away; we live in hope

**What are Meeting's failings? A sense of loss**

Missing those who find no center in the video format; missing our children; narrower range of activities; finding ways to keep in touch with absent Friends; needing to call those absent; loss of sideways conversations that help keep track of the sense of the Meeting; missing celebrating birthdays; HUGS

We noted that this list is more what we miss than of Meeting's failures.

**What do we hope for as we move ahead? Connections**

To worship together in person soon; to reach those who have been left out of zoom worship; to share a meal in person; to share the common work so it doesn't become a burden; more parties; safe reopening; regain those we are missing; more community outreach; support groups for parents, people at work; deeper interaction; social activism – small groups working together for extended times (weeks or months); another Friends Fair; conversations on spiritual matters, Quaker history with speakers from far away; long-range planning to season the way forward; continue using technology to connect with people at a distance; HUGS

**What do we envision for our Meeting in the time to come? Resilience**

A focus on sustainability and justice; physical structure to deepen and sustain our spiritual strength; collective preparedness for future upheavals; being a more widely known presence; some sort of residential presence; a program for toddlers, through middle school into high school, and a spiritual deepening program for adults; increased connections with other faith groups; weekend retreats; solving current problems so there is a future; that we can move forward without being too scarred; to me, scars are things I have learned and they help me remember what I learned; we get hope from how much pent-up energy we have.