

Community Companion

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

3960 WINDING WAY, CINCINNATI OH 45229-1950

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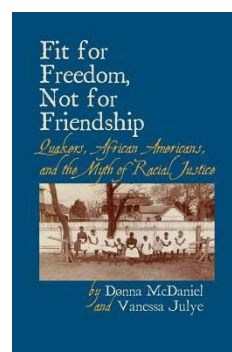
Sixth Query

OVYM Faith and Practice

What binds me to my meeting community?

What fosters mutual love and communion in our meeting?

How does our meeting resolve conflicts when they arise?

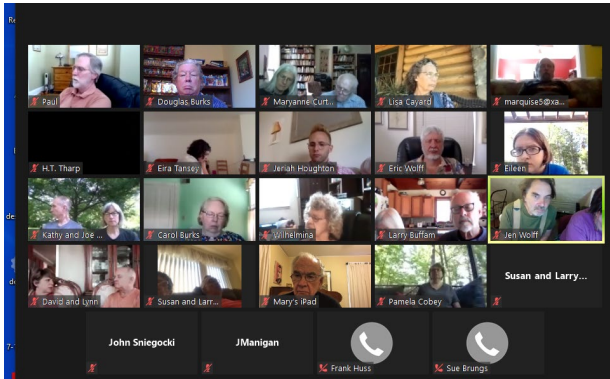


A good read. Gives insight to a different perspective of our relationship with people of color.

Community Companion

July 2020

Worship on Zoom



Mary Anne's Zoom Story

When it was apparent that Meeting as I had known it and depended on it since my teen years would not be happening any more for an unknown time, I was very upset. I tried Zoom with the help of a friend but it did not work at all and he could not explain it. I downloaded Zoom onto my cell phone and my computer both. I could get audio and video on the computer but no one could see or hear me. We realized it's an old computer without a mike or camera. Zoom inexplicably did not work on the cell phone at all. For the first time in 25 years, I had to implement my suicide prevention safety plan (no kidding, I have major depressive disorder). My psychiatrist told me to just surrender and get a more modern computer. I grieved the unknown risk of losing important memories stored there. I got a new computer, but by the end of the day my own computer professional told me to take it back; it was not necessary. By that time, I had also figured out that I needed to "install" Zoom on my cell phone, not just "download" it, so my cell phone was Zooming OK. Now I attend with Don Rucknagel who has hooked his lap top to his desk top. Sometimes he loses the audio and mike, but then I call in on my cell and we get those things through very well through speakerphone on my cell. In most meetings I hit some wrong spot on my cell and lose the picture, but I almost always get it back pretty fast. I've had more misadventures, never consistent, but I won't bore you with them. (thanks, Eira!)

Doug Burks' Zoom Story

I feel that Zoom virtual worship has been both a blessing and a curse. It is a poor substitute for face to face gathering. However, it has enabled us to be able to continue group worship and silent waiting for the Divine to speak to us.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20.) Speaks to me and the value of community worship.

Coordinating these meetings has been a distraction from worship for me but I sense that many who attend are having a spiritual experience of the Divine.

Wilhelmina Branson's Zoom Story

My story is that it is because of David Funck who persuaded me with much persuasion to join the virtual Meeting for Worship because I was not interested in joining Meeting for Worship on the computer! I was sure that would not be like Meeting for Worship. But David persuaded me, with much effort, to try it!! So I give David all the credit for getting me there!! Thank you, David!! I am so grateful that so many of us can gather together throughout this "stay-home" time every First Day morning and I miss those who cannot. I have found it extremely meaningful!

Beth Rosen's Zoom Story

I remember when the Covid pandemic first hit Ohio, and we were all suddenly thrust into another world. We were told to shelter in place, to be socially distant. At work, we switched from seeing all of our clients in person, to 100% video visits in just 1 week. I remember feeling scared, confused, struggling to keep up with all of the changes. And suddenly, more isolated. Our.

