

CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING

JANUARY 2018

☞ **ALL ARE WELCOME** ☞

Sunday Worship: 10 – 11 am
Wednesday Evening Worship: 7 – 7:45 pm

Clerk

Nina Joy Lawrence

Recording Clerk

Jay Thatcher

Treasurer

Wendy Robinson

Ministry & Oversight Committee

Kathy Miller, Emily Barry

Adult Religious Exploration Committee

Bob Ward

Children and Youth Program

Esther Scheidel

Groundskeeping Coordinator

Mark Boyd

House & Hospitality Coordinator

Nancy Ewald

Major House Maintenance

Bob Burton

Meeting House Scheduling

Sid Rosen



Corvallis Meeting:

www.quaker.org/corvallis

facebook.com/CorvallisFriendsMeeting

Willamette Quarterly Meeting:

www.willamettequarterly.org

North Pacific Yearly Meeting:

www.nypm.org

OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER

541-714-3306

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

SUN

1•7

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:30 am **Testimonies in Daily Life: Integrity**

~Jaffer

THU

1•11

Stone Soup (2nd Thursdays @ St. Mary's)

1-4 Prep/Cook: contact barb@barbaralevine.com

5-7 Serve/Clean: contact rachel.peck1@gmail.com

SUN

1•14

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:40 am **Meeting for Worship for Business**

SUN

1•21

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:30 am **End of Life Matters:** Questions

arising from Ben Lomond Conference

~Brigid and Laurie

SUN

1•28

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:30 am **Potluck**

SAT

2•3

All day: Willamette Quarterly Meeting

at our Meetinghouse. Details p 2.

SUN

2•4

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:30 am Visiting with Friends from WQM

SUN

2•11

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:40 am **Meeting for Worship for Business**

This newsletter comes out on the first Sunday of the month, or by e-mail a few days earlier. Submissions and delivery requests go to Lisa Yagoda, editor: corvallisfriends@gmail.com. Next deadline: Saturday Jan 27, 2018.

3311 NW Polk Ave., Corvallis, Oregon 97330 • (541) 714-3306

UPCOMING EVENTS

January Interfaith Potluck

Sunday, January 14th, 2018

5:30-7:30 pm

Corvallis Friends Meetinghouse

Our Meeting will host a community-wide Interfaith Potluck on Sunday, Jan. 14th. We began this new tradition in Dec 2016 with about 65 attenders, and since then other congregations have continued with nearly-monthly potlucks at the Unitarian Church, the LDS (Mormon) Church, St Mary's Catholic Church, and others. There is no agenda other than eating together and making new friends, but we know that these friendships give our Corvallis community more resilience, unity, and problem-solving potential. Please join us.

If you can come at 5 pm to help set up, or stay a few minutes after to help put away tables and clean up, that would be lovely. For more information or to volunteer, contact Laurie 541-908-4518. Please invite your friends! No religious affiliation required.

This will be a **vegetarian potluck** to accommodate more dietary preferences; bring little signs that indicate gluten or dairy content if you can.

If it's easy, bring your own plate/cup/silverware.

Let us create and strengthen friendships between our congregations.

Let us be the peace and love we wish to see in the world, to echo Mahatma Gandhi's suggestion.



Willamette Quarterly Meeting

Saturday February 3

All day

Corvallis Friends Meetinghouse

The schedule will include:

Coffee and light breakfast

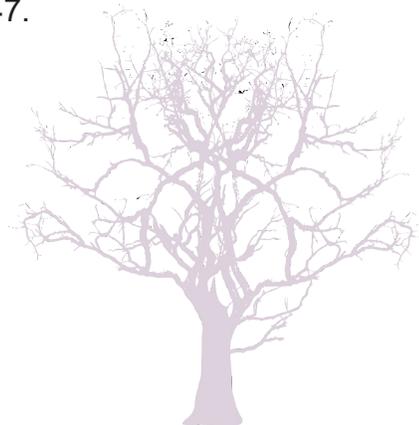
Meeting for Worship

Meeting for Worship for Business

Lunch (provided)

Clerking workshop

We (Corvallis Friends) will contribute lunch and overnight hospitality. Sign up for either at Meeting in the coming month. Alternatively, to contribute food, email Nancy at pnewald@comcast.net OR to offer overnight hospitality, text Susan E at 541-602-5747.



