

2017 was an eventful year for Pullman-Moscow Monthly Meeting filled with both positive experiences and loss. In the spring we were privileged to host a workshop to understand gender fluidity and life experiences sponsored by Multnomah Meeting, followed shortly by a visitation by the Hendricks to introduce us to the concept of Convergent Friends. Alex Woo's academic work has taken him away for most of the past year. On June 24<sup>th</sup> we lost one of the founders and mainstays of our Meeting, David Coahran. Shortly thereafter an attender, Bill Young, moved to Lewiston.

We are a small group and the loss of that history and wisdom from the Moscow meeting made a noticeable difference in the “feeling” of our communal worship and meeting community. (It high-lights the value of each individual to the meeting community.) This was compounded in the late fall by other absences, due to flu and surgeries. This is a fragile situation in which we find ourselves. People from the LC Valley represent half of meeting attenders and some only travel to Moscow, as weather permits, during winter months.

Toward the end of the year we made a difficult decision to honor a request by members and attenders who travel to Moscow from Lewiston and Clarkston – to hold a simultaneous meeting for worship on the first Firstday of each month with people in the valley (including Bill) meeting in Lewiston, and Moscow-Pullman folks meeting at our regular location.

It is still true that “Where two or more are gathered...”, but to experience the fullness of corporate worship numbers can matter, and help give voice to the Light. In this group we experience something greater than ourselves. The challenges have been great, but as we come together there is strength – it is palpable and it goes on in the silence. As one member remarked, “The spirit of meeting has remained very important to me, and always will – it supports me.”

We are grateful for the long-standing contributions of Margaret Coahran and David Coahran, and for the past several years by Kim Williams and John Gotts, to both Quarterly and Yearly Meeting on our behalf. We are grateful to our clerk of the past few years, Johanna MacNee, for her attendance to good Quaker order and guidance, and as our representative to PNQM Continuing Committee. We are grateful for Maia Genaux's continued involvement with FCNL, and her thoughtful prodding of FCNL to hold its priorities to a higher standard (standing on the Testimony of Equality, rather than merely seeking “equity”). And, we are grateful for those who have joined and become integral to our meeting.

We are grateful for the excellent First Day course material that has been at our disposal for the past few years. Although we have only two regularly attending children in meeting, they have been presented with a good introduction to Quaker history, our Testimonies, and the contributions made by young Friends of the past and the present.

As we came together in worship sharing to conclude our present State of the Meeting, a concern was expressed that we need to resume “adult” education, especially on the nature of “corporate worship” in the manner of Friends. We have been a mainly silent meeting – which might be good for individual meditation, but not necessarily conducive to leading to a “centered” meeting. Vocal ministry helps lead to that centering, and is useful in building a spiritual community where we are Spirit-led to share what is upon our heart. One Friend related how the Ellensburg Worship Group begins each meeting with a short reading. Our M&O will consider these possibilities to deepen our sense of communal worship.