

OUTREACH TEAM REPORT 2019

Team Members: Dave Sydlik, Michael Fell, Cathy Hanson, Jo Brown, Kathleen Wilson, Janet Abrams (Clerk)

Spiritual State of the Team: Our meetings begin and end with worship. Members of the team feel safe with each other, and our periods of discernment are characterized by listening to each other with love and respect. Our meetings are often filled with laughter.

Impediments in 2019: The work this year was hampered by the extended absence of the clerk for major surgery in the spring, and the long absence of another team member at the end of the year while she moved to a new living situation. The work was also impacted by unclear co-ordination with M&C for a large part of the year. The work of the team was also deeply effected by the loss of our first clerk, KD Olive, late in 2018.

Accomplishments: The team organized a second round of Friendly Potluck groups during the early spring. There were 6 groups that included approximately 50 members and attenders.

The team participated in the 2019 Baltimore Pride parade.

The team designed a Welcome poster directed towards the LGBTQ+ community to replace the flags that had been flown from the upper windows of the Meetinghouse during 2018. The poster was placed in the glass announcement box on the front wall of the Meetinghouse.

The team started to organize a discussion of Ibram Kendi's book How to be an Antiracist for early 2020, to address our concern to be more welcoming to people of color who may join us for Meeting for Worship.

Individual team members continued to greet newcomers at the rise of Meeting for Worship. Two team members expressed a special concern for outreach to Young Adults.

Unfinished business: The team began discussions of the Meeting web site, and how to make it more effective for outreach. This work will be continued. The team also made some efforts to create new written materials to give to newcomers.

The team discussed Simple lunch and how to make it more welcoming to newcomers. This remains a concern.

M&C asked us to solve the problem of name badges, and we were unable to reach a solution.

We continue to remind Friends that outreach is the responsibility of each of us individually, and all of us together.

Janet Abrams, Clerk

4/29/20