We meet in a peaceful setting on the highest point in the city, surrounded by trees and a wildlife habitat. Our worship is generally quiet with occasional messages out of the silence. When there is worship sharing with an advice and query, more messages arise. Members and attenders have shared their spiritual journeys during Second Hour after worship, leading us to a richness of spiritual depth.

We are focusing on building community within the meeting. Shared responsibilities of recording clerk resulted in more participation within meeting. A Quakerism 101 offering early in the year was fruitful for both new attenders and seasoned members and led to an attender’s convincement and application to join the Society of Friends. We continue to support Radio Tacoma as part of our outreach to the local community through hosting the radio station and contributing to the radio program, Quaker Moment.

Our meeting has doubled in size to an average of 20 in attendance each First Day. We rejoice in the energy and light our increased attendance brings. Recent moves to the Tacoma area for family or work reasons bring more attenders to meeting. Membership has grown through convincement and transfers: one person mentioned above, a member by convincement at the Vashon Worship Group (under our care), and a transfer of membership from a meeting in California. We, in turn, approved a transfer of membership for one of our longstanding members to a meeting in New Mexico.

Among the changes we have experienced is renewed interest in and attendance at Peace and Social Concerns committee meetings and learning events during Second Hour. Deep sharing during these meetings and events has allowed the pain and concern to surface that we feel for the homeless, the incarcerated, those affected by racism, and those facing financial insecurity.

This has led us to continue our journey into recognizing racism as we search for ways to challenge the harm done. In November, the meeting adopted the minute on Dismantling Racism that had been approved at the North Pacific Yearly Meeting’s annual session in July 2019 and recommended for monthly meeting consideration. The name of the Ministry and Oversight Committee was changed to Ministry and Counsel in April. Meeting was challenged to consider the land where we meet: should we donate this land to the Puyallup Tribe as reparations or should we create a land or housing trust? We are asking what our role is in this place and at this period of time. The Peace and Social Concerns committee has also asked members to participate in the work of Hilltop Urban Gardens (HUG) in Tacoma, which also provides an opportunity for HUG leaders to provide an intensive seminar on racism. We are looking to build relationships with our neighbors who suffer the consequences of racism and discern how that affects us as well.

Tacoma Meeting, along with Sandpoint Meeting, shared the responsibility for planning the Fall 2019 gathering of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting, the theme for which was Peace-ing Our Lives Together. This gave us opportunity to contribute and celebrate the larger gatherings of Friends. All who worked on this project were gifted by the Spirit.

Members and attenders here have supported those in the meeting who have had major health issues. We have also provided financial support and physical work to deal with problems with upkeep and improvement of the meetinghouse. We welcome requests for “holding in the Light,” prayers, or concerns brought by anyone to the meeting. We are grateful for our beloved community, which brings enthusiasm and energy to seeking “that of God” in everyone.