

MIAMI MONTHLY MEETING STATE OF SOCIETY 2017

Miami Monthly Meeting has an increased number of attenders and members who have transferred or renewed their membership. As a result, we have experienced a deeper presence of the Spirit during our Meetings for Worship. Vocal Ministry has been infrequent, but very powerful and inspiring. The centered Worship has increased our strength of faith and commitment to our principles

Our continuing efforts to improve our First Day School produced results that have enriched our connections with each other as well as the Spirit we all are seeking. The topics for discussion vary from Quaker history, Quaker principles, Living Witness, different religions, and Bible study. We have refreshed our spiritual education while helping members and attenders to better understand our faith and practices.

One of our younger members created a documentary of the Quaker presence here in Waynesville over the past 215 years. The documentary, entitles "Walk in the Light," has been well received, with copies donated to the local library, Wilmington College Library, Wilmington College Archives, the Quaker Heritage Center, and the Museum at the Friends Home. This is a valuable asset for preserving the Quaker influence in the Midwest well into the 21st century.

We continue to carry our ministry to Quaker Heights with a service for the residents every other month. This is rewarding for our spiritual life as well as the residents. We also have members who serve as directors for the operation of the facility. One member has introduced a spirit led presence to the decision-making process to the management of Quaker Heights. This is the result of a Ministry received while attending the School of the Spirit.

We held our annual Worship at Fort Ancient this year, with participation from other Meetings of OVYM, as well as some Friends from Wilmington Yearly Meeting (FUM). This outreach to other Friends is a very inspirational Worship, which continues a tradition established when OVYM Annual Sessions were held at Miami Monthly Meeting.

While continuing to support the Waynesville Heritage and Cultural Center (the Museum at the Friends Home), we open our Meeting House to tours and lectures giving the history and philosophy of Friends,

and its influence on the Waynesville community to many visitors each year. The museum also houses much of the collection of our Library.

The Meeting is blessed by the presence of new members and attenders who deepen our Spiritual Worship. The Meeting House continues to provide a Spiritual home for all who are seeking the Divine Presence.

Milton Cook

Clerk