

Minneapolis Friends Meeting Care of the Future

Visioning Process - August 1, 2015

This half-day Saturday morning session was open to all people from the Meeting. About 22 people attended. They reviewed the lists of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges that were generated in previous sessions. They were then asked to consider these questions:

- *What do I feel this Meeting is led to be in the next 5 to 15 years?*
- *What might that Meeting look like?*

Each person wrote several brief answers to these questions. Then similar or related responses were grouped together, and descriptive headings were created for each group. The grouped responses are listed below.

(1) SUPPORTED YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY

- Generational transition - new youngish Director of Ministry apprenticed to and monitored by retiring Director of Ministry
- Supportive, genuine connections between generations, face to face – not virtual
- Full range of age groups - young kids to old folks
- Quaker youth intern in charge of first day school
- We have a community that speaks to the desire of younger people for a community answering big questions
- A safe connection place for parents of young children with intentionally child-free people
- Half under 50 year old committee clerks
- Young adults see Meeting as active in the world
- A group that blends strong leadership from elders with new ideas from younger members, who may be seeking either activity in the world and/or a quiet place
- Tangentials, “nones” - What do they need? What do we offer? Do we have a unique role?
- Work of the Meeting shared widely among members / attenders

(2) DEEPLY ROOTED IN QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE

- Grounded in Quaker tradition and practice / God / a holy experience
- Vibrant and lively experience of God and leadings of the Spirit
- Witness of / to love, holiness
- Continuing acceptance of wide range of beliefs
- Source of strength and renewal
- We will have had multiple visits from Noah Baker Merrill to challenge and enliven us
- Quaker way lived meaningfully in community-at-large
- Central Sunday worship
- Wide participation in monthly meeting.
- Worship location for Friends FUM group.

(3) INTEGRATED SPIRIT AND ACTION LED LIFE

- Deeply spiritual, action-oriented
- Inner feeds outer feeds inner . . . balance
- Support group for those trying to grow and engage more in being an ant-racist person within our society
- Spiritual nurture for those on the front lines
- A resource for homeless people

(4) GREEN

- Attenders arrive on bus, bike, foot or car-share
- We will be a model of green - solar panels, zero waste and with an edible landscape
- Sub-meeting groups in neighborhood clumps gathering twice a month
- A sense of place and practice congruent with general climate change and sustainability
- Easy parking and transportation sharing

(5) SANCTUARY AND RENEWAL

- Community of healing and renewal for spiritually wounded
- A place of refuge, renewal, prayer, growth
 - for the environmentally stressed
 - for those who feel the world is too loud
- We will have one person who will be our protector of joy. We will laugh and hope more.
 - fun, joy
- We will have prayer / contemplation / meditation / centering prayer groups - many small groups as well as big worship.
- Place of quiet contemplative prayer.
- A place to receive hope when things are discouraging in the world.
- A place to be heard regardless of opinion.
- Visible
- Care by / for / of members
- An oak tree deeply rooted and welcoming all who yearn for peace.
- We will enjoy one another and yearn for time together.
- We will nurture and deepen worship which will draw people to us.

(6) CORPORATE IMPACT BEYOND THE MEETINGHOUSE WALLS

- MFM hosts a city-wide conference on peace
- We collaborate more with other faith groups
- Meet in places other than 44th and York
 - Satellite meetings for worship once a month in Powderhorn
- Meeting basement active and safe house for children of multiple traditions
- Collaborate with other faith communities
 - Quakers and Mayim Rabim sponsor movie nights at the meetinghouse
 - Quakers and Buddhists exchange visits
- Visible presence in wider community

(7) RESOURCE FOR A LONG-TERM PRESENCE

- Nurture and support for leadership and care of building
 - The meeting has sufficient paid staff to manage the building.
- We are viable and welcoming - spiritually and physically (building)
- Harmonious integration of core Quakerism and “progress” / change / modernization / technological advancement