[Worship on ZOOM continued next page](#)

Worship on ZOOM continued

Zoom meetings for worship were a breath of fresh air, especially at that time. A welcome connection with all of you, and with the world outside of our house. I was surprised at how I could still feel the connection with everyone on the Zoom meeting. I cried during the beginning of the first 2 or 3 Zoom meetings for worship. tears of joy, relief, connection. Of being held in community.

I also laughed, though not while on the Zoom meeting! the idea of us sitting silently on Zoom, with our videos on and our voices muted. It cracks me up! But it works.

Tim Leonard's Zoom Story

Meeting for Worship on zoom is ok, but not satisfying. Meeting in small groups on zoom is sometimes better than in person because there is less chatter and more focus. I have participated in some book discussions that were superior. I think the zoom format cries out for speech to happen. When there is interacting conversation, zoom is at its best. Paul described a meeting combining personal presence and zoom, which seems simpler than I had thought, and is being used in Dayton and other meetings.

Deborah Jordan's Zoom Story

Generally, zoom works for me as we all learn to navigate this new territory. We all now know how to mute to cut out the barking dog or shut the video off as we move around so others don't get seasick. The one strange experience was being on meeting for worship with Yellow Springs for Miami Quarter. I wondered why most people had their videos off. I closed my eyes though and centered down in worship. Later I realized that zoom was frozen, and I was worshipping by myself, and it was meaningful. We're never alone, are we? Zoom is just making some of our connections visible and audible.

Carol Burks' Zoom Story

I am surprised how much I appreciate the Zoom Meeting for Worship. It works better than I expected, and attendance numbers are similar to in person meetings. I do miss those who are unable to join us. I know Ministry and Council reached out to them and will do what we can to facilitate their joining us. I do find joy in the unexpected participants from around the world. It is great to make the connection. I have some trouble centering but that happens at the Meeting House too. It is a little harder to get the "electricity" of in person meetings. The messages often speak to me just like in person especially since my hearing with Zoom is better than in person. Nothing is ideal, but we continue to share our gifts with each other and to me they are especially treasured in this time.

Kathy and Joe Weiler Zoom Story

We have recently been attending some of the Friends zoom meetings and would like to share a few thoughts:

We are grateful for the Quaker worship meetings! We like the Silence and listening to the Spirit speak within the hearts of individuals. We also like that Friends value a relationship with the Earth. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to worship with everyone through this pandemic, but we realize it is not quite the same as meeting in person, so there is a bit of a loss in that way. One of the things that has made us chuckle is the participation of family pets in the worship meeting! That has been fun! :) Thank you so much for making this special time available to us.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

June 14, 2020

Present via Zoom: Doug, Mary Anne, Lisa, Don, Sue, Wilhelmina, Bill, Deborah J Eira , Eric, Tim, David, Lynn , Paul, Carol, Frank , and John.

1. Opening: The meeting opened with centering worship, during which the Presiding Clerk, Doug, read the following: "Now I find that in a state of pure obedience the mind learns contentment in appearing weak and foolish to that wisdom which is of the world; and in these lowly labors, they who stand in a low place and are rightly exercised under the cross will find nourishment." ~ John Woolman, 1720-1772

2. Clerk's Report: Doug shared the agenda and reports that had been provided in advance.

3. Ministry and Counsel: Lisa reported that the committee met on May 25 and discussed the threshing session on holding outdoor meeting for worship, and possible next steps. It seemed there was a fair amount of agreement about outdoor worship, with some details and procedures to work out. Doug will recommend the formation of an ad hoc committee to develop proposed guidelines and procedures. The committee also discussed how Zoom meetings for worship are going, and it seems that more people are getting used to the process. Many of us like to see each other's faces to feel connected. There was discussion of possible plans for a fall renewal, which might be either virtual or outdoors. Breaking into smaller worship sharing groups could be done either way. It was noted that the Quaker Bites presentations have been inspirational. We will consider possible facilitators. Yearly Meeting may help us get some ideas for what works well. A possible topic could be how we have grown spiritually in these difficult circumstances. We continue to reach out to those in the meeting who are in need of care and support. The report was accepted.

