

State of Society Report, Eugene Friends Meeting, March 2017–April 2018

After some challenging transitional years, the corporate, organizational aspects of Eugene Friends Meeting flowed smoothly this past year. Years of planning culminated in the installation of solar panels on the meetinghouse roof, a change we celebrated. At our growing edge, we've spent many hours together learning about gender beyond the binary and considered how to make our meeting more inclusive to transgender and non-binary attenders.

Our combined **Worship-Ministry-Nurture Committee** slid into a nice balance as one group. Nurturing has been looking for harmony between reaching out to those we sense are in need and trusting that Friends will ask for what they really need. We carefully considered concerns regarding various styles of vocal ministry in 11:00 worship as an opportunity to learn again how the Spirit speaks through all of us.

The **Adult Religious Education Committee** facilitated a workshop on forgiveness and a series of autobiographical programs, *Let Our Lives Speak*, in which individual Friends told of their spiritual journeys.

The **Junior Friends** have enjoyed visiting together at the coffee shop, discussing a multitude of topics, including how Quakerism is part of their daily lives. They continue gardening for Food for Lane County in a community plot in the Amazon garden. The NPYM Junior Friends haven't yet chosen their next service project, but it won't be Guatemala this year. Alyssa Smith has joined as an advisor, which is wonderful for us all.

The *ad hoc* **Community Building Committee** is now in its second year of organizing events and projects to bring all parts of our community together. They hosted a Newcomer's Night and several social times between the 9:00 and 11:00 Meetings, arranged for potlucks in homes, and presented a "Quakerism in a Nutshell" meeting on the topic of Meeting for Worship.

Our **Peace and Justice Committee** has diligently worked on the Voluntary Carbon Footprint self-tax, fundraised for our new solar panels, created an information bulletin board, and worked with the *ad hoc* Community Building Committee to inspire Friends to participate in the Interfaith breakfast feeding the unhoused community. Many committee members and other Friends have followed leadings and taken personal actions in marches, rallies, and international aid work.

The **Building Safety and Maintenance Committee** continues to seek the Spirit's guidance to outfit and retrofit our aging, beloved building and infrastructure. It played a key role on the *ad hoc* **Solar Caucus Committee**, which shepherded the installation of an 8.7 Kw clean power system on our roof. Some Friends generously purchased the solar panels and agreed to sell power to EFM until we can purchase the panels in 10 years at a depreciated cost. After our building was structurally improved and freshly shingled, Friends celebrated with a night of fundraising at the Jazz Station. As can happen when unity is achieved, Friends provided funds to meet the considerable expenses required to prepare for our new power source. Three people were

led to join our committee in June. They took up safety and maintenance projects that made many more tasks possible during our reintroduced fall community work day.

The **Grounds Committee** has delighted in watching the children enjoy the play structure that was completed this year with many loving volunteer hands. Our raised garden beds continue to provide abundant visual and edible nourishment for our potlucks, Soup Sundays, Hospitality, and our local pollinators. We appreciated collaborating with our neighbors to the Meeting's north on the completion of the zigzag fence. We are beginning plans to divert storm water into a rain garden.

Finance Committee. Our beloved Jill Hoyenga has moved up to the Columbia River, having made a deep and lasting contribution to our Meeting. Her work will endure as the spirit-led financial processes she developed carry on. As we welcome our new treasurer, Margaret Conover, we appreciate having new eyes and ideas for managing our Quaker leadings as they manifest with dollars and cents attached.

The **Gender Inclusivity Ad Hoc Committee** has considered several ways to make EFM more welcoming and inclusive to transgender and gender non-binary individuals, from small changes such as adding pronoun markers to nametags to large structural changes such as making all bathrooms gender-neutral, which might include physically restructuring the bathroom stalls. This committee, at the invitation of the Worship-Ministry-Nurture Committee, organized the EFM Winter Retreat, which included education, reflection, and discussion about gender inclusivity.

EFM Website Committee. The EFM website continues to be the online face of the meeting, with 25 non-spam requests for information or action arriving via the website Contact Us form between April 2017 and late January 2018. Hearthkeeper Cynthia Black keeps the website calendar up-to-date.

The **Library Committee** continues to catalog the books according to the system set up previously and expects to complete that task within the year. The library appears to be functioning, growing, and useful to the Meeting.

The **Personnel Committee** completed a Spirit-led job search this year to find a new Treasurer. Working together to understand and create the hiring process deepened our relationships with one another.

Following feedback from our in-town session experiment for **Fall Quarterly Meeting** in 2016, we returned to Camp Cleawox for the Fall 2017 session. Our theme was Pushing our Edges and Our Continuing Revelation, which we joyfully explored with facilitator Nina Joy Lawrence from the Corvallis Meeting.