

2022.7.13 Brooklyn Monthly Meeting clerk's report.

Through the last three months we have continued gathering for worship at our three regular times on Zoom, and an in person meeting on first day at 11am. During that time we relaxed our requirements for entrance, dropping proof of vaccination and signing in but still requiring mask wearing. Our in-person meeting is averaging 50 people and the 11am Zoom meeting for worship, 35. Our Sunday 9am and Thursday 6:30pm Zoom meetings remain small, with about 10 people at each.

Our monthly Community Dinner, where we provide a meal to anyone in the neighborhood who wants one, continues, and last month we added a barbecue with chicken wings and hot dogs (all beef) that was very successful. But the logistics of the barbecue are difficult (we have to borrow the barbecue) so we are not sure how to proceed. Weather permitting, we set up the attached playground area for dining, providing the option of eating a warm meal seated among friends and neighbors and/or taking a meal (or two) as take-out.

We are struggling as a community with the concept of a hybrid meeting. Although our projector is held up in the supply chain debacle, even the introduction of microphones has caused revulsion in some and elation in others. Our worship on the topic of a hybrid meeting so far has only seemed to harden positions rather than promote understanding. We have a minute, agreed to in the December business meeting, to allow for a trial, followed by discussion, discernment, and decision, but the hold up of the projector has left tensions festering. Please hold us in the light on this topic.

Our Communications Committee continues doing an outstanding job of disseminating information and announcement of not only our own activities, but those activities and meetings of the wider Quaker community. We have come to the conclusion, however, that too much was being included and important information was not being read because of fatigue! The committee has judiciously pared down the Newsletter.

Three new members have joined BMM this past quarter and we are looking forward to three weddings in the next few weeks. 'Tis the season!

Jonathan Fluck, co-clerk