Outreach Committee Annual Report - 10/20/18

Outreach strives to warmly welcome all new visitors and to guide them, if desirous, into the deeper life of our meeting. Skyspace continues to be a draw for visitors who then occasionally attend meeting while First Day School is a warm and welcoming program for young visitors and their families. Outreach has been concerned with ensuring that our outreach efforts, both by our committee and by the CHFM community as a whole, are welcoming to all visitors. We have begun a process of reflection on our practices and will hopefully increase their inclusivity.

Some of our programs/projects in the past year:

- We held several Seekers meetings. Seekers meeting serve as an introduction to Quakerism for new attendees and offer them the opportunity to become acquainted with a few members of the meeting. Seekers meetings are held every other month. This year we've invited committee members from Worship and Ministry to join our Seekers meetings. Their presence has been a welcome addition to the meetings. The next Seekers meeting is scheduled for November 17.
- We have been in discussion with Worship and Ministry regarding outreach to the CHFM community and how to welcome new attendees/seekers with a focus on diversity.
- We continue to track new members and our interactions with them in a database.
- Though there was some interest in reviving the Friendly 8's program, at this time Outreach has decided not to explore this possibility.
- Our greeting process has remained much the same. Active meeting members and regular attenders take turns at greeting. All visitors who sign the guestbook and provide contact information receives personalized emails with invitations to return from someone on the Outreach committee.
- Sadly, while in previous years we lost a number of longstanding Outreach members, this year we have not been able to recruit more members. The size of the committee is still not adequate to the responsibilities required. We do hope to recruit a few more members soon.