

WKFM - State of The Meeting 2024

For WKFM, 2024 has been an active year filled with many positive and enlivening events. Over the year, we have been blessed to have a number of new young adults join us, bringing with them youthful energy and avid interest in Quakerism. New attenders' interest is reflected not only in their attendance for worship, but in their participation on committees, spending time with children, and contributing during work days. We have had a larger group of children with a more consistent presence. It is heartwarming to see the children enjoying each other, learning about Quaker testimonies, and becoming ever more comfortable with the adults in the meeting. While older members continue to fulfill many responsibilities for the meeting, including the First Day School, the addition of new folks has given the meeting a feeling of vibrancy and a strong sense of community.

We continue to be involved in service and outreach through Family Promise, Fun Days, FCNL letter writing, and political discussions. The Compassionate Ministries Uganda (CMU) fund continued to provide support for the education of children in Uganda. Our commitment to Interracial Wellbeing and Restorative Justice is strong and the Reparations Fund is increasing. We have been less involved in Justice Knox this year as one of our members who was a leader in this cause has moved to another state. Our committees continue to be an important part of what it takes to keep Meeting moving forward. Some of our Friendly 8's groups have been enjoying getting to know each other and sharing meals. Members share their talents with SAYMA, and WKFM was well represented at the Yearly Meeting.

Similar to last year, our WKFM property has continued to present some challenges for F(f)riends. The development taking place on land adjacent to Meeting House property resulted in damage to some of our trees as well as encroachment on WKFM property. As a result, additional expenses were incurred this year including continuing to engage an attorney. An ad hoc committee along with our Trustees have been working diligently to come to an agreeable settlement with two separate contractors. When this is complete, we will return to the discussion of whether to build a fence between our burial grounds and the backyards of the new homes.

We had increased our 4000 spending plan totals for 2024, but we were unable to make the full amount of our planned 4000 contributions to outside organizations. The Meeting incurred additional expenses, particularly in relation to property issues, and some recurring expenses also increased which led to less funds being available.

We have continued the practice of hybrid meetings for Worship as well as for second hour programs. We had memorial services for two beloved Friends. We dearly miss those who have passed this year as well as in previous years, yet they live on in our hearts and in our sacred space.