

The Way Forward Committee Report

08 September 2021

This session focused on supporting the Meeting via growth:

- Stay in better contact with folks, especially occasional attenders
- Be active in other faith groups/causes
- Hold events at the meetinghouse
- It can be hard for newcomers to “break-in” to meeting unless you’ve done your research and know where you are spiritually
- Sometimes a newcomer may feel guardedness and lack of trust or belief about whether they’re in the right place (by the members) – this can show up as defensiveness
- Lots of strong personalities and viewpoints can come across as a lack of cohesiveness about beliefs
 - Need to show that this is actually a strength and that we are accepting of varying opinions and beliefs and we need to be sure to make space for this (exercise with 3 people answering a question)
- Don’t proselytize, show that we walk the walk
- Have to find ways to let people know we are here!
- More time after Meeting for sharing – breakout rooms, Quaker in the corner, etc
- Less details in the announcements – give enough info to communicate what’s happening, but then offer to give more information to anyone interested afterwards (ie don’t force things on them in captive audience)
- Maybe solicit more 12 step programs – this gives us service to our community, eyeballs, and some income
- The newsletter could be better used to talk about “work” people are doing
 - Blogs can do this as, with short intro/pointer in the newsletter
- Re-engage with social media
- Make sure we don’t “try too hard” with visitors – we really need to practice our LISTENING vs. talking skills with newcomers