

Spring Monthly Meeting 2009 Spiritual Condition Report

Our meeting is blessed by the diversity of contributions by our members and attendees. We continue to grow steadily as individuals discover or seek out our meeting. Individuals continue to seek us out, proving that the best endorsement is word of mouth and personal testimony. They bring new perspectives and personal experiences to our meeting, positively challenging and strengthening us in the process. Our young Friends continue to grow as maturing members and contribute significantly to the life and leadership of the meeting.

We have made significant strides as a meeting to extend our involvement and corporate testimony into the greater Friends organizations with which we are affiliated, bringing ourselves into closer fellowship and friendship with other meetings, individuals and organizations. As Friends, we seek to eliminate prejudice in ourselves as well as in wider society. We seek to bear a Christian witness to the traditional Friends' testimony of equality of all before God, believing that in souls there is also no class, race, nationality or sexual orientation. Likewise, we welcome all seekers, including those of faiths outside of Christianity, in order to learn from them and seek common bonds, acknowledging that all are faithful children of God.

We find that avoiding the employment of a pastor or staff empowers and encourages the spiritual growth of each individual participant, assisting each member to develop their unique spirit-led ministry, and is a clear strength of our meeting. This strength abounds in the many individuals who actively share the responsibilities of the meeting, by:

- *Regularly serving as worship leaders,*
- *Providing a ministry or First Day School leadership to our young Friends,*
- *Representing our meeting at Friends General Conference & Friends United Meeting events,*
- *Serving in mission and meeting extension roles (Christmas Cheer, USFWI, Quaker Lake Camp, Friends Disaster Service, Guilford College Quaker Leadership Scholars Program, Snow Camp Historical Theatre, etc.)*
- *Bringing thoughtful messages to the meeting,*
- *Actively and faithfully serving on meeting committees.*

These individuals repeatedly step outside of their personal comfort zones to serve the larger meeting, ensuring that a group of people can gather together seeking spiritual guidance and participating in corporate worship, a worship that not only manifests itself in expectant waiting, but in service to God's world.

Challenges for our meeting might best be described by these queries:

- 1 *Are all members regularly sharing in the responsibilities of the meeting to the extent of their abilities?*

- 2 Are the words and profession of beliefs of members consistent with their daily practices and lifestyles?*
- 3 In times of world strife, how can members implement and effectively carry out the Peace Testimony in their lives and the life of the Meeting?*
- 4 When life choices arise, do members take full opportunity for using spiritual gifts in the service of God and the community?*
- 5 When decisions have to be made, are members ready to join with others in seeking clearness, asking for God's guidance and offering counsel to one another?*

The potential of our meeting is being and will continue to be realized through the action and involvement of our congregation. We pray that our Meeting can continue to find, receive and reflect God's love and peace through our actions.

*Approved by Spring Monthly Meeting
4/19/2009*

*Eric Smith
Clerk of Monthly Meeting*

*Ron Osborne
Clerk of Ministry & Counsel*