

State of the Society Reports

Willamette Quarterly Meeting / North Pacific Yearly Meeting

Hundreds of years ago George Fox spent many years and much energy traveling the length and breadth of England setting up Monthly and Quarterly Meetings for the purpose of maintaining unity and common purpose among Friends. Queries were developed to help assess the health of the Meetings, so that aid and comfort could be provided to struggling communities. We continue to write State of Society reports annually, to share at our Quarterly Meeting, so that we may have a collective sense of the spiritual health of Friends in our Quarter.

To accomplish this purpose, the reports must be more than just a listing of activities and statistics; rather, they are a deep searching into the spiritual life and health of the Meeting. At our Winter 2013 gathering, Willamette Quarterly Meeting decided to suggest that the State of Society report focus only on that spiritual life, addressing both the strengths and weaknesses of the Meeting frankly and openly, in order that we can support and encourage each other in further growth in the Spirit. The “nuts-and-bolts” portion—i.e., statistics (numbers of members, new members, marriages, deaths, births, etc.) and lists of activities and actions in which the Meeting or its members have been engaged—can be attached as a separate sheet.

To that end, the following queries are offered to aid in preparation of the State of Society report.

- How is the Spirit with you, Friends?
- Is your Meeting “complete”? Are there enough resources for the Meeting to function effectively as a body? (This may be reflected in the ability of your nominating committee to complete its work.)
- Are vital Meeting committees fully commissioned and functioning effectively?
- Is there vital prophetic ministry among you, including, but not limited to, vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship?
- Are lives being transformed by the workings of the Spirit among you?
- Is hospitality practiced among you? Are newcomers being welcomed warmly and returning and being enfolded in love? Are the needs of the chronically ill, poor, downtrodden, homeless, oppressed, and captive, among us, both within and without the Meeting community, addressed?
- Are Meetings for Business well attended and held in worshipful expectation?
- Are children and young people a vital and participating part of your Meeting? Are there active educational programs for Friends of all ages?

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- With what have you struggled, Friends? How are you responding to problems or difficulties?
- Is there an important concern or joy you would like to share with the other Meetings?

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Statistical and Activity Report March 20__ to March 20__

Meeting or Worship Group Name:

Current number of (adult) members:

Gained this year:

Lost this year:

Approximate number of adult attenders:

Children (infant through 12 years):

Youth (Central and Junior Friends (ages 12 -18):

Main activities of your meeting this year, which may include: regularly scheduled activities (potlucks, reading or study groups, outreach activities, retreats, etc.), and other activities and concerns, possibly mentioning those that have been taken up or laid down in the past year.

The above may be presented simply and with minimal comment. Their effects on the life of the Meeting may be addressed in the State of Society report proper.