Annual State of the Meeting for 2025
Spokane Quaker Worship Group

Organization: 2025 was our first year of operation as a Worship Group. Some of our first items of business were organizational. We created a list of members and attenders as a Google Sheet that everyone on the list could access. We listed our Worship group in our Quarterly and Annual Meetings as well as with Friends General Conference. We also made sure that the Spokane Worship Group appears on the interactive map of Meetings that the Annual Meeting supports. In 2025, we did not document our nonprofit tax status or open a bank account. We have asked individuals attending our Worship Group regularly to donate to the Programmed Quakers to cover our share of the costs for the building. When other expenses come up, one of us volunteers to cover that expense. Discussion about our nonprofit status and/or having a checking account will continue in 2026.

Growth: 2025 was a year of growth. We started out the year with about 8 people attending the Meetings for Worship and during the course of the year had as many as 19 people worshipping together in Spokane. We are averaging about 12 or 13 now

Membership: We are under the care of the Sandpoint Monthly Meeting. Three people from the Worship Group became members of the Sandpoint Monthly Meeting this year.

Coordination with Sandpoint Monthly Meeting. We sent bimonthly updates to the Sandpoint Monthly Meeting during 2025. We also had a joint Meeting for Worship and a potluck with the Sandpoint Quakers in Spokane. Several individuals from the Sandpoint Meeting participated in the Knitting Us Together program that was held in Spokane. A few individuals from the Worship Group attended Meetings for Worship in Sandpoint.

Coordination with Programmed Quakers:

- **Meeting Time:** Early in the year, our group asked the Programmed Quakers to meet 15 minutes earlier to allow us Fellowship time before the people that go to both services had to leave. Months went by and the Programmed Quakers were not able to come to clear on meeting at a new time. We eventually withdrew our request and decided to change our start time from 8:45 to 8:30.
- **Coordination with Unitarians:** We also had to coordinate with the Programmed Quakers because the Unitarian Universalist church began meeting in the Friends Church and we had a schedule conflict. The Programmed Quakers took up our concern and gave us sole access to the Fellowship Hall until 10:00 a.m. and then we can share the space with the Unitarians until 10:30 a.m. as they set up their coffee and food. This schedule is workable for us and gives us much needed Fellowship time after the Meeting for Worship.
- **Need to Develop our Own Website:** The Programmed Quakers also decided to take us off the front page of their website to avoid confusion between the two groups, but still continued to list us on their calendar. In response, we began the process of developing our own website. We acquired the domain of SpokaneQuakers.org. We have a one page website for now and are working on a more robust site.

- **Financial Contributions:** The Worship Group made significant monthly contributions to the Programmed Quakers and the Programmed Quakers have separated out our contributions. Our Worship Group donated $11,260 during 2025 to the Programmed Group in addition to a separate donation for $10,000 for the church HVAC system that one of the downstairs members contributed. The total for all donation from the Worship Group in 2025 was $21,260.00 The Worship Group also participated in fundraisers for the Friends Church.
- **Coordinating Committee:** A Coordinating Committee to work through building issues has been formed that includes representation from the Worship Group. A first meeting of the Coordinating Committee is expected during the first quarter of 2026.

Written Materials: Over the course of 2025, we developed our first pamphlet. The pamphlet is for newcomers to our Meeting for Worship and provides information about our worship practice and our testimonies. In 2025, we also had an early discussion on developing a separate pamphlet that could be distributed at college fairs and other locales. Finishing the pamphlet for outreach will be a point of discussion into the new year.

Worship Sharing: We began the practice of Worship Sharing this year. This was a positive experience and we now do Worship Sharing the first Sunday of each month.

Called Meeting from Annual Meeting: Some Spokane Quakers participated in the Called Meeting this year related to issues around bathroom use for transgender people at the Annual Meeting.

Children's Program: One couple in Spokane expressed a desire to bring their children to the Spokane Meeting for Worship on the third Sundays. We came up with parameters for a Children's Program and secured a space in the building to hold that program. We will begin offering a once monthly Children's Program in 2026.

Quaker Voice: Three representatives from Quaker Voice held an informational meeting in Spokane. During our Meetings for Business, we had regular updates from Quaker Voice.

FCNL: We received regular updates on local FCNL activities. The focus of the work has been Gaza.

Quaker Neighbor Support: Individuals from the Worship Group and from the programmed Friends hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for a local group of Sudanese. The dinner was well attended by Quakers and Sudanese. Over fifty-five people attended. We continue to receive updates on work with the Sudanese.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emalee Gillis, Recording Secretary