

Cincinnati Friends Meeting  
STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT FOR 2018

2018 was an active year for Cincinnati Friends Meeting, physically, spiritually, and in terms of our local communities and social action.

Physically, we attended to several challenges to our Meetinghouse. A basement flood in late 2017 required us to replace all 3 furnaces plus some office equipment and to get the building thoroughly and professionally cleaned. We were asked by the county Board of Health to replace our septic system (at a cost of up to \$30,000) but instead were able to join with our neighbors to successfully petition the Metropolitan Sewer District to put in a new sewer line. That will not occur for another 4 to 5 years, and we will continue to use our existing system until then. We also painted exterior trim, repaired some roof leaks, continued with our long-term landscaping plans, and installed a new work table/storage area in the kitchen. The Trustees also began to promote Long Term Giving to maintain our funding.

Spiritually, we mourned the loss of Sharon Patterson, beloved wife of Dick Patterson and grieved the division within the Yearly Meeting. We nurtured growth and community within our congregation with several Spiritual Nurture groups and an active Young Friends programs with as many as 12 young people participating. We hosted a mini-seminar on Writing from the Heart with Brent Bill, a retreat in Cape Hatteras, NC, and classes about The People Called Quakers for attenders seeking membership. We welcomed 16 new members and celebrated the high school graduation of 3 young Friends.

Our Treasurer asked to step down from the position she has held for 11 years, and we were able to find another capable person to serve in that role. Most people serving the Meeting continue to do so and we were able to fill all open committee and coordinator positions.

Our participation in wider faith communities included both Quaker and local non-Quaker events. We wrote minutes in support of immigration and family unity, those impacted by DACA and the Maryville (TN) Friends' minute concerning Gun Violence. We supported the commitment to Meeting autonomy, sent several members to the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, served as host for the USFW Fall Conference, increased our financial support of the Yearly Meeting, and participated with other Quarter communities by raising more than \$1,200 for the Puerto Padre mission project in Cuba. We also supported the ministry of a photographic program called Faces of Addition and the individual efforts of members and attenders concerning organic gardening, an underserved children's art program, and two adult art exhibits. We maintain an active presence on Facebook, which we use to share information about our spiritual nurture events, our discernment about social justice issues, and wider Quaker bodies.

We participated in MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati) and in the AMOS coalition in support of immigration and justice issues. We contributed both planning and participation to the first Festival of Faiths in Cincinnati and committed to ongoing support of inclusive work among local faith communities, such as an Open House to be held at CFM in 2019 and planning for the first Alternatives to Violence training to be held in Ohio, also scheduled for 2019.

We enter 2019 saddened by our losses and the social injustice around us, but determined to support one another in service to God, one another, our local, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings, and our local community.