

## LANGLEY HILL MEETING

Langley Hill Friends Meeting has been anticipating the time we would be able to worship together in person for a year. Many have found the Zoom worship experience spiritual and inclusive of old and new Friends and reluctant to give it up. Others, including most of our families, have not joined Zoom worship creating a rift in our community.

Last June, the Clerk created an ad hoc reopening committee drawing from different committees to consider spiritual, technical and safety aspects of reopening and our form of worship in the future. The ad hoc committee has held threshing sessions, conducted surveys, brought in outside resources from BYM to help our discernment, held a virtual retreat, presented relevant queries during Second Hours, done a test of audio-visual equipment in the meeting room and provided regular reports to Business Meeting.

In September, we approved in-person worship for our small mid-week meeting, less than ten people, following strict safety protocols. At our June Business Meeting, we approved minutes to start trials this summer on various ways of worship. We will start in June with parallel Zoom and in-person meetings happening at the same time but separately. We will follow the CDC guidance and plan to have a section of the meeting room where masks and social distancing are maintained and a section where people can choose not to wear masks. We will not ask attenders if they have been vaccinated rather trust that people will make decisions that are right for themselves and the meeting.

We anticipate testing hybrid worship where the in-person and virtual communities are linked together through a camera on a wall of the meetingroom and projecting the Zoom images from a laptop on a wall while using our existing sound system. We have tested this system once with people in both places able to see and hear each other reasonably well, but plan to conduct a “mock trial” before we use it on a Sunday morning since there are many logistical details to practice. We anticipate using some form of hybrid worship for a memorial service in August. We will try other options as well during the summer before we consider further steps at our September Business Meeting being especially attentive to the needs of our families and children.

There are some strongly held views within Langley Hill about how we proceed that we are listening to. Currently, there is no “perfect solution” that speaks to everyone’s spiritual and community needs.

Tim Hunt