

Minneapolis Friends Meeting - Care of the Future of the Meeting

Prioritized brainstorm: what we should most take into account in our long-range planning:

Strengths

1. Quaker (manner of) worship and spiritual practice (2x), openness
2. Two forms of worship- wider appeal, universalist and Christian
3. Quaker witness (incl. lives well lived), testimonies, values (2x)
4. Quaker business procedure/process (2x), unity
5. Long history of MFM
6. Our resources, strong commitments to MFM (core) and our website
7. Pastoral care
8. Multigenerational and relationships across generations
9. Encouragement for spiritual development
10. Everyone has a voice- we can know and be known; inclusiveness, incl. in business

Challenges

1. Busy lives
2. Need more young adults
3. How to engage new people
4. Generational issues
5. Range of religious views
6. Limited understanding of Quaker principles, practices, etc.
7. Need different understanding of proselytizing
8. Interested people don't know where we are
9. Lack of economic, racial, educational diversity (2x)
10. Lack of communication between meetings for worship
11. Strong personalities/dogmatic/inner circle
12. Utilize website more fully and better
13. Spent down savings
14. Hopelessness regarding world conditions

Opportunities

1. Lead for justice and peace; act on our unique witness as a beacon of light responding to the risks listed, in a non-violent, inclusive way
2. Find new and effective uses for technology (2x) including old physical tech like the sign, online for outreach and internal communication
3. Explore and consider reconfiguration of committees, staff, and worship (how we are organized) (2x)
4. Better connect with other faith communities, other Quaker organizations, and other groups with shared values (2x)
5. Director of Ministry transition
6. Unique opportunity to share the Divine in worship
7. Called to witness for justice and peace more than share our beliefs
8. Use the building for more community events and peace groups
9. The Meeting would be better served by having one meeting for worship so that we can get to know each other more easily (summer only)

(2x) means both subject groups at adult program prioritized this.

Pat Jones, June 3, 2015