

Informational report to Permanent Board
December 2023

Meeting Care Day

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We held our second “Meeting Care Day” event on November 11, 2023, at Moses Brown School in Providence, RI. The first Meeting Care Day was held in February 2020, two weeks before Covid closures.

Meeting Care Day is a day-long in-person gathering, specifically focused on service to one’s local Quaker meeting or community, centered on training and consultation, with space for worship and informal connection-making. This year, we were able to offer five workshops:

- *Best practices in nominating* (led by Jackie Stillwell and Martha Schwope)
- *Serving as recording clerk* (led by Brian Drayton)
- *Meeting outreach and communications: websites, social media, and email lists* (led by Kathleen and Maille Wooten)
- *Elements of Quakerism: an adult religious education experience for outreach and inreach* (led by Phil Fitz)
- *Pastoral care* (led by Noah Merrill)

In addition to workshops, members of the Accompaniment Group hosted a lunch-time conversation about the particular issues at hand in small meetings.

Fifty-three Friends participated coming from twenty local meetings. It was especially exciting that there were ten Friends in attendance who had never participated in an NEYM event before and who were not yet on our newsletter mailing list, but rather had heard about the event from someone in their local meeting. Along with Friends newer to service within their local meeting were Friends with decades of experience to draw upon in group conversations.

Formal and informal feedback from participants was consistently positive. When asked how likely participants are to recommend the event to someone in their meeting, the average evaluation response was 9.89 out of 10. On our registration system, which also allows participants to rate the event overall, all respondents gave it a 5 out of 5 stars. Of course, the most valuable feedback will be the growing ripples within meetings over the coming months.

Although in-person events require more resources and preparation than online-only events, Meeting Care Day is a relatively “light lift,” requiring about two percent of the staff hours needed for Sessions.

We plan to offer this event again next fall in a different part of New England. Although it is not yet known which workshops will be offered, it is clear there is strong interest in pastoral care, which was by far the most subscribed offering.