

Fort Worth Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting 2020

The year started normal, and our meetings regular worship was held weekly at our rented space at University Christian Church until March 2020 when like everyone in the world our normal was disrupted. Zoom and teleconference for worship did not appeal to most members. Lon suggested a city park and in the spring, we began Meeting for Worship in the park. COVID has keep a few members away, for Friends who did attend worship in the park were able to experience a meaningful worship in community. Our worship centered on our connection to each other, nature, and spirit. Our messages were profound. Our silent worship was enriched by the interruptions of songs of birds, a babbling brook, rhythm of cicadas, and families also enjoying the park.

The park also put us in community with a few Fort Worth homeless. We helped a young man named RJ. Members and attenders purchased new work cloths and shoes, provided a laundry services, and brought food. The meeting also paid for two-week hotel stay when the weather was cold in December. We lost touch with RJ after a new job moved him to a different part of the city.

Our religious education started off strong in the new year. We continued to have query Sundays and read a chapter a month of the book Conversations with Christ. Once at the park we did not have access to our books or query binder. However, we did have visit from a college student with questions which lead to a wonderful query session. Most Sundays after worship were spent in much needed fellowship.

The park allowed us to still have first time visitors and we enjoyed their presence. We also had changes in attendance and membership. COVID has kept a few members away from meeting for worship. Nancy now lives part time in Fort Worth and part time in San Antonio to help grandchildren with virtual learning. Our treasure moved to Washington state. The transition to the new treasure was little rough and our finances took some time to clean up. Wesley decreased attendance was also felt. We also gain new attenders and members. In the spring we received an email and letter of introduction for Robin, a

Quaker in St. Lois moving to Fort Worth in September. We also accepted the transfer of Danielle and Gerald from Dallas Meeting in August. Danielle attendance is often made more joyous when she drives Wesley to meeting for worship. We continue to hold Gerald in the light.

Even with the rough times that COVID brought with it, we as individuals and the meeting as a whole were still able to go out and do good work in 2020. Our Clerk Judy attended a 6-week Fort Worth interfaith seminar. Lon, Timothy, and Robin read a minute on Black Lives Matter to Fort Worth City Council near the 1-year anniversary of the police killing of Atatiana Jefferson. Garry Burton emailed letter of concern to Fort Worth council members regarding their decision to cut funding to CARES, a program for homeless in Fort Worth. On the days when the weather was not suited for a park worship some Friends attended virtual worship with other Meeting in Yearly. We still managed to have our holiday party with 4 people enjoying the colder weather on outside patio of Shannon's home.

We mourn the lost of our F/friends and family who passed away in 2020 from the COVID-19 and we look forward to 2021 being a healthier year and when we once again see our SCYM community face to face.