Watch the Wednesday Digest for more details.

DEC 2017 MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

Corvallis Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business

Dec. 10, 2017

Clerk: Nina Joy Lawrence

Acting Recording Clerk: Esther Schiedel

Present: Kathy Miller, Ruth McNeill, Bob Burton, Bob Henderson, Sid Rosen, Lisa Yagoda, Susan Easton, Roger Weaver, Wendy Robinson, Nancy Ewald, Jeff Kline, Yalda Asmatey, Susan Schiedel

Meeting began in Expectant Quiet.

Clerk read:

Friends conduct business together in the faith that there is one Divine Spirit which is accessible to all people, and that when Friends wait upon, heed, and follow the Light of Truth within them, that Spirit will lead to unity. No matter the size of the group, this faith is the foundation for any decision.

~NPYM Faith & Practice, 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting 11/12/17 were approved

Treasurer's Report was accepted.

A Pre-Nominating Committee of Lisa Yagoda and Bob Ward was approved by the Meeting. They will nominate a new member for Nominating Committee at January Meeting for Business

The Meeting approved in unity the **Membership of Abigail Stoughton**. We will plan a welcoming party in the future.

Ministry and Oversight

The Committee would like members of the Meeting who see a need for *eldering newcomers* to bring the matter to the members of the committee, rather than acting individually. Questions about Quaker practice should also go to Ministry and Oversight. Friends noted that they don't always remember who is part of Ministry and Oversight. We will explore ways to let members and attenders know who to ask—perhaps an announcement at rise of Meeting for Worship or information in printed form. Lisa Yagoda

volunteered to help with this.

The Committee is seeking feedback on *changing their name*. Possibilities under consideration are Spiritual Nurture Committee or Spiritual Life Committee. Some Friends expressed reservations about the sound of the words taken together. Others were concerned that the proposed names did not convey the Committee's role in the care of physical and practical needs of Friends.

Peace, Justice and the Environment Committee of the Whole

Men's Overnight Cold Weather Shelter:

Bob Burton reported that some roughly 11 Friends each day worked at the shelter for three days. Twenty-one different people were involved in shifts at the shelter or in

preparation of meals

for the men to enjoy. Clients of the shelter were appreciative of the food—particularly the breakfast burritos. The shelter is always in need of staffing and Bob wondered if Friends would be willing to take on another three day shift in February. Friends approved doing this. We may want to use the Methodist Church kitchen for food preparation; we will decide this at a later time.

A revision of the *letter on gun legislation* presented last month had been sent out in the Wednesday email digest and was read aloud. Although Friends thought it could benefit from further editing, we approved sending it to the governor and legislature. Clerk Nina Joy Lawrence will sign it on behalf of the Meeting.

Friends thought the *letter on capital punishment* (also presented last month, published in the digest, and read aloud) needed more editing. Susan Easton, Yalda Asmatey, and Esther Schiedel volunteered to work on revising it and will bring it to next Meeting for Business



MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES (CON'T)

Meetinghouse Scheduling

Bob Henderson announced that Sid Rosen is now taking over the role of Meetinghouse Scheduler.

Minute: Corvallis Friends Meeting thanks Bob for his many years of thoughtful and conscientious service as Scheduler.

It was asked why someone from the Shamanic Healing Circle spoke with us last month. Bob H. explained that we do have conditions of use for the building and since he was unfamiliar with this group's purpose and activities he did not want to speak for the meeting before renting to the group.

Adult Religious Exploration

Following up on the Second Hour of December 3, 2017, on gender identities and fluidity: Meeting expresses our deep appreciation for the generous gift of truth and witness by our guests: Jim and Bonnie Philipson, Stacey Rice, Emory Colvin, and Lorena Reynolds.

1. In recognition of the fact that Stacey and Emory normally are paid for taking on the emotional challenge and risk of appearing at gatherings like ours, *ARE asks Meeting to approve two types of financial contribution:*

Reimburse the cost that Stacey incurred to travel from Portland, at a minimum rate of .30 per mile, or \$60.00 (IRS rate is \$.53 or approximately \$100.00) and make an equal contribution in Emory's name to a cause or organization of their choosing.

