

Conclusions and Tensions

8.1.2015 Discussion on Care of the Future of the Meeting

Conclusions

- The items listed on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges are more than we can deal with
- We may have opinions but there is a lot we do not know
- We have slid towards worry and away from hope
- We have a deficit attitude
- Are we a community that has a well of resilience?

Quaker Identity

- Commitment to carry on as Friends/Quakers
- Testimonies as a resources
- Lack of identification and affirmation of who we are as Quakers and how we do our “work”
- Historical this is the most clear when there is a crisis
- We are not clear about what we take from our history

Transitions

- We will have a transition in the DOM position
- DOM provides a significant contribution- how do we make that transition?
- We are an aging group
- High value on range of generations
- Worried that we are not sustainable

Identify and connection

- When we are in the world people find us and we may have an influence that we do not know (includes people that have been here and left)
- We offer a sanctuary for people but is it for everyone?

- We do not want to be a well-kept secret but don't know what to do
- Isolated from other faith communities
- We have elements of diversity including diverse needs
- We have may leading for diversity by have a lack of commitment to communication about the tensions that we may face as we become more diverse
- How deep is our desire for diversity? What are our assumptions?

Collective and individual Action

- As a body we are not as collectively active as we want to be
- Some people are extended by individual action which means less commitment to collective effort
- World climate crisis is an issue we face that it should be
- Racism challenge is a big challenge for many in the meeting and our society and for our meeting

Tensions - If we look at our history, our current struggles are not new

- Are we a faith community or a political activist group? Do we assume these are not the same?
- We want to grow, but wonder what that means related to maintaining Quaker tradition.
- We have a calling to heal the world and an inability to do it.
- We like who we are but want diversity – not all agree on what diversity means
- What will out “strength to lead” and “faith to follow” mean for MFM?
- Do we speak to each other about tensions?