



Montana Gathering of Friends

Our Theme for the Summer Gathering is “Living Our Faith Courageously”

August 18-20, 2017

Luccock Park, Paradise Valley, MT

As another summer MGOF gathering at Luccock Park Camp in the Paradise Valley approaches some of us are working hard on preparations! Please consider joining us for a weekend of fellowship with new friends and old, spiritual nurturance and inspiration and play. If you are new to MGOF you may notice 'Community Night' on Saturday night and group singing on Friday. Bring your instrument if you play one and songs to share if you like. Community Night is a favorite time for old and young alike. It is a time for sharing talent and laughter (no talent?) with each other. Come with a plan or join a spontaneous skit!

Peter Walker-Keleher is again coordinating care and activities for our children. There will be plenty of fun and outside activities as the weather permits and the kids are always happy when adults join in inside or out!

Our theme this time is “**Living our Faith Courageously**” and we are excited to welcome John March as our Friend-in-Residence. He is looking forward to helping us explore this summer’s theme through our Saturday

morning Plenary session and Saturday afternoon Interest Groups. John is also interested in arriving in time to join us for a Thursday evening retreat for those who want to come a day early for a longer MGOF experience.

Finally a word about Montana Quakers and food! Luccock Park is a summer camp and able to offer gluten free and vegetarian options for those of us who need or want these adjustments. They can not meet all of our various food needs. If you have allergies beyond gluten please bring food to augment what is served. Our rates at Luccock are calculated on a daily basis. Since this year we are not having the camp staff prepare breakfast the rate will be slightly

lower than last year. And do note that we are each responsible for our own breakfast this year.

PLEASE BELIEVE US when we say that **scholarship funds are available!** Over the years many of us have been able to come to MGOF because we have asked for and accepted the financial help we needed to attend. Pay what you can and come! It always works out. I look forward to seeing you at Luccock Park!

In Friendship,
Kate Weiss,
MGOF Clerk



Living Our Faith Courageously

What does it mean to live our faith courageously in these dark and confusing times? How are we to see our way forward in Truth as the early Friends understood it, acting patiently in the Light as need calls out? When we are battered by difficult emotions and passions, how can we return to resting in the Light and so bring a truly transforming love and peacefulness that is readily visible to the work of social justice, environmental action, and gender equality, among other ministries. In my conversations with Friends about how to respond to our world and its countless difficulties, many express confusion and bewilderment about what we are called to do. Many also long for some way to work with their own reactivity, wanting to bring into their

days the peace and ease of a gathered Friends Meeting for Worship.

Fortunately for us, the early Friends bequeathed us a route out of confusion and bewilderment and into living courageously in the Light of Truth, as they understood it. They often referred to “the Light” and “the Truth” together as a kind of knowing that doesn’t depend on words or argument but on the experience of resting in the Light. “The Light” here denotes a Spirit-given capacity that to see ourselves as we really are. “The Truth” is what the Light reveals through eyes not our own: the reality of what is happening inside ourselves and in the world, and the path we must take out of confusion, conflict and wrongdoing. Unlike other spiritual paths, ours is a gathered path; we walk it together in unity, a gathered unity that our broken world needs and that as Friends we can be cheerfully offer, as George Fox taught us: *“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.”* It is in the mutual blessing that the world is transformed.

In the morning plenary, I hope to draw on almost 50 years of walking both Quaker and Buddhist paths to offer a way for Friends come to rest in the Light so that we might readily live the Truth of our testimonies, confident in our leadings and easy with our actions. After a short bit about my own spiritual journey, which includes helping to bring MGOF into the world, I will introduce the idea that Quakerism (like Buddhism) is a truly transformative spiritual path, outline the nature of this path and its implications for living courageously, and provide a simple four-step practice of resting in the Light that can travel with you wherever you find yourselves. We will also explore Rex Ambler’s *Experiment with Light* (EWL), which provides Friends with what Bill Taber called a “spiritual technology” for working with and opening to the Light in a group meditation. In an afternoon workshop, interested Friends will have the opportunity to experience an EWL meditation that focuses on living courageously in the Light in response to the darkness that currently pervades our world.

John March, June, 2017, Durham, NC

A favorite poem from a Quaker saint, Cal Geiger...

