

December 2021 Report on the Status of Worship to the December 19th 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. Friends have been 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.

Friends are wearing masks indoors and outside for the safety and health of all, including children who are under age for vaccination. M&W continues to seek a balance among many values: the availability and depth of worship, the spiritual life of the Meeting, fellowship, connection within our community, being all together, being inclusive, health, safety, comfort, and wellbeing.

As winter approaches, the cold air brings some discomfort for those in the meeting room and those outdoors. The current practice in the meeting room is that, during the time the meeting room is not occupied (9:30-10:45), the fans are turned off and the central heat turned on. At 10:45, fans are turned on again and central heat turned off. For outdoor worship, Friends are welcome to gather under the Magnolia, but Ministry & Worship will not provide a meeting closer outside until winter weather passes.

M&W continues to consult with the Zoom subcommittee. The group provided a trial run of a “blended” meeting for worship on November 28. A second trial is scheduled for January 9. Please attend in person or via Zoom to experience the blended meeting. M&W will follow with a Meeting listening session in mid-January, open to all, to share experiences of the combination of Zoom and in-person worship. M&W would then consider a recommendation to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

M&W is grateful for the Zoom subcommittee’s attention to detail and efforts to make a trial a satisfying experience for both in-person and online participants.

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

December 19, 2021

Ministry & Worship Committee

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