

2022.4.17 Brooklyn Monthly Meeting clerk's report.

Through the last three months we have continued gathering for worship at our three regular times on Zoom, and an in person meeting on first day at 11am. During that time we followed public health guidance for public gatherings, including proof of vaccination, mask wearing and open windows (even in the bitter cold) for ventilation. We also had a sign-in sheet requiring contact information for contact tracing purposes. (At our April Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business we relaxed most of those requirements but kept mask wearing for the time being.) As the weather has warmed our meetings in person have more than doubled in number, from the mid-twenties in January & February to the mid-fifties the last first day of March. During the past Quarter we also re-opened First Day School on an every-other-week basis, and well as limited child care.

Throughout the entire pandemic, including the past three months, our monthly Community Dinner, where we provide a meal to anyone in the neighborhood who wants one, has continued unabated. Weather permitting, we set up the attached playground area for dining, providing the option of eating a warm meal seated among friends and neighbors and/or taking a meal (or two) as take-out. A new attender who was recently released from prison has become a regular volunteer at Community Dinner and takes the opportunity to sit and talk with our guests to make them feel more welcome and to encourage them in their struggles because, as he states, "I've been where they are."

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting, at the urging of our former Clerk, Joan Malin, has moved to a Clerking Committee format, rather than having simply a clerk and recording clerk. I, Jonathan Fluck, and Jolene Festa have joined Julie Glynn (who was the recording clerk) on this committee and until we find a fourth member, Joan Malin has agreed to be a co-opted member in order to help us find our way. So far, so good!

Our Communications Committee continues doing an outstanding job of disseminating information and announcement of not only our own activities, but those activities and meetings of the wider Quaker community. Most heartbreaking, the Zoom worship with Ukrainian and Moscow Quakers.

This past quarter one member has transferred out to Chatham-Summit Friends Meeting, in Chatham, New Jersey, and we have two pending new members.

Jonathan Fluck, co-clerk