

Spiritual State of the Meeting for 2022  
Takoma Park Friends Meeting-Preparative

Takoma Park Friends Meeting-Preparative (TPFM) is a small preparative meeting that is part of Adelphi Friends Meeting (AFM). TPFM meets regularly for worship and monthly for business.

Our status as a preparative meeting allowed us to participate in anti-racism activities of AFM, such as attending the film series discussions and supporting adoption of a minute, organized by the AFM change group. TPFM attenders participated in these and other AFM programs and committees.

Our small size fits in with a deep, largely silent worship, which is valued by attenders. There is no rule against spoken messages, but in practice these do not arise often. They are valued when they do arise, as much as is the silence. Our sense of worship is also strengthened by our singing practice, which is to sing one song after in-person silent worship. We extend the sense of worship into business meeting by calling it “meeting for worship for the conduct of business”, by listening to all, and by being willing to reconsider, so as not to press attenders to speak quickly to matters and thus create space for worship.

TPFM has been aware for several years that its small size presents challenges. We still have work to do in terms of growing and becoming more diverse, and did not make much progress on these goals in 2022, but we are holding our own and continue our efforts towards these ends. For example, each year our outreach activities include having a presence at the Takoma Park Street Festival and Folk Festival. On an ongoing basis, we also offer worship opportunities at varying times, places, and via other modalities, in addition to our regular in-person meeting on Sunday mornings. Ours is a caring, supportive community; despite our limited resources. When someone has a need, someone steps up to meet the need.

We do in fact have a sign, and are considering updating the wording on it to make more explicit that we are welcoming to all.