

Proposal "B" —from Wider Quaker World Committee of Lake Forest Friends Meeting

Many thanks for extending the deadline for proposals for the future of MCGM. This has allowed the Wider Quaker World Committee of Lake Forest Friends Meeting to meet and consider whether we were led to set forth a proposal. That meeting took place following Meeting for Worship at LFFM this morning, and we were so led.

We found ourselves in support of Bonni McKeown's proposal that MCGM as it currently stands be laid down in favor of a series of perhaps 3 fellowship gatherings each year, open to all branches of Friends in the greater Chicagoland area. These gatherings could involve educational or other activities as appropriate, or could simply be for the purpose of fellowship among diverse Quakers. We also prefer that the name be changed, perhaps to Bonni's suggested "Chicagoland Friends Gathering" or something of that sort.

With respect to organizational structure, we recognize that there must be one in order for such gatherings to remain on our collective "radar screen" for more than a short time, as well as for them to be well organized and advertised. However, we believe that the administrative structure, while necessary, should be as simple as possible. We therefore recommend the formation of a permanent committee, to be composed of Friends who have the energy and interest to carry this work forward. That committee would meet when necessary, much like many committees within our monthly meetings. They would be able to use the remaining MCGM budget for organizational and outreach purposes. We expect that most gatherings would include either potluck meals or meals provided by the host meeting for which participants would donate a small sum of money, so that little or no expense to the new committee would be involved in the actual gatherings. We also hope that the committee would encourage larger meetings to "pair" with smaller meetings for the purpose of hosting the gatherings.

This elaboration of Bonni's proposal is still rather skeletal, but we believe it can serve as the foundation for one vision of the future of MCGM. If something of this sort is approved at the February meeting of MCGM, it would probably be best for the committee that will handle the work of administering the gatherings to be decided upon at that time, along with some stipulations for how it will be constituted in the future.

See you on February 4th.

Peace,

David Shiner  
for the Wider Quaker World Committee of Lake Forest Friends Meeting