Rest Where You Are Anonymous

When, spurred by tasks unceasing or undone,
You would seek rest afar,
And can not, though repose be rightly won
Rest where you are.

Neglect the needless; sanctify the rest;
Move without stress or jar;
With quiet of a spirit self-possessed
Rest where you are.

Not in event, restriction, or release,
Not in scenes near or far,
But in ourselves are restlessness or peace,
Rest where you are.

Where lives the soul lives God; this day, this world,
No phantom mists need mar;
God's starry nights are tents of peace unfurled:
Rest where you are.

STATE OF SOCIETY

Dillon Worship Group

June, 2017

We remain small and constant. We meet for worship at the home of Cathy Weber every other Thursday evening, with potluck following on the last meeting Thursday of every month. Usually anywhere from 2 to 5 of us sit together. Tim continues to join us from Bozeman for one meeting per month when he is able. Our old Friend, Lucyann, left us this spring. We trust her restless, creative soul is at peace. We have been joined in the last 12 months by a new (to us) Friend, Larry, who brings us ever-stronger connection to the realm of Virginia City. We continue to be inspired by the gifts of each of our attendees and cherish our connection to the larger family of MGOF.

MGOF Schedule of Events August 18-20, 2017

Friday

- 3 - 4:20 Ministry and Council Meeting
- 4 Registration begins
- 4:30 - 5:50 Steering Committee Meeting
- 6 - 7 Dinner
- 7:15 - 7:45 Inter-generational welcoming activity
- 8 - 9 Spiritual check-in

Saturday

- 6:30 Early Morning Worship
- 7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast on your own
- 8:30 - 10:00 Plenary
- 10:15 - 11:45 Worship Sharing
- 12 - 1 Lunch
- 1:15 - 2:15 Interest Groups
- 2:15 - 3:15 Interest Groups
- 4 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Chocolate followed directly by
- 4:15 - 5:45 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
- 6 - 7 Dinner
- 7:30 - 9 Community Night

Sunday

- 6:30 Early Morning Worship
- 7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast on your own
- 8:45 - 10:15 Worship Sharing Groups (2nd meeting)
- 10:30 - 11 Singing
- 11 - 12 Meeting for Worship
- 12 - 12:45 Lunch
- clean up and good-byes

Quaker Retreat Thursday Evening Through Friday Morning

We again have the option of gathering for a pre-MGOF Quaker retreat in Glendive Cabin at Luccock Park Camp. We will gather at 6:30pm for a potluck supper followed by a spiritual check-in.

As a group we will decide on how we wish to spend our time together on Friday morning. The retreat officially ends after lunch (usually potluck leftovers!) Each participant is responsible for their own breakfasts. On Friday some folks may want to hike to Pine Creek lake with Jasmine. Please let Jasmine Krotkov (buffalogirlfarms@gmail.com) know if you are coming for the hike. Let Judy Visscher (jkvisscher@yahoo.com) or Kate Weiss (kweiss45@gmail.com) know if you are coming for the in-camp retreat. Please RSVP for either of these options by August 4th so that we can let the camp staff know about numbers!



MGOF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business February 22, 2017

Meeting began with a moment of silence

Clerk Kate Weiss read guidelines for how to conduct Meeting for Business

Minutes from August 20th 2016 MGOF Meeting for Business were read and approved

Reports:

Winter MGOF Co-coordinators: Nick Salmon and Ted Etter

- The coordinators have developed more in-depth evaluation forms for this gathering.
- Both co-coordinators have agreed to co-coordinate next year
- Expenses for this gathering were roughly \$1k greater than the amount collected
- Gratuity: split among 4 staff, we are willing to give \$350.

Registrar's Report: Carol Bellin

- 33 adults registered, and 30 of those registered, attended
- 5 young people are in attendance between the ages of 9-15 years old
- 25 of the 33 adults received the early registration discount, resulting in a \$500 loss
- Donations equaled that loss, at \$500
- \$1600 in program fees collected

M&O Report: Judy Visscher

1. Name of committee was proposed to be taken under consideration by the Meeting for Business: Ministry and Council or Ministry and Oversight.
2. Linnea Wang has been writing Worship Group queries for a long time, if anyone else is led, please speak up.
3. Traditionally Worship Groups send representatives for M&C. We need representatives.
4. M&O is trying a more inclusive way of discerning the theme for our next gathering. There will be a meeting for anyone who is interested in developing the theme after dinner tonight.

