

## The Way Forward Committee Report 18 August 2021

The Way Forward Committee had its initial meeting and it was a hopeful, encouraging, and productive session. Chris Hugues and Dustin Lemke were in-person at the meeting house, and Nancy Triscritti, Cynde Mercer, Miki Epperson, Michael Parise, Marjorie Arnaldi, and Cecelia Yocum were on Zoom.

We reviewed the proposed general topics, noting that nothing is set in stone and additional topics can be added or deleted at the direction of the committee. Then we settled into silence and used Worship Sharing to talk about some thoughts about the Meeting and how we might move forward. The following is the list of our general topics with sub-topics for each based on the Worship Sharing.

- Physical space - how to use it, how to accommodate virtual visitors
  - Reconsider masking requirement if things improve – consider vaccinated only attendees
- Supporting the Meeting - growth, contributions, time, committees
  - Recognize that Covid may make this opening/closing cycle last a long time
  - May want to use conference calls vs. Zoom on occasion as a way to change things up
- Activism - what do we want to do/support?
  - Don't reinvent the wheel, work with groups who are addressing issues we care about
- •Community- how do we support our Friends community? Tampa? Etc.?
  - Missing you cards, Getting to Know You sessions, queries on what people need
  - What are other meetings doing, how are they handling this new reality
  - Have an opt-in program where we call another attender/member to check in
  - Missing the "intimacy" of face to face contact - "The Meeting is important to me"
- Fun - what can we do to connect and share both in-person and virtually
  - Art/mindfulness group

Our plan is to visit/revisit a general topic each week and work on that topic until we feel it is exhausted before going on to the next topic. We welcome, encourage, and vitally NEED participation from everyone and anyone. We are especially interested in hearing the perspective of younger Friends and Friends who may primarily participate virtually. Next week our topic will be: Physical Space.

Please join us each Wednesday from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm either at the meeting house (back building) or on Zoom.