DRAFT

Annual State of the Meeting Report
Mountain View Worship Group
April 2023

History, Continuity

Mountain View Quaker group began forming in Hood River approximately 1983 and soon thereafter attenders agreed to a twice monthly meeting format and placed themselves under the care of Multnomah Meeting. Numbers of members and attenders has varied but the twice a month format has continued. Currently a typical meeting may have from 4 or 5 to 12 or more.

Advancing age, health concerns, declining energy and other changes in lives and lack of recruitment have played a big role in reduced numbers. Hopefully, the effects of Covid and not meeting in person are in the past. The Spirit remains strong and there are younger members who will hopefully be taking more of a role so that this worship group survives. We will also continue to work to make a home among us for new attenders.

Guatemalan Family

Several of our members have maintained regular contact with this family of five that we initially adopted with financial support and still continue with childcare, helping with immigration issues, navigating our culture, language acquisition and in many more ways than can be counted.

Reading Group: The Naked Now and No Self No Problem

A true highlight of this past year is our strong, consistent 3rd Sunday Book group, held before meeting. People have found it enriching in exploring and deepening our spiritual lives. Of particular richness, the Catholic theologian Richard Rohr's book The Naked Now helped us see the universality of Spirituality. Chris Niebauer's book, No Self, No Problem, was recommended by one of our dearest older members who is no longer able to attend meeting. This book uses both current science and the teaching of Buddhism to open the possibility of living more in the present without the dominance of our egos or, physiologically speaking, our right brain hemispheres. The book sparked long and thoughtful discussion.

We recently held a **clearness meeting** led ably by Lynn Gordon that helped us reconcile with a long-term member who is greatly valued. We continue to appreciate support from Multnomah Meeting. We look forward to a visit from three members Ministry of Oversight the first Sunday of May.

We have raised our rent and may explore that again to help cover the costs of keeping the building open. We have also increased our yearly contribution to Multnomah Meeting.

Enduring value of our Quaker method and processes: All who continue to attend have found a way to be closer to the Spirit or the Creator. We seek to listen to that still small voice within and to commune with the deeper spiritual nature of all Peoples.