Clerk's Report: Kate Weiss

- Luccock contract is progressing more slowly than expected, but the concerns that MGOF presented are being met.
- Sound System: We can return it within 30 days. *Meeting approved keeping sound system*

Open Letter On Fear

An open letter from Kat Northup was read aloud by the Clerk. The letter addressed fear, sanctuary and records of Meeting Membership.

- Heartland Meeting records are reportedly currently in Bozeman
- MGOF Meeting records are reportedly in Missoula

Discussion commenced as much had risen from the letter and the Meeting. The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business settled into a longer moment of Silence.

During this discussion of the issues in the open letter, the Meeting for Business, and many of those in attendance experienced a deeply moving and profound connection to one another and to Spirit.

Clerk observed that two topics were being discussed:

1. For those who choose Membership, can we have a better record of membership?
2. Is there a way across the state that we, as Quakers, can provide “Sanctuary” for those in fear?

In response to the first topic:

- Unity was reached in favor of better record keeping
- Worth revisiting the process of Membership for those who might not be aware of it
- A request was made to re articulate the steps to formalize Membership, and membership documentation. This request was referred to Steering Committee

In response to the second topic:

- Consider having the mini-topic for Spring Meeting, of “Sanctuary?”
- Consider how Whitefish Montana handled their white supremacy community
- Unspoken: The Fear is personal, to each of us in our own way

Friends labored with the topics of fear, safety, protection and right action. A smaller group volunteered to meet as an ad hoc committee to continue working on a Minute which was rising out of this business meeting.

Friends agreed that waiting to continue this work until our summer gathering was too long and so committed to a spring gathering in April.

Minute for MGOF Spring Gathering 2017:

We will gather at Boulder Hot Springs in Boulder, Montana in April to explore explicit ways that we can offer support, safety, and protection to those who are in danger. We will also explore networking with other groups who are also doing this work.

Standing Rock Minute from Great Falls Worship Group was presented by Jasmine Krotkov
MGOF approved, admired, and adopted this minute. (attached)

Liability Insurance:

Next year Camp Man-a-Dream will require us to carry our own liability insurance or buy temporary liability insurance for about \$200. Initial research into the cost of carrying our own liability insurance has led us to more questions about the legal structure of MGOF.

Minute:

We authorize up to \$500 in MGOF funds to hire Christian Dietrich to investigate our legal status and the issues involved with liability insurance for MGOF gatherings.

Friends agreed to meet again on Sunday morning to consider the Minute on Fear and Healing.

The Meeting closed with silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Kat Northup
MGOF Recording Clerk

MGOF Steering Committee
February 22, 2017
Camp Make-A-Dream

Steering Committee began with a moment of Silence.

In Attendance: Judy Visscher, Lucretia Humphrey, Dorothy Starshine, Kate Weiss, Nick Salmon, Ted Etter, Ruth Flower, of FCNL, Georgia Foster, Kat Northup, Joy Schuster, Sandy Boehmler, Carol Bellin, Geoff Poole

Brief check-ins

MGOF Fall 2016 Minutes were read and approved

Brief Reports:

Children's Committee: Peter Walker-Keleher is not present. JoAnn Kidder is also not present. Children's Committee Coordinator has been asked to help find someone to fill JoAnn's position.

About MGOF Feb 2017: Ted Etter & Nick Salmon

A sound system has been purchased with the option to return in 30 days if we are unsatisfied

Wi-Fi is available

All bedding present must be removed

We are only renting the 2 cabins, the Health Center, and the Lodge

Each Cabin has a very basic kitchen to be utilized for breakfasts

A more comprehensive evaluation form was created to provide better MGOF feedback

Newsletter: Jasmine Krotkov

Consider: A column that is a road map for important dates, deadlines, etc

Deadline: Articles are due June 18th 2017 for a Newsletter release on July 1st 2017

Treasurer's Report: Kate Weiss

Do we want to continue the Early Registration "carrot?"

