

# SPOKANENWORD

December  
2022



Spokane Friends  
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Following the teachings of the Living Christ, we are an open, loving, and affirming community. We believe that God's Light is inherent within all people. There are no exceptions.

## Sunday Schedule

Traditional worship in stillness  
begins at 9:00 a.m.  
when first person sits down  
Programmed worship 10:00 a.m.  
In-Person and via Zoom  
See Website For Link

First Sunday of the Month  
Potluck Meal at rise of worship

Third Sunday of the Month  
Monthly Meeting for Business  
begins at rise of worship

## It's OK to Talk about Quakerism

by Donald W. McCormick

Sometimes we are reluctant to talk about our Quakerism with friends, neighbors, and co-workers. In my (so far unpublished) research on expressing Quaker spirituality in the workplace, I interviewed one person who said that when a co-worker found out he was a Quaker, he was stunned. "I worked next to you for five years and had no idea you were a Quaker."

In Mark Read's dissertation research on Quakers in the workplace, he reported one Friend telling him, "It feels harder saying I am Quaker to people that it does saying I'm gay." Another told him that it was "like saying you've got two heads."

Many of us feel anxious when it comes to talking about Quakerism. But it shouldn't be any more difficult than talking about being a Girl Scout Leader, a person who loves to knit, a father, a union steward, or any other activity that makes up part of your identity.

Some of us worry that if we talk about the Quaker part of our life, we're proselytizing. But that comes from confusing two very different things — mentioning something about Quakerism and trying to convince someone to become a Quaker. Simply talking about who you are with people is not proselytizing.

There are lots of ways to talk about our faith that don't involve proselytizing, but many of us hide our Quakerism because we don't know how to begin. Ironically, I discovered some non-proselytizing ways to talk about faith with others by reading Clayton Christensen's book on proselytizing, The Power of Everyday Missionaries. One way is to simply mention in everyday conversation the Quaker-related things we do — just as we would any other activities. Here are some examples:

"Please excuse my yawning. I was one of the adults supervising a group of Quaker teens at our annual retreat and was up pretty late last night."

"One of the things we do when things get tense at the Quaker meeting I attend is to ask for a moment of silence. How about if we try that in this meeting.?"

"When I was participating in an anti-war demonstration with people from my Quaker meeting . . ."

Mentioning Quakerism or that you are a Quaker creates an opportunity for a conversation about Quakerism. Many people won't be interested, but some might be. If someone tells you something like, "That's interesting. I didn't know that you're a Quaker," you have some choices about how to respond.

You might start by saying that yes, you are a Quaker, and then say something about what you find interesting or meaningful about Quakerism. But a better choice might be to say, "Yes, I am. I'm curious, though; why do you ask?"

Also, after talking a little about Quakerism, you might want to ask about their spiritual life. Then the conversation becomes more mutual. Many people want to talk about their spiritual lives with their friends, neighbors, and co-workers. And they want to learn about other people's spiritual lives as well. Ian Mitroff and Elizabeth Denton's study of spirituality in the workplace (1999) is some of the best research on this topic. One of the study's conclusions is that "Most people wished ardently that they could express their spirituality in the workplace." I often heard this sentiment expressed in a college course on Spirituality in the Workplace that I began teaching in the early 1990's and taught for nearly fifteen years.

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## Save Those Stamps!

Do you have some stamps at home? Old letters or greeting cards with stamps still stuck on? Boxes of stamps you saved but now realize you will not get around to sorting them?

*Stamping for Dollars*, previously know as *The Quaker Stamp Project*, helps the poor through **Right Sharing of World Resources**, a Quaker organization that provides micro-grants to groups of very poor women in Kenya, India, and Sierra Leone for starting up a business. Since 2009 this program has raised over \$12,500 from used stamps that have been sent in, sorted, and sold. And all it takes is people like us saving and sending in our stamps!



