

Notes from FMA Resources Forum
December 9, 2018

Julian Cosmann Cooke facilitated the discussion. He began by stating a goal of identifying a process that would continue movement towards unity in the Resources review process.

We began to review the document which Julian had prepared which had three columns; The first column is the Quaker Testimony; the second column a Category; the third column listed the Possibilities identified during the Resources Retreat of Oct 20, 2018.

The discussion ranged freely with many of those present sharing their insights. Some of the sharing tried to identify principles, which could guide the meeting in prioritizing among the possibilities. These included:

- > avoid starting from scratch; e.g. identify and work with existing programs in the broader community
- > favor possibilities which serve more people rather than a few
- > follow spiritual leadings – not cost benefit analysis
- > focus on possibilities that require human resources
- > consider possibilities that require one-time versus ongoing effort
- > favor possibilities that welcome younger generations
- > any new undertaking will require full picture of FMA's financial resources
- > prioritize those possibilities that “jump off the page” and will bring out many who are willing to help

It was also noted that before considering options requiring significant financial resources, the Meeting needs a more thorough understanding of the Meeting's financial assets and commitments. Members of the Finance and Administration Committee present noted that the committee is working to assemble that information so that it can be presented in a form that is easy to digest.

Some of the suggestions that “jump off the page” included:

- > outreach and joint work with community organizations
- > earth related possibilities – environment, climate change, food, etc.
- > providing space for local non-profits
- > creating a labyrinth for walking meditation

The notes from this session will be sent to all who participated in the Resources Retreat and made available on the FMA website.

The Resources committee will meet in January to consider how best to include these suggestions and continue the process.