Minneapolis Friends Meeting - Care of the Future

***From Peace and Social Concerns.***

***Our responses to the question “What are the two or three things your committee is already doing that support these vision statements?” can be found in italics below.***

***Our response to the question “What are the things you would be willing to take on?” are in bold italics.***

***We had no response to the question, “Are there things your committee notices are missing in our Meeting that you would be willing to take on?”***

***In response to the question “What are the challenges or barriers for your committee in pursuing these actions?” we noted the following:***

* ***It would be very helpful to have more involved in our work.***
* ***People in meeting who are unaware of these issues can become a barrier to action and discussion.***
* ***We are trying to catch people up on many issues and can feel frustrated or even shocked by levels of unawareness.***
* ***Most people don’t come to our meetings even after repeated invitations.***
* ***We might be dealing with the hardest subject matter confronting people at this time.***
* ***We do not know how to reconcile the time-sensitive nature of issues with the time-consuming Quaker process.***
* ***We would like help organizing our meetings to get more people to join us.***
* ***We have limited time and a huge amount of material to consider and act on.***
* ***There have been times that our committee has tried to move forward at business meeting and have run into obstacles that were surprising and disheartening.***

Into the future, these words will describe us. Many of them already do describe us.

**We envision a Minneapolis Friends Meeting that is:**

**1) ROOTED SECURELY IN QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE**

We are a Quaker community who together deepen our Quaker understanding and nurture spiritual depth. We rely on God's leading in making decisions in Meeting for Business. Our divinely-led collective worship makes room for a range of beliefs and worship practices.

*From Peace and Social Concerns:* ***Our goal this year will be to help people in the Meeting ground their activism in Quaker spiritual practice.***

**2) SHARING AND DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY**

Our community has a secure future supported by genuine connections among generations. We intentionally share knowledge, skills, and energy intergenerationally, nurturing the leadership of young adults. We offer grounding and support for the spiritual development of children.

*From Peace and Social Concerns: We have an emerging leader on our committee.* ***We will continue this. In addition, we are speaking with Religious Education about ways to address climate disruption with the children.***

**3) A WELCOMING PLACE FOR SANCTUARY AND RENEWAL**

Our meeting is a place of refuge, renewal, prayer and growth for people of all ages and for families of all configurations. We strive to let those who come feel they can share their hearts and experience belonging. The meeting is infused with joy and hope. We demonstrate care for one another and, together, have a vitality that counters difficulties and brokenness. We welcome newcomers, visitors, and strangers. New attenders are attracted by what the meeting offers: being active in the world, seeking to understand answers to the big questions, providing quiet community in a loud world, and offering both temporary and long-term sanctuary.

*From Peace and Social Concerns: Our meeting for worship related to grief due to losses due to climate change would fit in here.* ***We will probably continue to offer these memorials. Our committee is a welcoming place for people who need hope and renewal for facing the difficulties of peace and justice work.***

**4) INTEGRATING FAITH AND ACTION**

Meeting worship and spiritual life deepen our outward engagement and are, in turn, deepened by that engagement. We engage with one another on issues of privilege and race. We act, love, and serve in the world, individually and corporately, in response to callings of the Spirit. We support one another in leading lives in which action is consistent with word.

*From Peace and Social Concerns: We initiate action around issues related to privilege and race. We bring in outsiders who can enrich our understanding. We bring opportunities for action and service to the meeting and support people in following their leadings.* ***We will continue this.***

**5) MAKING AN ACTIVE WITNESS BEYOND THE MEETINGHOUSE WALLS**

With a strong commitment to diversity and not bound by space and location, Friends are a visible presence in the community, actively engaged and reaching out, partnering with other communities of faith. Members contribute to Quaker organizations and to the wider Quaker community.

*From Peace and Social Concerns: We bring in outsiders who can enrich our understanding. Our sessions of offering the viewing of Years of Living Dangerously and discussion about The Climate Mobilization have brought in many who are not regular attenders at the Meeting.* ***We will continue similar actions.***

**6) HONORING THE HOLINESS OF THE EARTH**

Our meeting is committed to the well-being of the earth and, therefore, strives to benefit instead of harm the natural environment. We are meeting the challenge of new global conditions and finding ways to foster sustainability.

*From Peace and Social Concerns: Our goals most years relate to care of the earth and nurturing sustainability. We have begun a Ride-Share map. The Voluntary Carbon Tax and the purposes to which we dedicate it move toward this goal. We are working toward installation of bike racks and better attic insulation. We are fostering better water stewardship by working with the Gardeners.* ***We will continue to nurture this fund. We are exploring affiliation with other Friends and non-Quaker groups related to these actions.***

**7) A LONG-TERM PRESENCE**

We are good stewards of our physical, financial, and human resources. People in the meeting contribute time, talents, and money to the meeting according to their ability. We are flexible and courageously adapt Quaker practice in the context of a changing world.

*From Peace and Social Concerns: We are working toward stewardship of the physical world. We are adapting and helping other adapt to a changing physical and social environment.* ***We will continue this.***