

MIAMI MONTHLY MEETING STATE OF SOCIETY 2018

Miami Monthly Meeting is a community of members and attenders who faithfully gather every week for religious discussions and worship, and who reach out to each other during times of both adversity and celebration for mutual support; a constant for this meeting.

Each summer the Stone family (long-time members) return from Tasmania for an extended stay to strengthen our fellowship and share their experiences and talents.

Our membership is diverse, each one possessing a different gift or message that strengthens the whole group. There is an optimism and openness to our different spiritual journeys that strengthens our spirituality and encourages our growth. Underneath our ability to take in each others' differences, what draws this community together is love. Our purpose is to gain a greater understanding of the Divine presence within in order to share that Light in the world.

Religious Education topics vary from Quaker history, Quaker principles, Living Witness, articles from Friends Journal, different religions, Bible study, and the Queries from Faith and Practice, which remind us to stop and think about the basics of our faith. During the year, we had guest speakers including Paul Buckley, who shared his vision for Quaker revival driven by his recently published books on Primitive Quakerism and Christianity; and Yumi Radke, who spoke on the restoration of the Hawaii, rain forest. We have refreshed our spiritual education while helping members and attenders to better understand our faith and practices.

Though no longer a ministry of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, we continue to carry our ministry to Quaker Heights Ohio Living with a spiritual program of music and readings for the residents every other month. This is rewarding for our spiritual life as well as the residents. We also have members who serve on the Quaker Heights Foundation Board.

We held our annual Worship at Fort Ancient this year, with participation from other Meetings of OVYM. This outreach to other Friends is a very inspirational Worship, which continues a tradition established when OVYM Annual Sessions were held at Miami Monthly Meeting.

While continuing to support the Waynesville Heritage and Cultural Center (the Museum at the Friends Home), we open our Meeting House to tours and lectures giving the history and philosophy of Friends, and their influence on the Waynesville community to many visitors each year. The museum also houses much of the collection of our Library.

The Meeting is blessed by the presence of new members and attenders who deepen our Spiritual Worship. In August, we celebrated the birth of Frances Morrison, daughter of long-time attender Kaitlin Morrison. Often, our celebrations and fellowship take place around the common table of a shared meal. The Meeting continues to provide a Spiritual home for all who are seeking the Divine Presence.

Joyfully Submitted:

The Friends of Miami Monthly Meeting