
Over the year Salmon Bay Friends Meeting has had healthy attendance and engagement from its 19 members and roughly 15 regular attenders. Meeting for worship attendance fluctuates due to people’s busy schedules from as few as 10, to as many as 30. We were pleased to welcome 3 new people to meeting for worship with attention to business for the first time. For the 5th year in succession we were delighted to receive an application for membership by convincement to our meeting.

The meeting has nonetheless had its struggles and challenges, but we have worked well as a community and come through as a vibrant meeting. Unfortunately, an attender was arrested and pled no contest as a sex offender. We are reviewing the risks to which we are exposed and the actions we can take fairly to mitigate those risks, including endeavoring to have two adults look after the children, so each adult has support in case of emergencies. One advance in our standing as an employer has been to apply for and receive recognition from the Internal Revenue Service as a 501c3 non-profit religious organization. Our next step is to work with the State of Washington to ensure we meet labor and industry standards. For a time, a clerk has been appointed month by month, but we are moving back to a regular clerk for the coming year.

The attendance of children and young families at our meeting is a continuous source of joy. The children have continued their monthly work on the environment at Carkeek Park. Our annual picnic was again held in Carkeek Park, and we enjoyed other social events over the year. When not at Carkeek Park the children join the last quarter hour of meeting for worship, which enhances our worship. Prior to joining they have explored the theme ‘Quaker Spices’ and have been exposed to the journeys in faith of members.

Our social concerns committee was formed to help develop collective attention to concerns, in addition to the concerns attended to by individual members. Climate change is one such collective concern and the committee is leading a series of adult education sessions on the topic. We sponsored a young person to attend Friends Committee on National Legislation Spring Lobby Weekend in Washington DC. In addition, we supported the Rainbow Hop an LGBTQ+ pride event for children and families. Our support of Aurora Commons, a resource for marginalize people, has continued.

Our members have engaged with the wider Quaker community in several ways: members help organize and participate in Quarterly Meeting, Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference Gathering, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Women’s Theological Conference. With the help of University Friends Meeting we put on a successful workshop on clerking attended by 52 Friends from across the North West USA. In written media we support the Quaker Voice, and our Friend Barbara Luetke’s book The Kendal Sparrow: a novel of Elizabeth Fletcher was published by QuakerPress about the role of young people in the early Development of the Religious Society of Friends.

In February 2020, our community became seriously impacted by the Coronavirus crisis. Individual members were ill with possible symptoms, although testing patterns made it impossible know if they had the virus. Other members were quarantined because of exposure or were advised to avoid contact with others because of health issues. Still others faced significant loss of income or cancelation of major life events. Consistent with public health advise, we cancelled our Meeting for Worship on March 7th and began to meet virtually on March 14th via ‘video chat’. This has been reasonably successful, and we were delighted to be joined by Friends from as far afield as Mexico City and Columbia. Meeting
continues to monitor how this crisis impacts individuals and members and to work together to provide for each other and to practice flexibility, humility, and care for individuals and Meeting as a whole.