This past year Eugene Friends have experienced profound spiritual growth. The issues that have challenged us have also inspired us, in George Fox’s words, “to return within,” “to sink down in that which is pure.”

Divisions among us have affected many of our decisions and processes this year. We remain focused on building a loving, blessed community while facing ongoing contentious interactions, and experiencing confusion and sadness. More than one of our committees have dealt with unresolved conflicts and differences in opinions on complex concerns, that have impacted our worship and our community experience. Some Friends and attenders turned away from attending and laid down their membership and committee work. We did not reach unity on a proposal to house a homeless family member in a trailer on our property. The Meeting formed an ad hoc committee on Interpersonal Safety to explore inclusiveness and the strains arising from living with mental illness when it affects the operation of the Meeting and perceptions of safety. We continue to wait for way to open with faith and love.

Many of our committees have been understaffed this year, and attendance at both Meetings for Worship has dropped. Attendance varies between 20 and 16 members at 11:00, and between 11 and 8 members at 9:00. Our children’s program is mostly 3 to 7 teen-agers, with occasional attendance by two younger children. Three adult Friends continue to lead this program. Hospitality after the 11:00 Meeting for worship provides time for getting to know other members. A highlight of the winter was Quaker oatmeal with toppings.

Peace and Justice Committee continues to oversee the Meeting’s work on the Sunday Interfaith Breakfast Program, Voluntary Carbon Tax, Donations to Others (donated $3445 in FY 2019-2020), and the Peace & Justice information board. The committee held a presentation from the AFSC on Israel-Palestine, and brought several Minutes upholding the Friends Peace testimony with regard to conflicts in North Korea, Yemen, & Iran. The committee has laid down the work of the Occupy--Medical Sandwich Program.

The Adult Religious Education Committee chose "Resiliency" as the theme for the year, and has led a series of participatory sessions on that topic. We now have a Spiritual Wishes box in the Meeting Room, where Friends can write a note, helping the ARE to sense the Meeting's wishes. The ARE has a close connection with the Quaker Studies Subcommittee, which this year has offered monthly classes on the theme, "Deepening Our Experience of the Quaker Way." A brief overview of aspects of Quaker history and practice is followed by experiential exercises, including worship sharing.

Our Worship-Ministry-Nurture Committee labored to bring Light to disharmony around vocal ministry, building new bonds and laying some down, with trust in continued healing in the Spirit. We nurtured Friends through illnesses and spiritual needs. We co-hosted a Winter Retreat with the Adult Religious Education Committee, focused on vocal ministry, reconciliation and resilience, and then jumped into action to adapt around the Coronavirus, calling everyone in our directory with support systems for those in need. We used Zoom for online 9:00, 11:00, potluck, worship sharing and Meeting for Business, plus held "safe-distance" silent 11:00 walking worship.

The Grounds Committee is constantly working to minimize maintenance, labor, and carbon footprint. We are planting our garden to encourage pollinators and (human) veggie snackers. Building Safety and Maintenance committee is managing emergency situations (eg. termites, security lighting outside, broken dishwashers). This committee is very appreciative of the support of essentially the whole Meeting.

As a Welcoming Community, Finance Committee is exploring ways to make our Meetinghouse accessible. The solar panels are in their third year and we’re selling kilowatt hours back to the grid. We’ve embarked on remodeling our restrooms, which we now refer to as water closets. We are also working to install a ramp up to our front door. These things cost money, so fund raising is under consideration. We continue to refine the current well-designed structures for managing our finances in face of lower than expected donations. Progress in remodeling awaits improvement in the COVID19 restrictions and emerging financial priorities.

The Nominating Committee works in the Spring, seeking Spirit-led nominations that both meet the needs of the Meeting community and nourish the spiritual growth of the Friends who are asked to share their time and talents. We are blessed this year with many happy responses of “YES!”

The great gift of this past year has been a renewed commitment to nurturing our beloved community. We are learning more effective ways to communicate with honesty, tenderness, and compassion, trusting in the Spirit to lead us forward. For health, harmony, and an eventual return to social co-mingling, we give our prayers.