

Mexico City Friends Meeting – 2018 State of the Meeting

Mexico City Monthly Meeting is accustomed to experiencing joys and celebrating achievements while, at the same time, patiently weathering periods of stagnation and unresolved disagreements.

We have much to be thankful for in 2018. Our Sunday activities for children are simple but they're there, and we've had a number of new applications for membership and good Clearness Committee experiences. We're thankful for some rich Worship we've had and for our boisterous community, and much more. Some new activities and partnerships have added energy to our community. Casa de los Amigos provides the most lively and colorful environment possible for the life of our Meeting. And our never-ending stream of visitors from around the world continues to be an enriching source of energy, as do new attenders from Mexico City.

We also remain a small group with small Meeting problems. Too few people, too many tasks. Members drift away. Tensions remain in our Meeting, and may demotivate some newcomers. Those of us who have been in the Meeting for many years may become inured to simmering, subsurface tensions—'Oh, it's always been this way, and it doesn't stop us from thriving.' New arrivals, however, may be surprised and scandalized when they perceive unaired and untreated disagreements among long-term members of our community. Also, folks here tend to be very busy, especially those who have the most commitments in our activities! This may cause Meeting, for some, to be both nurturing and draining.

Other challenges represent great opportunities for us. For example, we've seen again and again that educational activities about Friends' faith and practice are sorely needed here—not just in First Day School, and not just for the newbies! This shines light on a clear priority for us.

Our efforts to bring our group together in a way that isn't just the same old setting, in order to communicate about more difficult, long-term challenges, have thus far not born fruit. We have been buoyed by the efforts of PYM's Ministry and Council Committee to help our Meeting with Listening Sessions and other tools to draw closer to one another in a spirit of understanding, acceptance and forgiveness. There is a strong sense of shared hope that we can follow this path.

Requests for membership from several attenders this year have been joyfully received, and reminded us that for many attenders, even casual invitations to come closer to the Meeting community may be very important. Once new and nearly-new attenders get past the Quaker honeymoon phase, they may see that, yes, Quakers are imperfect and have conflicts too. But if we do as we should, they may also see that Friends are open about having conflicts, and strive to address them in honest and loving ways. As one long-time attender contemplating membership said this year, "I'm still not sure if I've found what I've been looking for, but this may be the closest thing."

En la Luz,

Mexico City Friends Meeting

5.2018