

# Minneapolis Friends Meeting

Care of the Future Session Feb 27, 2016

## Possible Actions

Jeannette Raymond led a Saturday morning session open to all members and attenders of the meeting. Participants were asked to suggest specific actions the meeting might take that could move us toward the future described in the vision statements we have created. These suggestions were grouped into categories. Then each person was given three stickers, to be placed on the three categories they felt were most important. The numbers in parentheses after each category title indicate the number of "votes" the category received.

1. **DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN MEETING CONTEXT (7)**
  - A Meeting chat list
  - Open access to MFM Facebook
  - Functional TV and DVD player and comfortable seating for movie / lecture and discussion
  - Have regular, scheduled time for combined fellowship: semi-programmed and unprogrammed workshops (potluck brunch every other month instead of 12:15 potluck?)
  - Open MFM Facebook for internal and external discussions
  - Continue Friendly potlucks year-round
  - Potluck between worship times or have 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday follow summer schedule
  - Have sharing sessions periodically on the challenges, dilemmas, and successes we experience in living sustainably
  - Share joy
  
2. **MEET IN SMALL GROUPS TO DEEPEN QUAKER SPIRITUALITY / FAITH (9)**
  - Publicize / meet in affinity groups according to our individual ministry to support each other.
  - Study and practice of the Light Meditation developed by Rex Ambler
  - Have study groups on Quakerism using Rex Ambler's book on Quakerism
  - Take core Quaker belief and ask, "What follows from that?"
  - Share joy
  - Read Quaker literature
  - Publicize monthly Quaker suggested reading for Meeting members and attenders
  - Adult education on Quaker history and on website
  
3. **STRENGTHEN QUAKER PRACTICE IN MEETING (9)**
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday dedicated to Faith and Practice (during worship)
  - Developing and acting on structures within the meeting to grow and expand by exploring and solving conflict and differences within the meeting
  - Training for incoming committee clerks
  - Make known expectations of members
  - What does it mean to do something as a meeting?
  - Utilize resources on internet like Quaker speak / Friends Journal and integrate into our meeting life or Quaker education
  - Have committees recommend members, funded by Meeting, to attend Quaker educational opportunities – specific expectations for involvement after attendance.

4. **WORSHIP OUTSIDE MEETINGHOUSE – IN THE COMMUNITY (10)**

- Hold meetings for worship in new / different locations
- Three or four times a year, hold worship in other places
- Meet in another location once a quarter – e.g. treatment centers, senior homes, Baptist churches
- Worship and invite others to do so with us all over the city – Peace and Justice
- Witness through public worship to deepen our spirituality
- Worship “opportunities” in homes

5. **INTENTIONALLY INVOLVING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (5)**

- Children’s meeting for worship
- Increase outreach to young families of varied configurations
- Child advocate on each committee
- Ask children and their parents what they need

6. **EXTEND HOSPITALITY (7)**

- Day camp here in summer
- Put out a bigger more visible sign
- Invite people
- Open access to MFM Facebook
- Coffee with a Quaker
- Quaker history on website
- Keep the building and grounds safe
- Invite and enable children from financially challenged communities to come
- Have everyone in directory take a turn welcoming at the door on Sunday morning

7. **MEETING SUPPORT JOINT (SHARED) ACTION (9)**

- Support the work of American Friends Service Committee, St. Paul office
- Take public actions in support of peace and social justice
- Hold information session on the words “race,” “racism,” “ethnicity”
- Financially support organizations with aligned values
- Work with Twin Cities Meeting to bring Quaker Voluntary Service here
- Hold only one monthly, big, inclusive worship and smaller, weekly, pod worship in neighborhoods.
- Stand in worshipful support at Planned Parenthood
- Join or sponsor an alternative energy cooperative
- Update the Climate Corner board
- Bring a distinct Quaker presence to social events (protests), community meetings, bearing witness to diversity, non-violence, and equality
- Hand out small slips of suggested weekly actions (e.g. to find your caucus) to people as they enter or leave meeting
- Compost
- We consistently recycle as much as possible and do not use throw-away things

**PROVIDE SUSTAINING / MINDFUL FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

- We (individuals) pledge money in a regular way
- Bequests to Trustee Fund