

State of the Meeting Report 2009
Friends Meeting of San Antonio

2-9-2010

Friends gathered in a forum on January 31, 2010 to reflect on the recent history and spiritual strengths of Friends Meeting of San Antonio. As compared with its historic profile, weekly meetings for worship in 2009 included more young attenders. Friends commented about the joyful presence of infants in meeting for worship. In addition we were joined by visitors and new members, and Meeting agreed to take an up-coming marriage under its care. The steady presence of a larger number of active people has allowed some Friends the freedom to take on more extensive roles in Quarterly and Yearly Meeting than they have felt free to do in the past. Thus the meeting developed a stronger sense of connection to the larger Quaker community.

Organizational decisions continued. Way opened for Meeting to purchase a building adjacent to the meetinghouse. Some redesign of our committee structure and memberships, balancing property management, fiscal responsibility, the development of our new building, and sharing of our property with other groups have required and continue to require thoughtful consideration and cooperation.

In reflecting on 2009, Friends consistently commented on the growing sense of community within the monthly meeting. Longtime members of FMSA remarked that they observed an increased ability and willingness for Friends to support each other both in bereavement or illness and in encouraging individual Friends to minister in their various capacities in the larger community and the world. Friends pointed out an enlarged sense of responsibility and ownership in FMSA and expressed gratitude for interaction with the Muslim and other religious groups in San Antonio.

Religious education was another area of growth within Meeting. Early in 2009, concerns about our First Day School programs were discussed in a forum and led to development of curricula for different age groups. As a result programs for toddlers and teens were implemented last year. Adult education was also described as especially rewarding. Weekly forums focused on spiritual and practical issues such as Quaker worship, mysticism, ministries by individual Friends, navigating the purchase and early development of our new building, effectiveness of FMSA committees, as well as more global issues, such as AFSC and the environment. A multi-week class on Exploring the Quaker Faith was conducted in the Fall. This experience was meaningful to seasoned Quakers and new attenders alike.

Friends Meeting of San Antonio faces many challenges for 2010 and beyond. Our longtime childcare worker has indicated her intention to retire in May. She has been a loving and faithful caregiver and friend to our children for a generation, and this transition must be thoughtfully addressed. The continued development of our new building offers challenges of many sorts, including redefinition of who we want to be as Friends in San Antonio. Other challenges include understanding among ourselves regarding, background, and spiritual perspectives; how to serve as good stewards of our increasingly complex physical property and operations without compromising spiritual growth and service; and how to foster a sense of community while maintaining openness to newcomers.