To save your time and energy, bring your stamps to the Meeting House and put them in the labelled box near the stairway in the hospitality area. We will batch and send them on to Right Sharing on a regular basis. Here's the lowdown:

US and Canada stamps should be cut off the envelope or postcard. Leave about 1/4 inch around the stamp, so the whole stamp is preserved, including the perforations. When there is more than one stamp, treat the group as a unit.

Other foreign stamps may be left on the postcard or envelope, especially if the envelope has some special drawing or indication of the country. Some collectors like to receive a whole envelope or postcard with a foreign stamp.



Peelable stamps: Please leave these on the envelope paper. If you try to peel them off of the paper, they stick to other stamps, and damage both.

To be financially effective, please do not include standard "flag" stamps or nonprofit and presorted mail stamps. Concentrate on commemorative stamps.

## More "Street" Quaker Connections

by Lois Kieffaber

Nancy and Jeremy Street have always been interested in their Quaker connections, and you may recall that last June Nancy wrote about the Quaker links of Cornell University after they visited there to attend their daughter's research defense. She also referenced John Street House.

I thought this reference was to a house on John Street, thereby missing the point entirely. In fact, it refers to a house belonging to John Street, one of Jeremy Street's forbears. Wikipedia gives us more information:

The John Street House is a historic home in Salem, Ohio. It was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Salem was a major nexus of corridors along the Underground Railroad. In the city itself, there were at least six stops, primarily in the southern half, located closest to the actual railroad lines. The John Street House is one of the northernmost stops in Salem.

Built in 1838, the building was initially constructed as the residence of John Street, a son of the city's co-founder, Zadok Street. The Street family were Quakers and active in the Western Anti-slavery Society, an abolitionist organization then headquartered in Salem. Interested in aiding fleeing slaves, the Streets altered their residence after its initial construction, and provided food and clandestine lodging in several hiding spaces throughout the house. In a windowless basement, fugitive slaves would sleep during the day and travel to another "station" on the Railroad by night. This location was connected by a tunnel built under what is now Ellsworth Avenue to the house across the street. The famous abolitionist John Brown was a frequent guest at the house.\*

\* (BFDHD at en.wikipedia)



The opinions expressed within this Newsletter and on our website are those of the authors, not the Meeting.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES  
20 November 2022



The meeting was called to order by presiding clerk LaVerne Biel. 19 people were present. Bob Wiese opened with prayer.

The Minutes for the October meeting were read. They were approved with the correction that there would be further discussion about compensated secretarial time.

Elders report was presented by Krista Maroni. They discussed past speakers. There are speakers scheduled through January, with Christmas left open.

There was discussion of the Open and Affirming Statement, a draft of which was emailed out. If approved, this would replace the current one.

Pastoral care person, for the foreseeable future, is not financially possible.

A sermon theme for January was discussed.

Inclusivity statement: There were comments concerning tightening up sentence structure for more impact. Kjersten Schmidt believes we should state directly that we are open and affirming. Failing that, these are merely a collection of words to satisfy an idea we are unwilling or unable to commit to. Ruthie Tippin felt that using Jesus's name is a strong statement. Kent Biel expressed concern that the language seems to only include one specific group of people without mentioning other minority groups.

Much discussion followed about the statement being too watered down, along with a fear of being too forthright, and the significance of the words "open and affirming". Many alternatives were discussed.

Approval was given to the following:

**Following the teachings of the Living Christ, we are an open, loving, and affirming community. We believe that God's Light is inherent within all people. There are no exceptions.**

The compensated secretarial hours is not to exceed 20 hours per week, combined for Lois and Pam.

Treasurer's report: presented by Jon Maroni. For a proposed budget for 2023, Jon suggested using the figures for 2022. He noted that giving must increase in order to afford paying a pastor \$1,000 per month.

Stewards/Trustees report: The work on the women's bathroom is completed.

Walter is pursuing grant proposals. He requested our suggestions of what we want to use the money for.

