

## **May Report on the Status of Worship**

The Ministry & Worship Committee (M&W) is striving to honor all points of view about re-opening the meetinghouse, and including the whole community in the process. We have not yet developed a timetable for re-opening the meetinghouse, but we have made progress in our ongoing discernment.

The committee held a listening session with committee clerks on April 19 that was very helpful, for which we are grateful. There was appreciation expressed for the ways that the Meeting has used Zoom to sustain connections, as well as longing for face-to-face worship and religious education.

With the optimism and caution expressed in the threshing session in mind, M&W is discerning ways to worship on First Day, including some in-person options. M&W intends to try solutions, and invite Friends to try in-person options when they feel comfortable doing so.

Next steps in discernment include the following:

- (1) Hold a listening session with Children and Youth Religious Education/First Day School committee members and other parents to get a better sense of opportunities and constraints in religious education.
- (2) Review the latest federal and state guidelines, and consult physicians in our community to gain a clearer sense of safeguards and risks.
- (3) Test audio/visual equipment in the meeting room. Late May or early June seems timely for this step, subject to permission for two or more of us to be in the meeting room for testing. This step is subject to the Zoom working group's sense of lead-time needed to evaluate equipment that group members have in hand and identify needed enhancements for a blend of online and in-person worship.
- 4) The Zoom working group, under the care of M&W, will continue to research technical issues relating to Zoom, monitor information shared by Quakers about Zoom, and monitor Quaker online conversations and workshops about options for both online and in-person worship and religious education. M&W appreciates the group's many months of careful attention to a range of resources.
- 5) Continue to consult with the Building & Grounds Committee about issues including air flow/air exchange, for which B&G is expecting more information from a consultant.

As always, the committee welcomes your comments to [ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org](mailto:ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org).

May 16, 2021  
Ministry & Worship Committee

Jeff Brown, clerk, Madelyn Ashley, Alice Carlton, Matt Drake, Carolyn White and Chris Stanley,  
ex officio