4. Nominating Committee: Sue shared the updated list of officers and committee assignments. There were a few additions, including two new members on Religious Development Committee. A few spelling corrections were noted, and two additional names were inadvertently left off. These corrections will be made, and the corrected list is attached to these minutes. The nominations were approved.

5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lynn reported that income exceeded expenses in May. We are at 29% of our 6% goal of cash on hand. Expenses were low because we have not been using the meetinghouse. Meetinghouse expenses were \$860.69. Parent bodies and charitable contributions were paid. There were no committee expenses in the past month. There was a discrepancy in line 8. There should only be \$405 in the Sanctuary Fund. The report was accepted with the understanding that the Treasurer will determine this discrepancy. The corrected report is attached to these minutes.

6. Report from Ad Hoc Outdoor Worship Committee: Tim reported that the committee met, and they identified sources of data that will be used to determine if the conditions are met for re-opening in-person worship. Hamilton County seems to be at a plateau, but the trend of new COVID cases is not dropping. The committee sees its task as finding

[Minutes Continued on Next Page](#)

Minutes Continued

the best way to minimize risk of in-person outdoor worship. There is still not clarity about wearing masks or use of the indoor bathroom facilities. There is the possibility of having both Zoom meetings and outdoor in-person worship. There are concerns about the risk of having children present during outdoor worship. There would also need to be arrangements for disinfecting the restroom after use. The Ad Hoc Committee will continue to meet and discern, but there is currently not unity on a proposal. There was some discussion about using the number of new cases versus number of new hospitalizations, due to variations in availability of testing. There was acknowledgement that this process is not easy. Anyone with additional resources or suggestions was encouraged to contact Tim to share with the Ad Hoc committee. The Clerk proposed a minute that Community Friends Meeting wants to begin holding outdoor in-person meetings for worship, but the start date would be determined by criteria that have not yet been decided. This minute was approved. The Ad Hoc committee was charged with continuing to meet and to propose the criteria that would be used to set a start date. The next priority would be to propose guidelines for ensuring health and safety. These charges were also approved, and the report was accepted. It was clarified that the option for virtual worship will continue to be available even after in-person worship resumes. The clerk expressed appreciation to the Ad Hoc committee for their work on this challenging issue. The members are Bill Cahalan, Eric Wolff, Lynn Funck, John Sniegocki, and Tim Leonard.

7. House and Grounds: no report

8. Unity with Nature Committee: The committee watered and spread manure on the blackberry bushes, but didn't meet this month. The report was accepted.

9. Religious Development Committee: Lisa Cayard reported that the committee met by Zoom on June 7, and welcomed two new committee members, Allyse Sonnega-Boardwine and Liz Virgo.

There was discussion of possible options for childcare for when outdoor worship begins. If worship was held in the front yard, children could be cared for in the back yard. Plans were made for virtual First Day School classes in the coming month. Hannah and Lynn shared that the children enjoy having a story, bringing something to show the others, and interacting with each other. Hannah led a class on June 7. Since Yearly Meeting will be June 18, 19, and 20 we will encourage families to participate in YM children's activities rather than scheduling another class in June. Allyse offered to lead a virtual class in early July, and Liz will lead a class in mid-July. They will send some possible dates to the families to see what dates work best. We also discussed how children may be feeling about the events in the news related to police violence and racial injustice. We will look for some appropriate books for children on this topic to support a Quaker approach to nonviolence and racial justice. The report was accepted.

10. Adult Religious Education: No Second Hours are scheduled in coming weeks due to OVYM and FGC events. Paul Buckley has asked to step down from this committee. He hopes some younger people will become more involved in this work. This report was accepted.

11. Stewardship Committee: No report

12. Library Committee: John Sniegocki reported that John David has created a library website. The link will be sent out to the meeting. Appreciation was expressed to John David! The report was accepted.

