Boise Valley Friends Meeting: Annual State of the Meeting Report 2020

Members:
Attenders:
Visitors:

The body of our Meeting: we continue to enjoy a large age range and occasionally have the addition of a delightful seven year old who attends with her mother. Since our last report, we have welcomed two new transfers, one from California and one from New Jersey. With regret, we also have had one of our long time members transfer his membership to Missouri. We are happy he has settled into his new home and Meeting and is closer to family. It was also recently announced that two of our beloved attendees intend to marry this year. It is with great anticipation the Meeting awaits news what part we will play in their joy.

Committees: Ministry and Oversight continues to consist of all members. The Clerk relies heavily on members to get tasks accomplished and to be a valuable source of ideas and spiritual strength. We have a talented and conscientious treasurer, an NPYM representative, a webmaster (or in our case, a webmistress) and a dedicated host who opens the Meeting house early each First Day and closes up when the last talkative Friend bids adieu. We even have one attendee in charge of all group notices and invitations. Our very small Meeting makes sure no one is left behind in the distribution of tasks.

Prophetic Ministry: every other month we introduce some carefully chosen queries for Worship Sharing during our regular meeting for worship.

The Workings of the Spirit: recently, we have decided to direct our attention specifically to climate change and other environmental concerns. Our attention is in the form of our monthly donations directed to a group with a like concern, appropriately selected topics for Worship Sharing, topics for discussion at our potlucks (held every other month) and community projects directed at improving the environment in collaboration with other like minded groups in our area.

Hospitality: we continue to welcome visitors and give them an opportunity to join our mailing list while urging their attendance to our social gatherings. After each meeting for worship, our small Meeting gathers around a table with snacks and tea. We circle the table, each stating our name with any news from our lives, any concerns, questions, requests for help and invitations to attend movies or other community events. We practice this part of our meeting in much the way Worship is conducted. There is a minimum of crosstalk so that each person has the group’s full attention. One of the interesting ways we have deepened our understanding of one another is through our annual poetry potluck. Attendees are encouraged to bring a poem to share…either one of their own composition or one they have found that they want to share. Through this venue we have discovered one another’s joys, one another’s sorrows and often one another’s humor.

Quaker service: our Meeting has begun environmental projects in keeping with our focus on care of the earth. Meanwhile individuals within the Meeting feel called to and are active in the Alternatives to Violence Project in both Idaho and Oregon prisons and in a local FCNL group which also connects us with other community service work, e.g. Bring Our Troops Home. The last two years Boise Valley Friends has sponsored an attendee to the FCNL annual gathering.

Meetings for Business: they are well attended. M&O writes the agenda so that nothing gets missed. The Clerk opens with a quotation or query and a few moments of silence.
Struggles: we continue to have no First Day School but also have no need for one at this point. When we do have a child visitor, more than one attender offers to spend time with the child in an adjacent room where we keep First Day curriculum.

Boise Valley Friends continues to thrive during a time when peace feels far away and continues to provide service in our diverse community.