

Report from Miami Quarter re Joint Quarter

Jt quarter held on October 22-23, 2022 at Happy Hollow CampGrounds in Nashville IN. This is the site of many previous joint quarter meetings.

Approximately 37 Friends including seven youth attended the weekend. The majority of Friends who came were from Whitewater and fewer than ten Friends from Miami Quarter came.

Considering the wonderful weather, the beautiful surroundings and the delicious food and wonderful fellowship those Friends present enjoyed a fantastic retreat.

The weekend had a mixture of structured and unstructured time giving Friends time to get to know one another and enjoy fellowship and also to enjoy the delights of being outside, walking in the woods and looking at the beautiful fall colors.

The retreat was not without organized activities. Michelle Tomarelli from Lafayette meeting gave a presentation about green burial. Sandy Felt from Dayton led a group on a hike from the camp center to the Lake through woods full of amazing fall colors. Various Friends led us in Worship sharing in which we addressed three queries:

- What do we share that holds us together?
- What is the source of our strength?
- What has sustained Friends and carried us forward for nearly 400 years? Will it carry us for another 400 years?
- As well as a query sent earlier by our yearly meeting clerk, Rachel, "I invite us all to reflect on the ways our connections to each other brings healing to our personal struggles and to the wider world. On reflection, perhaps we'll find ourselves longing for greater intimacy in New structures to bring us closer. This time is ripe for reinventing, rediscovering, and embracing the healing power of our spiritual community. Let us move forward together with prayer and joy."

Which challenged us to imagine our future as Friends.

Our youth secretary led us in cooperative games and also set up a fire for the children to enjoy roasting marshmallows and making s'mores. Yum.

A couple of Friends remembered to bring guitars and one Friend thoughtfully brought many copies of "Rise Up Signing" so that we serenaded the coyotes with our folk songs.

Financially, the retreat realized a small surplus which is a strong encouragement to hold a repeat retreat.

Those who attended enjoyed a wonderful retreat and we all celebrated another opportunity to be together and renew our Friendship.