Minutes Continued on Next Page

Minutes Continued

13. Peace and Social Concerns: Mary Anne reported that the meeting will be joining the Black Lives Matter vigil for racial justice on Hamilton Avenue this afternoon. The report was accepted.

14. Sanctuary Inreach Group: Mary Anne reported that Tatina's baby is due at the end of July. There is a virtual baby shower for her, with a link to her gift registry that was emailed to the meeting. Community Meeting's week to support the family is the week of July 19. The family is adjusting very well. The report was accepted.

15. Tender Mercies: David reported that the work is going very well. Everyone's support is appreciated, and the residents and staff appreciate that the meals continue to be provided in these times. The report was accepted.

16. Miami Quarterly Meeting: Deborah reported that there were break out sessions on Zoom, and State of the Meeting reports were shared. In the business session, \$400 was approved to support Paul Buckley's travels in the ministry to Australia. Plans are being made for joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow Camp October 17 and 18th.

17. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting: Eric reported that virtual Yearly Meeting Sessions will be this week, June 17-21. Friends were encouraged to participate. The report was accepted.

18. Quaker Earthcare Witness letter: Doug reported that the meeting received a letter from Quaker Earthcare Witness with a statement in response to the killing of George Floyd and the systematic racism and police violence, linking our connection with that of God in all people with our connection and care for the Earth. The letter was accepted, and it is attached to these minutes

19. Friends Committee on National Legislation: Doug reported that the lobbying group met last week and is working on setting up a visit with Senator Rob Portman to lobby on the Hero's Act, the stimulus package for dealing with COVID-19, SNAP, housing and eviction, and Native American concerns. The report was accepted.

20. Announcements: Eric Wolff announced that Ellen Dinger is organizing a Black Lives Matter rally at Loveland Middle School next Saturday June 20, 12:30 to 2:30. It will be a caravan protest.

21. Approval of Minutes: The minutes were read and approved.

22. Closing: The meeting closed with silent worship.



<https://mulaw.missouri.edu/journal/ancient-and-comely-order-the-use-and-disuse-of-arbitration-by-new-york-quakers/>



<https://www.google.com/search?q=quaker++business+process&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwiQhvrigZvqAhUHb60KHR89Be8Q2->

Community Companion

July 2020

Flag Day Vigil for BLM



On Sunday June 14, Community Friends Meeting joined many others to support racial justice in a peaceful, mostly socially spaced vigil extending up Hamilton Ave at least from Northside to College Hill.

Paulette Meier, Beth Rosen, Sue Brungs, Don Rucknagel, and Mary Anne Curtiss held signs and waved back to the overwhelming chorus of toots and honks, as well as greetings, fists, waves, and peace signs from passing traffic. There was no indication of any hostility. One African American vigiler told us "I can't tell you what it means to me, that you all have come out for us like this". Paulette says she suspected that is what so many of the Blacks in cars honking like crazy were feeling as well!

If you were at the vigil and are not listed above, send me an email (macurtiss@zoomtown.com). Let us all continue to live, work, and witness for what is right: fairness, better police training, and cheerfully answering that of God in everyone.

From: Mary Anne Curtiss for Peace and Social Concerns



From the Bluffton Sun

Bluffton Quakers uphold traditions, seek peace, equality for all

Amy Coyne Bredeson
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:46 pm



When Lynn and Steve Newsom moved to Bluffton from North Carolina in 2017, they began attending a Quaker meeting in Savannah because it was the closest one in the area.

Formally known as The Religious Society of Friends, the Quakers use the term "meeting" instead of "church."

"The reason for that is that the founder ... believed that the whole world was a church and that we should worship God anywhere, and that there should not be a separate place for worship," said Lynn, who is the clerk of Palmetto Friends, the Religious Society of Friends in South Carolina.

After driving to Savannah for a few Quaker meetings, the Newsoms, who recently retired as directors of Quaker House in Fayetteville, N.C., decided to start a worship group in Bluffton.