We have about a \$1250 deficit for this gathering, but we have enough to cover it in MGOF funds.

We will defer the early registration discount discussion until April gathering when we have more accurate numbers.

MGOF Monthly Meeting pays assessments to NPYM, and individual members pay the fees back directly to Cathy Weber.

Consider: Do we want to set up an online payment option?

Paypal charges 2.9%, but it could be set up for free, with a lot of upfront action in a "bill pay" manner.

Great Falls Worship Group: Request for potentially aiding in paying rent to the Lutheran Church where their Worship Group is held - action held for further investigation by Great Falls Worship Group.

A brief discussion was had as to legality of payment, and MGOF as a legal entity

The idea of conducting online payments was planted, and set aside for further seasoning

Registrar Report: Carol Bellin

Lists of volunteers and attendance were circulated

In Attendance: 33 Adults, 5 young people, ages 7 to 15

The job description of Registrar needs to evolve, and include a collaboration between the registrar, coordinator, and treasurer.

A rising registrar would be appreciated: someone who wants something but has not had a job yet. This request will be sent to Nominating Committee

Friends are reminded that volunteers must be contacted, if their service is needed

Coordinating Committee: Report held for Business Meeting

M&C: Judy Visscher

M&C is requesting ideas for MGOF themes

M&C is considering new queries

A meeting to brain storm will be held in the Lodge 6:30-7:20

Long-term contract with Luccock is in progress, but moving slowly

MGOF has reserved it's place for Summer 2017 MGOF

We continue to season ways to grow MGOF

Nominating Committee:

We need a 2nd Summer Coordinator who can be present at Summer MGOF and at Spring Meeting

Discussions:

Liability insurance: We need \$250 for Camp make a Dream next year. Suggestion: ask Christian Dietrich to evaluate MGOF's financial legal status. It would cost roughly \$1,000 a year for liability insurance. \$500 has been allocated to offer Christian for liability insurance services. Clerk will present this idea to Meeting for Worship with a Concern to Business.

MAC Association: A representative of MGOF has acted in an observer role, offering a friendly Quaker presence both in meetings and on action days. Candida Quinn, our former rep to the MAC's term ended December 31st, 2016. She has suggested that the job description be expanded to that of "Interfaith Liaison," to broaden our presence and networking to include other faith groups, such as the Montana Interfaith Network.

Gratuity: We are prepared, at this time, to offer \$350 to the Camp Make a Dream staff along with thank you cards, as per last MGOF. This translates to roughly 7% of our total costs. Friends are considering this amount as part of the reason we are in debt, but that we are willing to give something. The discussion will be continued at Meeting for Worship with a Concern to Business.

Faith and Practice: Lucretia Humphrey

The Faith and Practice Committee at NPYM is still taking comments

Strong request: Please double check all Worship Group's timelines for accuracy before the rough draft goes to print at NPYM before annual session.

Two Minutes to consider: 1. Standing Rock Minute, 1. Transgender Inclusivity Minute

NPYM: Traveling Friends Al and Sherri Hendricks have studied "Traveling in the Way of Friends" program and wish to visit in the first 2 weeks of April. (Please review for accuracy)

MGOF Spring Meeting at Boulder Hot Springs: Discussing availability and dates to rent the Annex and potentially reserve rooms.

Steering Committee Meeting February 2017 was closed with a moment of Silence.

**MGOF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
February 23, 2017**

Meeting began with a moment of silence.

The Clerk read the minute developed by committee. After worship and discernment the following MGOF Minute on Fear and Healing (attached) was accepted.

M&O Report:

The theme for summer MGOF 2017 is "Living Your Faith Courageously."

M&O Clerk Judy Visscher reported that the theme discussion Saturday evening was rich and useful.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Kat Northup
MGOF Recording Clerk

**Montana Gathering of Friends Quarterly
Meeting for Business with Attention to Fear & Healing
April 15, 2017, Boulder, MT**

MGOF's Quarterly Meeting gathered with singing, and commenced with a moment of silence.

