

Westport Monthly Meeting
State of Society Report
Approved 4/19/2009

I.

As a spiritual community we are successfully coming through a period of loss and great transition. Many challenges still face us, but we continue to come together as a supportive, resilient, and Spirit-led community—yet one that is much different than it was 10, 7, even 5 years ago.

II.

Somehow we maintain a Spirit-led community that, despite our small size, can accommodate and support our great diversity, a community in which some members can say with comfort, "I have a vibrant, personal relationship with the risen Christ," while others can say with equal comfort, "I am not a Christian." What is it that brings and holds us together?

There is a core, common sense of a Spirit that leads but does not mandate.

There is something special here that even people who don't know us seem to recognize—a sense of expectation of goodness.

There is a rich sense of Spirit in our worship, a sense of confidence even in our silence—we have no need to fill that silence with more than our expectant waiting and openness.

There is a sense that we as a community and as individuals struggle to balance our limited resources with the unlimited needs we perceive around and within us. Property Committee has led our small meeting in the challenges of maintaining our large property. Ministry & Counsel Committee, in addition to nurturing the spiritual life of the meeting, has led us in assisting four members with active support and/or oversight committees. The Book Fair Clearness Committee has creatively led us toward what we hope will be a sustainable plan for continuing the event that is our main source of income.

There is a sense that we are a community of women, men, and youth who act in the Spirit both within our worship community and throughout our daily lives. We strive to be ordinary people who live from an extraordinary Spiritual grounding.

There is a striving for an open flow between our meeting for worship and our outside lives, as we struggle with the challenge of infusing our daily businesses and their realities with our spiritual work and with what is right.

There is a sense of being brought in and held, and a sense of being sent out again—of being nurtured yet nudged to do more, or to do what we do with more of a Spirit-led constancy.

III.

We face many challenges as we evolve, as limited and imperfect human beings, living in diversity and in the tension of striving to lead Spirit-led lives in our imperfect world. None of our challenges is unusual, unexpected, or irresolvable.