# Homewood Friends Meeting: Summary of October 29, 2017 Discussion

## A. Raw Data from Small Groups and Shared Discussion Summaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Discussion Summary</th>
<th>Group Notes</th>
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</table>
| 1     | • To support our spiritual practice  
• Tend to each other  
• Build a sense of trust so we can bear witness to pain in the world | • Spiritual practice in the world  
• Tending to each other to serve the world  
• Building of trust; leaves space to hold discomfort & disagreement in the open; to bring that trust into the world  
• Build our capacity to be |
| 2     | • Create a special place where we feel a sense of spaciousness & rise above pettiness  
• Transformation towards being centered in a Godly place  
• Service in the world – expression of these things  
• Making the above available to the children as well as adults | HFM is for…  
• Transformation toward living centered in a Godly place  
• Creating an unhurried, loving, accepting space transcending self-centered concerns  
• Service in the world w/ the directions determined by Quaker process  
• And that their transformation and space be available to children, too |
| 3     | • Place where we choose to come together as a community to open ourselves to the Divine  
• Go inwards with each other’s support  
• Be challenged & transformed  
• Build connections to each other, ourselves and the Divine  
• Led to seek justice & peace, leading us to live counter culturally | Homewood is a place where…  
• We choose to come together as a community in worship to open ourselves to the Divine as we understand it  
• We go inward with each other’s support  
• We are challenged & transformed  
• We learn together to center & connect to each other, ourselves and the Divine  
• From that transformation we are often led to seek justice & peace.  
• We are often called to live counter culturally |
| 4     | • Truthfulness, Authenticity  
• Connection w/ Inner Light & the Divine | • Truthfulness, authenticity, connection w/ the Inner Light/ Divine |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Community</td>
<td>• Community, openness/permission, lack of dogma “Homewood is/should be”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Openness, permission &amp; lack of dogma</td>
<td>• Discipline of weekly worship cultivates inner courage/voice for peace and justice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Cultivates discipline -&gt; inner courage -&gt; voice for peace &amp; justice</td>
<td>• Practice of inner and outward listening</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Practice of inner &amp; outer listening</td>
<td>• Experiences the witness of people living their convictions for peace and justice</td>
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<td>• Witness to peace &amp; justice</td>
<td>• Impact on our children’s growth and perspectives</td>
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<td>• Impact children’s personal growth</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>• Spiritual growth; support spiritually to take it out into the world</td>
<td>• Starts w/ a spiritual place and Meeting to support, comfort, teach that of God in everyone</td>
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<td>• Community of shared values including for children</td>
<td>• Spiritual growth</td>
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<td>• Location is important to share our light w/ the city and receive light from the city</td>
<td>• Affects us when we are out in the world</td>
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<td>• A community sharing values for families and children connected to larger Quakerism</td>
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<td>• Located in this building, neighborhood in a place, at a time where we have a role to share our light. Relationship with the city more translucent so Light is going back and forth.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>• Community – worship, listening &amp; sharing</td>
<td>• Community / worship -&gt; listening and sharing -&gt;</td>
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<td>• Nurture our connection to the Divine – to live our testimonies</td>
<td>o Nurture and keep vital our connection to the Divine, which makes concrete the seemingly abstract ideals, such as peace</td>
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<td>o Which helps to bring those ideals into our lives outside the meeting in small ways and larger actions.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>• Community that transcends activist – more spiritual</td>
<td>• The common theme of our discussion was community: a community that transcends the tensions between activism and the more spiritual; that provides mutual caring and that is grounded in Quaker tradition and spirit.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Provides mutual caring</td>
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<td>• Grounded in Quaker tradition &amp; spirit</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>• Developing a core of life together in a spiritual community</td>
<td>HFM is “for”…</td>
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<td>• Supporting action that is rooted in spiritual</td>
<td>• Spiritual support for one another in community, checking in</td>
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|       | leadings           | • Core of life together is worship and spiritual community  
|       | - Are we united for authenticity & genuineness?  
|       | - Are we bringing people together?  
|       | - Are we welcoming to others?  | • Action emerges from spiritual leadings  
|       | Core of life together is worship and spiritual community  
|       | - Core of kindness & support help us to deal the only constant being change  
|       | - Metaphor of rings of a tree  
|       | - Need seasoning about use of resources  
|       | - Conflict resolution to achieve a “sense of the meeting” about our core; nurture members in resolving differences; achieving a resolution which is better (stronger) than just A + B;  
|       | - Children’s development  
|       | - Does an action further develop our community at this time? Consider: is it time, is it kind, is it necessary  
|       | - Are we united in such a way that our work in the world is authentic and genuine  
|       | - Are we bringing hungry people together?  
|       | - Are we inviting people to join us?  | • A place to worship - finding God within &outside ourselves  
| 9     | - A place to worship -> finding God within &outside ourselves  
|       | - Supporting each other in that (above) quest  
|       | - Give inspiration for loving action  
|       | - Remove blocks for loving action  | • Experience and inspiration of others helps find God outside ourselves  
|       | A place to worship and through that to help us find God within  
|       | - Supporting each other in the quest  
|       | - To get out of the way of all that blocks us and inspires us to loving action  |
| 10    | - Place to find spiritual refreshment  
|       | - Express our spiritual & social beliefs & engage w/ others who are different  
|       | - Use our beliefs in God/ Light spiritual relationships to undergird our social activism  
|       | - Community to build spiritual relationships  | • It is a place where we can find spiritual refreshment  
|       | - A place where we can be comfortable enough to express our spiritual and social beliefs and listen to others who may disagree with us  
|       | - HFM helps us use our beliefs on God, the Light,
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| 11    | • Community to build spiritual relationships for spiritual support  
       • Experience the Light as community vulnerability  
       • Shared purpose | • Place where we come for spiritual support  
       • Place to experience the Light as a community where we can be vulnerable  
       • Place where we have a shared purpose |
| 12    | • Spiritual home & nurture  
       • Base for action in the world – individual or collective | • Spiritual home  
       • Spiritual nurture – change or provide new lens  
       • The above as basis for action, not as fundamental |

B. Vocal Ministry during Waiting Worship after Small Group Worship Sharing and Reports
Homewood Friends Meeting is for:
• Gather together for spiritual community; gather strength to work in individual and collaborative ways
• Homewood is to be a place of heart, where power dynamics are swallowed up in love for one another; would also be available to the children/youth. This would be glimpsed by people coming to worship in the first few times
• Pastoral aspect of community; express pain, confusion, rites of passage
• Inclusion of young adults open to diverse community not out of guilt but out of opportunity. Increase racial diversity
• Translucency – need to see light from others outside the Meeting. Baltimore in last 2.5 years. Longs for more of us to be in touch with this light. Much that we can learn

C. Closing from Trustees
• We have listened and written what has been shared today.
• We will be looking at what was learned to guide the Meeting and Committees.
• We will provide feedback about what the next steps will be.

D. Themes – What is Homewood Friends Meeting for?
• Place to be in spiritual community with others, connecting with the Inner Light/ Divine
• Spiritual community provides the opportunity for us to be challenged and transformed; supports our spiritual practice
• Spiritual community underpins inner courage; witness and action for peace and justice, including how we live our own lives
• NB: From group 7 - “The common theme of our discussion was **community**: a community that transcends the tensions between activism and the more spiritual; that provides mutual caring and that is grounded in Quaker tradition and spirit.”