1. Minutes from MGOF's February Meeting for Business were held for approval during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at Summer MGOF, 2017

2. MGOF Minute on Fear and Healing

-A cover letter written by the Clerk and MGOF Minute Fear & Healing were read aloud to those in attendance

-This Minute has been sent to: Montana Human Rights Network, the Montana Association of Christians, Chabad-Lubavitch of Montana, Senator Daines and Tester's offices and North Pacific Yearly Meeting. The minute has also been sent to Bozeman area churches and faith communities.

-The Minute has also been sent to multiple newspapers around Montana

3. We are gathered in this meeting to consider next steps:

- a. What are we called to, as Friends?
- b. How do we make our position as Quakers known?
- c. How do we stay connected in order to support each other during these trying times?

4. After silent reflection the following ideas were shared.

- * Other ways to get the minute published in state newspapers;
 - In it's current form, the Minute is meant for Quakers, not necessarily others.
 - Consider: What is the purpose of publicizing the Minute on Fear & Healing? What is our followup? Who are we trying to reach?
 - Concern: Disseminating the Minute might sound like a recruitment campaign

- Concern: Marginalized Communities are tired of platitudes of well intent without action.
- Desire expressed to have action behind the Minute

Minute: We will work to get the minute published in local Montana newspapers as close to Mother's Day 2017, as possible.

*ACLU of MT & the MT Human Rights Network have resources for reporting discrimination, to track incidents.

* How do we stay connected?

- Develop a phone tree so that Montana Quakers can be contacted quickly and directly if need arises.
- Compile a list of groups we can contact about discrimination issue.

- We need Allies: Do we want faith based allies? Secular allies? Allies with similar values?

5. Being mindful of time Clerk inquired of Friends: Are we called to Action or Intention, as a Group, at this time?

* We will carry these thoughts forward to our summer gathering where the theme will be "Living our Faith Courageously"

6. Friends are interested in and supportive of gathering on a Quarterly basis.

Minute: We recognize the a deep importance of supporting each other and of having a community of like-minded people with whom we can gather on a regular basis. Therefore we commit to four MGOF gatherings during the next year with a fall and spring gathering at Boulder Hot Springs added to our current winter and summer gathering schedule.

MGOF's Meeting for Business with a concern to the Minute on Fear & Healing closed with a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted
Kat Northup
MGOF Recording
Clerk



THE MONTANA GATHERING OF FRIENDS

a Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minute On Fear And Healing

As Quakers, we believe that there is that of God in everyone. We find ourselves in a time of increasing fear for many who feel threatened and marginalized because of their gender orientation, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status or political beliefs. We witness this same fear in communities across our country and around the world. We cannot ignore this conflict without violating our belief in the just, equitable and democratic principles of our country and our faith.

We acknowledge that labeling people as the “other” emphasizes differences between people and violates the testimony of equality we have shared around the world for the past 365 years. We therefore speak truth to power. When anyone’s safety and security are violated with labels, hate and violence, we must reach out in love, offer protection and build connections between communities. We are committed to the hard work of building bridges and without judgement, opening our hearts to one another to address the fear of those delivering anger rather than love.

We step forward to protect all people who feel endangered by their differences. We seek to magnify our presence by working in alliance with individuals and organizations also offering loving protection. We are committed to healing, love and growth of understanding that there is that of God in everyone.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

(NO EXCEPTIONS)



FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

STATE OF SOCIETY

Missoula Friends Meeting June 2017

To Friends Everywhere:

Within an increasingly tumultuous world, we have many reasons to be thankful and hopeful. We have seen a significant renewal in attendance, social action, and a deepening of our spiritual practices in the past year. We continue to hold Meeting for Business on the first Sunday of each month from September to June; on the second and fourth Sundays, we offer Quaker Education topics. On odd numbered Sundays, a Friend leads a study group on Quaker history based on Pink Dandelion's book. We have been inspired to restore a practice of singing before Meeting for Worship each week and have managed to achieve that practice several times a month. We keep in touch with a monthly, except for summer, newsletter and a weekly email announcement of coming events.

We look for ways to be a positive presence in our meeting community and beyond. We continue to support Friends addressing the challenges of diminished health, changes in work, and aging family members. We opened our meeting house every weekday in the summer of 2016 for use by our neighborhood Franklin Elementary School summer breakfast and lunch program while the school itself was under reconstruction. On Valentine's Day, we collected donations from Friends in memory of our dear friend Betty Husted to support acquisition of reading materials for advanced readers at Franklin school. We remained active volunteering in the Family Promise program for homeless families by preparing meals and spending nights at a host church as chaperones. On Earth Day, we continued our practice of participating in the riverbank cleanup along the Clark Fork River.