Bluffton Friends Worship Group began gathering in February 2018. Since the local group has no building of its own, members were meeting once a month on a Sunday morning in each other's homes prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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From the Bluffton Sun Continued

Since they have been unable to meet with their local worship group over the past few months, the Newsoms have been attending Zoom meetings with their former groups in Charlotte and Cincinnati. The couple hopes to start hosting their own meetings on Zoom soon. There are currently only seven or eight people in their group, but all others are welcome to join them.

Lynn said traditional Quakers practice what is called "unprogrammed worship," which means they have no minister, and they worship God by sitting in silence for an hour in prayer and meditation. The Bluffton group is traditional. She said the larger meetings have "Second Hours," or forums, to discuss topics of interest after the hour of silence.

"Prayer is talking to God," Lynn said. "Meditation is listening for God. And that is fundamental in our worship. We worship corporately to invite the spirit of God to speak to us."

Known for spreading a message of peace, Quakers have long pushed for equal rights among different races, genders and economic classes. They were an integral part of the abolitionist movement and in the history of South Carolina.

Steve said some Quakers did own slaves, but the leaders of the organization denounced the practice in the mid- 1600s because it was inconsistent with Quaker beliefs.

"They basically started the worldwide movement to abolish slavery," Steve said. "It took hold in England because of the Quakers, and it spread to the United States."

Since they opposed slavery, Steve said, most Quakers in South Carolina moved to the North prior to the Civil War.

In 1862, Quaker women from the North came to South Carolina to care for and teach newly freed slaves. The first school in the South for freed slaves, the Penn School, was established in 1862 on St. Helena Island, according to the Penn Center website.

The school was named after a Quaker man named William Penn, and was supported by a private charity made up of mostly Quakers from 1865 to 1877, the website said.

In 1948, the school closed and became a community agency. In 1950, its name was changed to Penn Center. Since then, Penn Center opened the first daycare center for blacks, launched a community health care clinic, hosted interracial conferences on civil rights, was a training center for the Peace Corps, and was a retreat for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other human rights activists.

Penn Center wasn't the only school Quakers started for freed slaves in South Carolina. Martha Schofield, a Quaker woman from Pennsylvania, founded a public high school in Aiken called Schofield Normal and Industrial School.

Another Quaker woman, Cornelia Hancock, a Civil War nurse from New Jersey, started Laing Industrial School in Mount Pleasant, according to the Digital South Carolina Encyclopedia. The school was named after Henry M. Laing, treasurer of the Friends Association for the Aid and Elevation of the Freedmen of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, both of which supported the school financially, the digital encyclopedia said.

After all these years, Quakers are still standing up for racial equality in South Carolina. On May 8, the Newsoms and others in their group participated in the nationwide socially distanced walk for Ahmaud Arbery, the black man who was killed by two white men while jogging on Feb. 23 in Brunswick, Ga.

Five members of their group also attended a peaceful protest against racism on June 6 at Campbell Chapel AME Church, where hundreds of concerned citizens gathered to hear remarks from organizers before marching through Old Town Bluffton.

Continued next page

From the Bluffton Sun Continued

"Of all the religious organizations I know, I feel the Quakers try very hard to live according to Jesus' teachings - in simplicity, in integrity, in working for equality and freedom for all people, and in believing that there is God in everyone, so therefore, one should not kill another person," Lynn said. "This is the reason that we are pacifists and work hard for peace."

For more information on the Bluffton Friends Worship Group, email Lynn at lynnewsom@gmail.com or visit the group's Facebook page.

Amy Coyne Bredeson of Bluffton is a freelance writer, a mother of two and a volunteer with the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance.



Lynn and Steve are former members of Community Friends Meeting and continuing supporters of us.

Pilot Light for Vince Bartolini

There is this light
Flickering, fragile pilot light
Attempting to fly this search-engine soul
Gift of genes and God
Never satisfied
Always burning with desire
To understand understanding
Illuminating the golden cord
That guides attention
Transforms distractions
Into relations and connections
Finding dead-ends
That later become
Broad boulevards of beauty
Welcoming avenues
Of ugliness and challenge
Transforming them
Into Cosmopolis,
The beautiful city
The city of humans and our God
Each part worthy
Each part pointing to the whole
To the all in which we live.

