

September 2021 Report on the Status of Worship to the September 19 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

The Ministry & Worship Committee (M&W) recommends that Chapel Hill Friends Meeting continue to offer opportunities for small group worship in a variety of settings on a trial basis. Friends are attending all six options for worship and religious education, deciding for themselves what option on a First Day best meets their needs for safety and wellbeing. M&W offers the following observations:

1. Early worship in the meeting room from 8:15 to 9:15 AM continues to be attended by about a half dozen, with capacity for more.
2. Forum via Zoom only, 9:30 to 10:30, continues to be attended by 20 to 30 or so.
3. Worship in the meeting room from 11:00 to 12:00 ranges from 17 to 25. There tends to be a core group in attendance. With those numbers in the meeting room, there is plenty of room to spread out. Fans are working well to exchange the air through open windows. Volunteers are needed to help with early morning installation.
4. Worship outside from 11:00 to 12:00 under the Magnolia tree has ranged from 6 to 14, with capacity for more in a circle. There tends to be a core group outside.
5. Worship via Zoom from 11:00 to 12:00 has ranged from 17 to 34.
6. Friends continue to hold meeting for worship at Carol Woods at 11:00.
7. First Day School on the playground or on the school house porch from 11:00 to 12:00 has been attended by several children and youth, some remotely.

Friends are wearing masks indoors and outside for the safety and health of all, including children who are under age for vaccination.

M&W plans to follow up with clerks of committees. An opportunity next month will be the annual Clerk's Retreat, now scheduled for the morning of October 9. We extend the invitation to anyone in our community with an interest in Quaker process as exercised in committees as they do the work of the Meeting.

M&W, in consultation with the Zoom working group, is in the process of scheduling a trial of a blended (hybrid) meeting for worship, to be followed by a listening session to share experiences of the combination of Zoom and in-person worship. The committee would then consider a recommendation. At this time, M&W will not schedule a trial of a blended meeting for worship until further testing of audio equipment is completed. M&W is grateful for the working group's attention to detail and efforts to make a trial a satisfying experience for both in-person and online participants.

M&W reached clarity on another worship opportunity. Since mid-April 2020, Lynn and Matt Drake have held weekly Wednesday evening Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light. Starting this month, Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light will be held on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings, hosted by the Meeting Clerk, Chris Stanley, and Lynn and Matt Drake,

respectively. Please see instructions on how to participate via “In The Light” messages from Chris.

With attention to written words of welcome to newcomers to Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, M&W is in unity to recommend approval of a new welcome statement that includes a brief overview of who we are, Quaker testimonies, outreach and a brief history of CHFM. Details will be presented next.

As always, the committee values and invites your comments this morning or anytime via ministryandworship@chapelhillfriends.org.

September 19, 2021

Ministry & Worship Committee

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