

State of Society Report

Friendship Friends Meeting – Sixth Month, 2024

At long last, although it seemed as though we were in a continuous loop with the city of Greensboro, we have finally gotten approval for our building plans for a new meeting room. That gives us a final budget that is, not surprisingly, significantly higher than we expected. We anticipate a financial stretch to raise all of the money that we need. A recent yard sale helped focus the community on fundraising and involved much of the community in donating, arranging, pricing, and selling items. We still have a long way to go and will continually need a similar level of community involvement over the next few years.

While it seemed like the building concerns had limited our involvement in other activities, we realized that was not true. As we looked deeper, we found a number of growing edges. We have a strong meeting community; our Meetings for Worship are deep and messages are clearly grounded in the Spirit. Our Meetings for Business are held in a spirit of worship and love, and we have found that including a Zoom option for both the Meeting for Worship and the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business helps increase participation while maintaining the deep center. We continue to have midweek Meeting for Worship at Friends Homes, Quaker Q&A, Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting, and Bible study. Those activities work together with Meeting for Worship to deepen and broaden our spiritual life.

Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has been active in creating and providing forums that have broadened our perspective beyond the meeting community to the larger world. Two recent examples were forums on housing in Greensboro, and on Palestine. Members of Peace and Social Concerns, and other meeting members, have been active with numerous other social justice organizations in Greensboro and beyond.

This year the Worship & Ministry Committee has helped us look at ministry in a larger context, both in what forms ministry can take beyond traditional ideas about it, and how we can recognize and support the various gifts of ministry within our meeting. At a recent Meeting for Business they presented a minute of appreciation for the spiritual gifts of a particular member, which the meeting joyfully united with. We continue to be grateful for the workings of the Spirit among us.