Jack Rowan, a sojourning member of our meeting, continues his Master of Divinity program through Earlham School of Religion with the intent of becoming a hospice chaplain. He has secured a year-long internship with a hospital in Spokane beginning June 2017.

Our budget enables us to maintain our building, support local and international programs, and support our attenders' participation in regional Quaker gatherings. A portion of our income derives from a rental house that came with the purchase of our meeting house 24 years ago. We are considering investing a portion of our resources in the Friends Fiduciary Fund so that our investments reflect our values. We utilized a Quaker Education session to determine where our Peace and Social Concerns monies should be invested this year, focusing on support of women and children, hunger, aging, homeless families and individuals, refugees, environment, climate change, peace and equality.

We have been blessed by visits from traveling Friends. In September, we hosted a three-day meeting of the board members of Western Friend and were enriched by their presence and our shared activities. In March, NPYM traveling friends, Al and Sheri Hendrix, joined us and shared their dramatization based on the life of early Quaker Elizabeth Hooten. Missoula Friends and two of the worship group under our care, Flathead Valley and Mission Valley, have traveled to visit each other, strengthening our connections.

Our Quaker Education hours generally draw a significant number of attenders. We began our fall session with a threshing session focused on the query "What does our Meeting need?" This session allowed us to lay down several practices. Linnea Wang and Peter Husby shared their work with immigrants on the US/Mexico border. Cathy Scribner, a local clergy member who traveled to Standing Rock, North Dakota, shared her depth of concern for the environmental impacts of the Dakota Access pipe line and the strength of resistance it has inspired. Jasmine Krotkov of the Great Falls Worship Group shared her work with Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Our collective despair regarding the results of the national election led Friends to reach out in support of our local Jewish and Muslim faith communities, which lead to a series of workshops entitled "Crossing the Bridge". Our quarterly meeting, Montana Gathering of Friends, captured this concern in a Minute on Fear and Healing, which we revised, adopted, and shared with local news media.

There are several activities we undertake to strengthen and maintain our community. During non-summer months, we follow Meeting for Worship with fellowship over soup and bread; we invite newcomers to stay and get acquainted and fed. During the summer months, we host midweek potlucks in Friends' homes. This spring we hosted small dinners of Friends, often connecting with Friends we have not seen for a while.

Our Youth Program has grown in response to the presence of six young Friends between the ages of 10 and 14. Activities for our youth this year included an all-ages Halloween party, a gingerbread house making party at Christmas, baking 12 loaves of bread that were shared with Friends, cross-country skiing, making "stone soup" and touring a "tiny house" at the request of a young Friend who aspires to build one of her own. A second annual intergenerational bicycle trip on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene is planned for this June. All activities provide opportunities for our youth to learn about the values of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship.

We are fortunate to have committed and dedicated members and attenders who continue to create a warm and loving Quaker community in Missoula. After several years of declining attendance, we have been enriched by a dozen new attenders and returning Friends. We have a faithful core group, some of whom have been with us since the 1980's of before. We seek to enhance our outreach efforts so that more community members may become aware of Friends' spiritual tradition and the ways in which Quaker testimonies are reflected in the programs we offer and our activities in the Missoula community and beyond.

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT

Great Falls Worship Group 2017

Across a windy prairie, under blue skies, amongst wheat fields (occasionally with nuclear missiles buried below), the Great Falls Worship Group continues to provide space for the seekers of truth in our area. This space of weekly unprogrammed worship provides a place of peace, acceptance, and the sharing of gifts from the Divine among our dozen weekly attenders.

In this fertile soil of community and Divine worship we continue growing new sprouts from the deep roots of Quaker history. We are able to flourish and be used by the Divine, both individually and together. We have now moved out of each other's homes for Meeting for Worship and into a more stable, consistent location. For most of us, this physical stability of a Meeting place allows Spirit to be more open to newcomers, and helps solidify the community on a more equal footing. Going into a church is not perfect for all, and we will re-evaluate after some time.

