

Friends Meeting of San Antonio

State of the Meeting, 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.