

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT FOR 2007

Dear Friends,

In 2007, we passed two Action Minutes—one on Climate Change and one concerning Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). With regard to Climate Change, we hosted a speaker who showed the National Council of Churches' video "God's Creation and Global Warming" and facilitated discussion. We completed an energy audit of our Meeting House and began to consider changes we might make. Currently, we are in need of a person to help coordinate actions to live out our commitment to decreasing our contributions, both as individuals and as a Meeting, to global warming. An AVP Committee was formed and a few member/attenders received training for this project. We have a liaison connecting us to the Interfaith AVP Committee in the Reno area, and we continue to donate funds to support and expand the project. We do need to continue discussion about our level of involvement.

Our Meeting is on solid ground financially. We continue to divide our contributions between local groups such as Family Promise, Quaker organizations and international relief. We set up a Discretionary Fund for immediate needs, which is administered by the Finance Committee.

We continue to care for our Meeting House and to make it available to other like-minded groups. A French drain was installed to prevent flooding and a new shed was assembled to hold lawn equipment. The First Day School (FDS) classroom has been freshly painted and the floor commercially cleaned. There are frequent discussions concerning the purchase of new chairs (or at least new cushions) and new carpeting. The doors have been re-keyed for added security.

Some groups utilizing the facilities this past year are: Art of Living, Zen meditation, Focusing Group, Hospice Training and Support groups, Sierra Interfaith Action for Peace, and the Conscious Community Network prayer group.

Our commitment to our FDS program remains strong, even though we have few children and they vary considerably in age and maturity. We are fortunate to have two dedicated teachers (one was hired summer 2007) and an increase in volunteers from within the Meeting to help out. Even though our Meeting is small, we are able to provide two adults in each classroom on Sunday mornings.

During 2007 we held a number of educational and recreational activities. A six-week Quakerism 101 class was well attended. Light Meditation groups met for about six months. The Prayer/Book/Potluck/Video Group continues. An adult class concerning Peace and Principles for Ethical Decision Making met on Sunday mornings in the fall. We had a family night, a 90th birthday party, a potluck with a Muslim group, a hike, a camp-out, an ice skating party, and special breakfasts for Easter and Christmas.

The web site was reconfigured and increased in size and scope to include more information and photos with easier access. Our monthly newsletter continues to provide valuable information and inspiring prose and poetry, as well as bios of members and attenders.

We are finding that overall our committees meet irregularly if at all. Most of the committee work is done via email or phone conversations.

With much love and care amongst us, our Meeting remains steady in numbers. As a few people leave, we welcome new members from various religious backgrounds. We continue to wonder about the movement of the Spirit within us. Are we growing in awareness of and openness to Leadings that, with Seasoning, guide us to live our lives with increasing love, forgiveness and gratitude? Do we expect to follow the Quaker Tradition of publicly standing for justice and the removal of suffering? Are we comfortable speaking to one another of the ways in which our lives are touched and made different by the Holy? Do we expect to live "in the Light" of the Sacred?

Blessings to all,

Patsy Gehr