

Spiritual State of Meeting Report For 2017
Midlothian Friends Meeting (MFM)

MFM Welcomes All and embraces diversity.

MFM's greatest joy is our strong sense of community with a uniquely relaxed atmosphere combined with an environment that feels loving and sacred.

MFM inspires each of us to appreciate being among those who desire to hold themselves accountable and to be the best version of themselves. Individual and collective growth is encouraged allowing Friends to grow at our own pace and to participate through our gifts and strengths.

MFM's Meeting for Discernment takes place every 2nd Sunday and calls us to deepen our Quaker Process through slowing down, listening more deeply to one another, giving more space between messages, and to remember to stop more often for silence.

MFM is an inclusive group of individuals maturing in oneness, being led to pause and carefully share from our hearts and experiences, and learning to share love and compassion with others who may have differing values. We desire a deepening sense of being led by Spirit in all things. We choose unity and understanding over division. We strive to practice being steady, non-confrontational, open, concerned, and informed. We hold fast to the belief in a shared inner light.

MFM sees our current divisive national environment as an opportunity to deepen our faith and promote compassion and unity. We seek to listen, learn, and understand issues being raised. The Peace and Social Action Committee (PSAC) as well as the Sanctuary and Immigration Study Group recognize "that of God in everyone." Guided by our Quaker testimonies, we feel called to work for peace and justice issues. PSAC researches charitable institutions to support and reaches out to those in need through our thrift store. The Thrifty Quaker has helped many charities and individuals in the community for more than 20 years.

MFM's Religious Education teachers grew up in meeting and for the last several years they have taught and nurtured Young Friends every 2nd and 4th Sunday. Katie's and Laura's contributions have shown care and thoughtfulness allowing parents to stay in worship, while enriching and offering an extraordinary gift to all in meeting.

MFM's Circle of Friends continues to meet every Sunday before Meeting for Worship for about half an hour opening their minds and hearts to other religious faiths and notable studies. This group has grown not only spiritually, but it regularly brings a loving circle of Friends each Sunday to share an inspiring vitality to meeting as a whole.

MFM's High School Graduates lend great joy every year to meeting as we acknowledge and celebrate new beginnings with them and their families.

MFM celebrated our 30th Anniversary September 24th. We enjoyed former Friends of MFM and those from the wider circle of Quakers. Young Friends of all ages enthusiastically buried a time capsule telling who we've been and who we are now, to be opened in 30 years. It was an afternoon where we came together in love and peace shining our light onward.

MFM is a good place to come and BE.

Approved by Meeting for Discernment June 10, 2018