Meeting approved doing both of these.

2. We asked our guests *what we can do to become truly accepting and visibly welcoming toward people across the range of gender and sexual identities.* We heard three suggestions: make our welcome more explicit, e.g. our website and front door; add gender pronouns to our name badges; and get out into the community where gender-other people gather, whether by choice or force, e.g. advocacy groups or youth rejected by families and living rough.

We ask Friends to season these questions: what can and shall we do, given that we appear almost completely white, middle class and cisgender. What else shall we do to deepen our inner quest and outer witness?

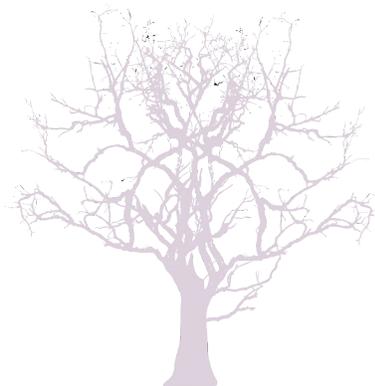
Friends discussed these ideas briefly. We will explore them more in the future.

Use of Meetinghouse

Yalda described a group that has formed at OSU and has been meeting to explore social justice as it relates to Islam. They are looking for a place to meet regularly for discussion and prayers and she wondered about using the Meetinghouse. The house is available during the time she suggested and Friends felt this would be an appropriate use of the facility. We approved waiving the rental fee. We will check in with the group about how things are working out in about six months.

Meeting closed with silent worship.

Next Business Meeting: Jan. 14, 2018



OUR 2017 GIVING TREE



We outdid ourselves! This year's Condiments Giving Tree yielded 397 lbs. of condiments donated to the South Corvallis Food Bank. That's **nearly 400 lbs!!** That weight is a firm and double-checked figure.

The number of items was less firm, and almost certainly not all items got tallied, because the total was 402—which surely should have been more since so many of the items (e.g. all the spices) weighed considerably less than a pound each. But there was a lot of confusion over which boxes got tallied and which got taken to Sheila's car without being tallied (Sheila from the Food Bank joined us for potluck and took our donations for us). Still, no matter what the exact number was, it represents a wonderful effort on the part of everyone who contributed. Thank you all.

Condiments have become increasingly difficult for the food bank to get as manufacturers and distributors have stopped contributing items near their "sell by" date as a tax write-off, since they can now sell them at Grocery Depot and other such places. But to families existing largely on beans, rice, pasta, and mac'n cheese dinners, condiments make a big difference between mere sustenance and tasty meals.

(And some of us think we heard the echo of our little Giving Tree singing for joy as we prepared to dismantle her and put away the parts for another year!)

Editor's Note: Much thanks to Nancy Ewald who plans and joyously coaxes us each year to create our feisty generous giving trees!

Advices on Discernment

Seeking and waiting for Truth's leadings is a discipline through which all can grow in patience, unity, and love. Decisions under the guidance of the Spirit knit the loving community together.

We remain patient and wait upon God as long as needed for a decision to emerge which clearly recommends itself as the right one.

We guard against contentiousness, obstinacy, and love of control and power. We remember that our views, however fondly cherished, may be wrong.

We season our decisions and test our leadings with patience and integrity. We take care to stay within our leadings, lest we outrun our Guide.

Friends approach meeting for business, committee meetings, and other occasions for group discernment with trust that the Holy Spirit will lead us to unity and right action. Unity is always possible because the same Light of Truth shines in some measure in every human heart. Communal discernment takes place in a context of worship as those present seek divine guidance.

Friends expect unity as the outcome, not as the starting point, of communal discernment. We proceed in the peaceable spirit of the light of Truth, with forbearance and warm affection for one another. Light will be shed on matters from many angles. We trust that as Truth is spoken, its power cannot be resisted.

We express our views but refrain from pressing them unduly. It is less important for any individual to be heard than it is for Truth to be given voice.

Group discernment and the search for unity may require us to accept with good grace a decision of the meeting we do not entirely agree with.

Contributing to the meeting's discernment is a responsibility of membership. This includes attending meetings for business and being faithful in the service of the meeting's affairs.

~ North Pacific Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice*, 2017

Corvallis Friends Meeting
3311 NW Polk Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330