State of the Meeting Report, 2024

Spokane Quaker Worship Group, Spokane, WA

Greetings to Friends everywhere from our newly formed Spokane Quaker Worship Group. Each year, Friends are asked to do a "self-examination of the Meeting and its members of the spiritual strengths and weaknesses and of efforts to foster growth in their spiritual life, emphasizing the spiritual health of the Meeting."

The major accomplishment of our group in 2024 was to move from isolated friends meeting together to a recognized Meeting for Worship under the care of the Sandpoint Monthly Meeting. The impetus for this change was a change in size. We went from perhaps 5 or 6 of us meeting at the Meeting for Worship each week at the beginning of the year to having 8 to 10 of us meeting together later in 2024. We were joined by Friends who relocated to Spokane from other areas of the country as well as by Spokane residents. Another impetus was we wanted our group to be more easily found by seekers and to have a connection to the larger Quaker community.

We started the process of becoming recognized as a Worship Group in a threshing session on August 6, 2024 where we began exploring the idea. On August 19, we met with Joe Snyder, a traveling Quaker from Portland who volunteered to help us with discernment. At the conclusion of that session, we decided to move forward with finding a Monthly Meeting to take us under its care. Members of our group travelled to both the Monthly Meetings in Pullman/Moscow and Sandpoint to see who could more easily take us under their care. On September 30, 2024, our group sent a letter to the Sandpoint Friends Monthly Meeting to formally request that the Meeting take us under their care. We received an enthusiastic response back from Sandpoint that they would be happy to take us under their care and with that, we became a formalized Worship Group. On November 3, four of our members travelled to Sandpoint to begin building the relationship.

On November 23, 2024, we met to begin getting more organized. We decided to call ourselves the Spokane Quaker Worship Group, identified email and phone contacts for us, and agreed on the specifics for how we would be identified in the Quarterly Meeting directory.

Also, in November, we began a process to find a way that we could have more time together. Right now, our Meeting for Worship that we hold in the downstairs of the Friends Church rises 15 minutes before the beginning of the Friends Church service that happens upstairs. Some of our members attend both services, so our group has very little time together. We decided to ask the Friends Church if they could meet a half hour later, to give out more time to be together. The Spokane Friends Church is still in the process of discernment as to whether they are open to changing their start time.

In 2024, we also began discussing forming a new FCNL advocacy group in Spokane.

We look forward to building our spiritual community in 2025.

Peace,
Emalee Gillis,
Corresponding Secretary
Spokane Quaker Worship Group