

Minute of Gratitude for Gretchen Baker-Smith

Since 2012, Gretchen Baker-Smith has served as Westport Monthly Meeting's Property Coordinator. Having faith that way would open, a spirit for adventure and a calling for bringing structure and organization to a position with diverse responsibilities and high expectations, Gretchen has managed major and minor improvements, while at the same time affording Westport Monthly Meeting much needed synergy as we transitioned from a Friends in Residence period of time. In conjunction with the Property Committee, Gretchen managed over \$200,000 in property improvement, while at the same time increasing rental income, Book Fair efficiency, and Meeting's general maintenance and beautification. Gretchen's caring heart for our property, spiritual kinship, and local community, as well as her "get the work done with a smile" attitude, rescued the stress of property care from the rest of the Meeting, which positioned Westport Monthly Meeting to be able to transition towards the redistribution of Property Coordinator duties in the spirit of allowing ourselves to see what love could do.

What we witnessed was a collaborative effort that speaks clearly and confidently to the ministry of love within our meeting. Gretchen has agreed to offer her counsel as we go forward and we are so very pleased that the experience, although at times challenging, has been an important learning experience for Gretchen and Westport Monthly Meeting. As Gretchen often included in her reports to Monthly Meeting for Business, her property coordinator work was an opening for ministry and compassion that led her and filled her to do this work joyously.

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