

Virtual Worship in Our Quaker Communities

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Friends Fiduciary Gathering

Kathleen Wooten
Quakerkathleen.org
Quakerkathleen@gmail.com

In the Chat: Please put in one word or short phrase that describes how your Quaker community, or you personally, feel now about Virtual Worship.

What are we doing here? (A brief definition for today)

1. We can encounter the divine directly
2. We've developed ways to understand that experience and to discern when it is happening (our group process of discernment)
3. We have forms of worship that nurture that encounter, that sense of the Presence
4. We live our lives in line with our testimony (he says we do not have a menu of testimonies but our lives are our testimony). Ben Pink Dandelion - Swarthmore Lecture, Britain Yearly Meeting, 2014
<https://youtu.be/oRO-IGD9emM>

The view from 10,000 feet: How did we get here?

- Quaker worship looks very different
- The switch to Zoom took a short time (for Quakers!)
- Technical vs Adaptive changes

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/hbr.org/amp/2002/06/a-survival-guide-for-leaders>

Where are our meetings now in October 2020?

- More adept with Zoom
- More ease and acceptance of technological unknowns and new platforms
- Still many Friends excluded from online interactions and participation in some groups/areas
- The summer of the "online Yearly Meeting" experiments

Where are we going?

- Future changes are adaptive, and much more context based.
- Some meetings are reopening in person experiences
- Blended and Hybrid
- We are not going "back" - we are going forward (but still retaining the useful part of our tradition?)
- Adaptive changes and solutions are next steps and experiments.

Questions to think about:

- What does "traveling" in ministry mean in an online context?
- What does membership mean for attenders who have never been with us "in person"?
- What does "worship in community" mean in online spaces? How do we form and nurture and encourage community using specific digital tools?

Participation: What is the current state of worship in your community and context? Share with each other.