The State of Society Report
Lower Columbia Worship Group
March 2020

2020 has been our first year under the care of Olympia Friends Meeting, and that has opened some opportunities for participating in Quarterly Meetings, as well as training sessions. Intervisitation between Olympia MM and LCWG has continued, and we have all enjoyed getting to know each other better.

The character of the meeting continues to change and mature. Some newer people have joined with us, and the sense of a Living Presence continues to draw our group together and guide our actions. We continue to maintain a webpage and a Facebook presence as an outreach to the general public.

We gather in silent worship at 11:00 AM each First Day. Although that silence is often deep, vocal ministry is seldom heard. Worship is usually closed with a period we call Afterthoughts, an opportunity for Spirit guided conversation.

Clerking responsibilities are currently shared to allow for additional opportunities to travel in Ministry. Each month, the Clerk in Residence selects a topic for discussion, usually from the revised *Faith and Practice*, to discuss after worship. To enhance our awareness of Friends testimonies, we offered each household in the meeting a subscription to *Western Friend* and a copy of the revised *Faith & Practice*, and have included copies to supplement the travelling library of Friends literature we’ve maintained since our beginning. By way of spiritual deepening, we have continued an experiment in Spiritual Story Telling with one person each month invited to speak as led. We hope to deepen our sharing during the coming year through invitations to Olympia Friends Meeting for others to come tell their spiritual stories.

We pay attention to social issues in our community, discerning our appropriate individual actions. Following worship we often have either scheduled or spontaneous shared meals. We have been encouraged by the number of visitors received throughout the last year. They keep us connected to the larger community of Friends.

We are currently experiencing a pause in our Worship due to the covid19 virus, and the requirement that we cease meeting in public spaces for some period. We still are meeting individually by phone or through other electronic media, but have no public availability. We are unable at this time to approve this document at Business Meeting, but will amend it and do so when we can meet in person again.

April 10, 2020