

**Ad Hoc Committee on Opportunities for Our Future**  
**Bethesda Friends Meeting**  
**Update – 12<sup>th</sup> Month 2015**

The Ad Hoc Committee has met twice so far, once on 11/29/2015 and a second time on 12/3/2015. We started by reviewing our charge from the meeting. Doug Smith will serve as clerk, with the possibility that a co-clerk will be designated later.

December, January, and February Schedule

- An initial information and listening session is being planned for December 13 at 9:15 in the Meeting Room. We urge you all to come. Anticipated topics include:
  - Use of the BFM web site for communications;
  - Sharing M&W's "space for spirit" thoughts;
  - Report from an initial meeting held between a sub-group of our committee, ENNEAD (the architectural firm employed by Sidwell Friends School), and Katie Lindsay, CFO and Assistant Head of School; and
  - An opportunity for Friends to share questions and concerns to address as the Meeting's discernment process unfolds.
- Additional community-wide meetings on January 17 (with a snow date of January 24) and February 21, both at 9:15 in the Meeting Room.
- Ministry and Worship plans a variety of sessions to prepare for the Spiritual State of the Meeting report, which we hope will provide an opportunity to reflect together both on the spiritual state of the meeting and on this transition for our Meeting. The queries posed by M&W for consideration are:
  1. What does it mean to be a spiritual community?
  2. What is our responsibility to one another as members of the same spiritual community?
  3. What can I bring to the Meeting in this time of transition to support all of us?
  4. What are the opportunities to strengthen our spiritual community, as we reflect on this transition? What is my role in identifying these opportunities?

M&W's schedule for discussion of these issues includes:

- January 10, 2016: SSOM conversation tables at potluck
- January 24, 2016, 12:30 p.m.: Worship sharing (Meeting Room)
- January 31, 2016, 9:30 a.m.: Worship sharing (Music Room)
- Additional information sessions, threshing sessions, worship sharing, and called meetings will be scheduled in the future.

Communications

- The *ad hoc* committee will regularly provide updates at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business.
- Members of the *ad hoc* committee will be designated to serve as liaisons for each BFM committee.
- We are exploring options for two-way information sharing on the BFM web site.
- Minutes will be taken at all *ad hoc* committee meetings, and will be posted on the web site.

Meetings of the *ad hoc* committee

- The next meetings of the ad hoc committee will be on January 14 and February 18, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Meetings will be open. Location information will be published in the newsletter and the bulletin.

Members of the *ad hoc* committee

Alex Bell  
Marion Ballard  
Peirce Hammond  
Susan Kaul  
Gail Kohanek  
Jabez McClelland  
Doug Smith  
Ralph Steinhardt  
Amy Lear White