

## Draft State of the Meeting Report for Salmon Bay Meeting May 23, 2021

Salmon Bay Meeting has spent this year meeting weekly on Zoom. We published our availability on the Western Friend website which resulted in visitors, several from Mexico Yearly Meeting and others from Canada and the US. We had one new person who has become part of our Meeting, despite only attending virtually; they have taken on a project of creating a library. During this pandemic time, we had less frequent attendance of families with children at Meeting for worship, as many families did not find the format worked for them. We had regular attendance from others for whom Meeting was more accessible by Zoom than before. It is hard to know which missing people will return when we gather again in person, though we hope that they all do so.

We now have \_\_\_ adult members and \_\_\_ active attenders, and 12 pre-teen children. One of our members has decided to take a year or two to explore a possible conversion to Judaism and we are holding her in the Light as she undertakes this exploration.

Care and Counsel has been busy caring for individual needs. We welcomed a new child born into one family, celebrated another member's wedding, planted some trees for a birthday, and witnessed one another's health scares. Fortunately, our cautious Meeting community did not lose anyone to Covid. We had a holiday party on-line with some playful activities and warm sharing. We took time every week after worship for personal check-ins, sharing joys and concerns. These activities helped keep our community knit together, but they could not take the place of gathering in person. We are exploring options of when to open and how to have hybrid worship with online and in-person presence.

Our newsletter was an essential part of keeping us connected. Individuals share in the month of our births. We did not have adult education for most of the year, adding it about monthly for the last quarter. Topics explored including queries on being a more welcoming community and daily spiritual practices. We also did not have an annual retreat, nor did we support a young adult participating in the annual

FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend as we usually do. Children's Education had monthly Zoom sessions, which were sparsely attended but fun for those who participated. Nominating committee was able to fill essential positions, though some committees might benefit from another member.

Throughout this time, we met monthly for business and reached unity effectively. At business meetings, we explored some racial justice issues. We reached unity on a statement about amending the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment, objecting to the exception to slavery for those convicted of crimes. Two book groups formed on racial justice issues and one is continuing. In response to racial concerns confronting the Phinney Neighborhood Association (PNA), where we rent, we requested they do the assessment and other actions requested by the community.

Salmon Bay Meeting, too, hopes to have an assessment of how we could be more welcoming to BIPOC, have researched options for an assessment, and have initiated preparatory activities including some adult education. A half dozen people in Meeting are doing individual witness and advocacy activities to support Black Lives Matter racial justice, and criminal justice. Others have been active in public education, environmental issues, homeless services, and other concerns.

While we collected less in donations this year, we also had fewer expenses. In face of the pandemic closures, we supported PNA by donating half what we would have paid in rent, and we continued paying our childcare worker. Our finance committee completed the process of becoming a 501c3 nonprofit, and we are up to date on Labor and Industry expenses.

Generally, Salmon Bay has continued living our values during the pandemic, though we have been smaller, gathering on Zoom, and had fewer group activities.

Draft Submitted by Diane Pasta