Often the ministry from our meeting for worship is deep. There are messages of forgiveness, of hope, of love, of challenge on how we live our Quaker values. Here is a place to come to be part of community, to think bigger, to support one another, and to struggle with how to live in these times. We need this way of connecting to ourselves, to one another and to the Divine.

Life is like being caught up in an undertow of water, a powerful primal force like the circulation of blood or the pumping of the heart, which sweeps us along whether we wish it or not. In the midst of this flow we feel excitement and sometimes fear and know that we are being carried to the end. Quaker Meeting is like a lifeline to grasp in this flow, a steadying presence, for which we are grateful.

Out of our worshipping community comes our ability to act. We are excited by our FCNL Advocacy Team and the patient and persistent work they have done throughout this year. One exciting moment was the leading many members of the Advocacy Team were given to go to Standing Rock over Thanksgiving to provide support for those indigenous tribes praying for the Earth. This group including both Quakers and non-Quakers came back and inspired the writing of a Minute in Support of Standing Rock, which was then sent to our political leaders and others.

Visitors to our meeting have brought us fresh ideas, and folks from our group have visited other meetings, sharing ideas and programs. We have had a member pay for an ad in our local paper telling of our weekly

meeting for Worship. We are looking forward to sharing a monthly querie in this ad. Our worship group continues to support and work with Family Promise, an ecumenical group housing home-less families in church buildings in our city.

As our community works together, we also have our own individual leadings in our lives. Amongst us are farmers striving to grow healthy food, parents supporting children, community activists working for better government, a couple working with marriage support groups, and leaders providing support to our larger Quaker community.

Like all followers of the Light, we are aware of many areas where we need to go further. We seek ways to make our meeting a place for more children and young people; for ways to respond to the needs of our city and beyond, and, for more ways to stay connected to Divine and to hear what we are called to do.

As always, there will be a lively **Children's Program** as a part of summer MGOF. The program accommodates children of all ages, is driven based on the leadings of the children, and will be active during all programmed sessions throughout the weekend. Last year included a wilderness survival hike, an intergenerational kick-ball game, polar plunges into the creek, acrobatics and lots of play in the octagon. Two adults are present at all times to ensure safety and to provide a seasoned Quakerly presence. Registration at MGOF for those under age 18 is free, a gesture on behalf of MGOF that children are treasured in the community. Peter Walker-Keleher serves as Children's Program Coordinator and is currently recruiting a helper for the weekend to meet the special needs of particularly young children. Adults are encouraged to participate in the Children's Program and we hope you will

Summer MGOF What You'll Need and How to Get There

- From where ever you are get on I 90 heading toward Livingston Montana.
- There are two Livingston exits, take the eastern one.
- At the bottom of the exit ramp, at the light, turn left (south) on US 89.
- Drive South toward Gardener and Yellowstone Park for 4.7 Miles.
- Turn left on East River Road. (If you miss East River Rd you can go down to Pine Creek Rd)
- Drive 7.7 miles you will pass the Pine Creek in and the little white Methodist church.
- Turn left at the entrance road that will lead you to Pine Creek Campground and the Luccock Church camp.
- Wind up the hill, about 2 miles, and then into the forest until the road forks between the church camp entrance and the campground.
- Go to the left, down into the Church camp

Here is the google map link: <https://www.google.ca/maps/dir/Livingston,+Mt,+USA/Luccock+Park+Assembly+Grounds,+Livingston,+Mt+59047,+United+States/@45.5988282,110.5531017,11z/am=t/data=!3m1!4m1!4m13!1m5!1m1!1sox534513be27a04723:ox459632265a848c4c!2m2!1d110.5599556!2d45.6614105!1m5!1m1!1sox534f88b146018f31:ox66696e9d66b591a7!2m2!1d-110.528526!2d45.499637!3e0>

Summer MGOF attenders will need on Friday, Saturday and Sunday:

- * Bedding of your choice
- * Towels and Personal Wash Gear (soap, toothbrush,shave,etc)
- * Clothes for both warm and chilly (it can go either way)
- * Flashlight
- * If you are going to visit Chico, hike, or do a river float, bring the needed gear."

