

October 31,2019

Dear Mike,

I was very glad to receive your letter of September 19. The related maps, dots and details really show the challenge Jacksonville MM is facing. I made enough color copies for both EC and W&M at FIBM. They were gratefully received. We missed your presence at FIBM. I am also aware that Joel Cook was able to reach Baltimore Meeting to acquire their guidance for changing a MM to a WG, as well as actually laying down the meeting. The very last I have seen, is that you are working on the latter.

At our committee meeting, 10/5/2019, we spent considerable time on finding ways to reach out to those struggling MM's and WG's. I think it's at least half of all MM's and WG's on SEYM's list of participating groups, according to the Directory. This is an abysmal record and W&M is struggling to address the glaring need for better connection, in general, and spiritual support, specifically.

While there are various ways to communicate (phone calls, e-mail, letters, etc.), these all have their drawbacks and human limitations. While not ruling out their use, we are agreed the literal human visitation is most powerful. We have agreed on this before! We, as a body, need to promote the use of resources already available to all groups, such as Earth Care, Young People, and FWCC's program of visiting ministers. This time we are more committed to get this done! Yes, we Quakers (and human beings) are pretty set in our own ruts, and we must challenge ourselves to change, and become more committed to the task before us.

I am aware that you have been in touch with others on EC, as well as Gainesville MM. Have you reached any further steps you are now taking? Just wondering, no pressure intended.

I hope this finds you well and in a peaceful place. I look forward to seeing you in January, if not before.

Sincerely in The Light,

Clara Diaz