Tim Leonard 6_9_2020



Community Friends Meeting

Committees for 2020/2021

June 14, 2020

Officers:

- Presiding Clerk: Doug Burks
- Assistant Clerk: Timothy Leonard
- Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard
- Assistant Recording Clerk: Deborah Jordan
- Treasurer Lynn Funck
- Web Clerk: Eira Tansey
- Archivist: John Sniegocki
- Directory Editor: David Funck
- Statistician: Eugene Marquis
- Assistant Statistician Paul Buckley

Adult Religious Education:

- Deborah Jordan*
- Susan Gerke

Caretaker Liaison:

(Appointed by Ministry and Counsel and House and Grounds)

•

Community Committee:

- Lynn Funck
- Evie Hoffmann (SA)
- Sue Brungs*
- Dylan Cahalan (SA)
- Sunny Rhein
- Rich House (SA)
- Susan Gerke
- Jim Rhein (SA)

House and Grounds:

- Eric Wolff*
- Andrew Boniface
- Larry Buffam (SA)
- Rich House (SA)
- John Sniegocki Ex Officio
- Elizabeth Groppe Ex Officio
- Jim Rhein (SA)
- Sue Brungs
- Eugene Marquis (SA)

Library Committee:

- John Sniegocki
- Frank Huss*

Ministry and Counsel:

- Tim Leonard
- Deborah Jordan
- Frank Huss
- Sue Brungs
- Doug Burks Ex Officio
- Lisa Cayard*
- John Sniegocki.
- Sunny Rhein (SA)

Newsletter:

- Doug Burks



Community Friends Meeting

Outreach Committee:

- John Sniegocki
- Beth Rosen*
- Sue Brungs
- Paulette Meier
- Jennifer Snow Wolff

Peace and Social Concerns:

- Don Rucknagel
- Tim Leonard
- Mary Anne Curtiss*

Religious Development Committee:

- Jim Rhein
- David Funck
- Lisa Cayard*
- Hannah Branson
- Lynn Funck
- Allyse Sonnega
- Liz Virgo

Stewardship Committee

- Mary Anne Curtiss
- David Funck
- Richard House.
- Lynn Funck Ex Officio
- Doug Burks*
- Carol Burks

Unity with Nature

- Bill Cahalan*
- Larry Gerke
- Jeriah Hutton
- Dylan Cahalan
- Don Rucknagel
- Eric Wolff (SA)

Josephine Johnson Cannon Memorial Fund Trustees:

- Rich House (term ending 6/21)
- Eric Wolff* (term ending 6/22)
- Wilhelmina Branson (term ending 6/23)

Tender Mercies Working Group:

- David Funck*
- Susan Gerke
- Lynn Funck
- Doug Burks
- Don Rucknagel

* Denotes convener of first meeting.
Clerk is chosen and reported to Meeting
at first called committee meeting

Yard Sign



From Deborah Jordan: Someone I know contacted me to ask if Community Friends might be interested in spreading the word via signs. If anyone is interested in a sign for \$5, contact Cecilia Kloecker at ceciliakloecker@gmail.com

Publication Information

The Community Companion is a monthly publication of Community Friends Meeting of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Materials for the publication are due by the Wednesday of the last week of the Month. Materials received after that date will be published in two months if appropriate. Announcements, events, articles about CFM members, committees and concerns of Friends are invited and welcomed. The Community Companion is not possible without your submissions.

Publication every first day of the Month.

Editor:
Douglas Burks
burksdouglas@msn.com

Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk: Doug Burks

Assistant Clerk: Mary Anne Curtiss

Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard

Assist. Recording Clerk: Deborah Jordan

Treasurer: Lynn Funk

Web Clerk: Eira Tansey

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