The meeting was closed in prayer by LaVerne.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan Keehnen*, Recording Clerk

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I found that many people find it very fulfilling to talk about their spiritual lives with their co-workers. Their mutual interest in learning about each other's spiritual life leads to deeper connections between co-workers and an appreciation of the many different ways that people conceive of and express their spirituality through their work.

Talking about your life with others is something everyone does. We don't need to avoid mentioning the part of our lives that is Quakerism. And sometimes doing that can lead to fulfilling, two-way conversations that deepen our relationships with others — at work, in our neighborhoods, and among friends.

**Don McCormick** trains mindfulness teachers. He is interested in the integration of mindfulness with Quakerism. (See "Mindfulness and Quaker Worship", *Western Friend*, Nov/Dec 2016.) He is a member of Grass Valley Friends Meeting (PacYM). The above essay appeared in the July/August 2022 issue of *Western Friend*.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

FRIDAY, DEC. 9, 5:30 PM

Come and help us make our meeting room festive for the season. Then join us downstairs for chili and bread. Bring some cookies if you like.



### CARITAS NEEDS

#### FOOD

Chili  
Ramen  
Variety soups  
Canned fruit



#### NECESSITIES

Shampoo  
Laundry Detergent  
Dish soap  
Toothbrushes  
Paper towels

### Sunday Speakers

Dec 4 Andrew Nakushian  
Dec 11 John Kinney  
Dec 18 Ruthie Tippin  
Dec 25 Christmas Sunday  
Jan 1 Johan Maurer



### Financial Report

	October 2022	Year to Date
Income/Giving	\$6,090.18	\$34,864.43
Expenses	\$3,877.73	\$34,908.72
Difference	+ \$2,202.45	- \$55.71



## Quaker News

- ⇒ **Ron Stansell**, of Newberg Friends Church, passed away on November 9th, 2022. Ron was a recorded minister in NWYM and he and his family served on the mission field in Bolivia from 1967-1985. He was actively involved in the missions and global outreach board in NWYM for many years, along with serving on the board of Evangelical Friends Mission. He taught at George Fox University for 25 years with a focus on mission and intercultural studies.
- ⇒ **Equipping Ourselves for Ministry: Virtual Workshops** are being coordinated by Emily Provenance, who travels in the ministry full-time for Friends., and sponsored by FUM. Each workshop is a stand-alone gathering and will cover such topics as Conflict within congregations, Gifts and leadings, Small congregations, Children's ministries, and Hybrid worship communities. Emily expects each will be "a really divergent group coming together from yearly meetings across the full theological spectrum, conservative to liberal." You can participate in any or all sessions as you choose. They will occur monthly on weekdays at 4:00 pm Pacific Time. Each costs \$10. Read all about them at [www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/unleashing-the-power](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/unleashing-the-power)
- ⇒ . . . And the next one will be on December 12 at 4:00 pm on the topic "**Generous Congregations: Best Practices for Financial Stewardship and Generosity**", given by **Colin Saxton**, who is now the Advancement Officer for Friends United Meetings and a stewardship consultant with Everence, the Mennonite (and Quaker) financial services organization. So if you missed Colin's earlier presentation on this topic, here is another chance to hear it.
- ⇒ Hillsboro Friends Church approved hiring **Eric Muhr as the part-time Interim Executive Director of the HFC Service for Service ministry**. We thank Eric for supporting this ministry to people without houses by providing capable leadership. This means the ministry will be able to continue uninterrupted as we conduct a full, thoughtful continuing search for a permanent Executive Director.
- ⇒ **Right Sharing of World Resources** seeks an Associate Secretary of Advancement. This is a senior leadership position responsible for promoting the mission of Right Sharing of World Resources, including all development, communications, and public relations. This position is based out of the person's home, is supervised by the General Secretary, requires domestic travel, and may require international travel. Learn more at <https://rswr.org/careers>