



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Gathering on Hybrid Meetings Held on 26 January 2021

Background

A version of these notes was also posted to the PYM Website site as a story. Check out the story [here](#). In the fall of 2020, two gatherings took place – one for monthly meeting leaders and another for quarterly meeting leaders. The pandemic was a big topic of discussion, and so we had a follow up communication wherein we asked monthly and quarterly meetings to let us know who in their communities had experience with virtual and hybrid meetings.

The 1.26.21 Gathering on Hybrid Meetings

The gathering that took place on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 focused on hybrid meetings. Hybrid meetings are gatherings of some kind (worship, events, or otherwise) that bring together people both in person and virtually. We recorded the session. Check it out on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x4fONGzJcl>

We invited the people identified by their communities as having experience in this topic, and the word spread. The gathering was originally intended to be something more preliminary, and spirit moved many to dive more deeply.

We invited Molly Burgoyne, clerk of Third Haven Meeting in Eastern Maryland, to speak about Third Haven's process in developing hybrid meetings. Some of Molly's points:

- The unexpected outcome of the process was the emergence of sense of deeply shared connection with everyone who was involved in getting the tech to work.
- After meeting only virtually during the first part of the pandemic, the meeting experimented with a hybrid model in May of 2020 at a time when some of the restrictions on gathering had been lifted.
- As a first step, the meeting called together all the Clerks of its committees for discussion and discernment.
- Pastoral Care Committee checked in with as many members of the meeting community to get a sense of people's concerns.
- The Worship & Ministry developed a way to set up worship outside in a way that emulated sacred space.
- With the meeting's care taker who has a sideline job in a rock & roll band, which helped a lot. He had equipment that could be set up on the ground integrated with a lap top and a camera set up on a tripod. Friends were invited to stand six feet away from the mic when they had a message.



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- A quick sound check was important to do every time, especially to ensure that no one else had joined the Zoom meeting from their phone which would have created a reverberation.
- **If you want to hear more about what Molly shared**, get in touch with Zachary Dutton at zdutton@pym.org who will forward your inquiry to her.

We also invited Susan Vorwerk from Byberry Meeting in Pennsylvania who spoke about a specific technology that Byberry as well as Upper Dublin meetings have found useful. Susan shared a PowerPoint presentation, the slides of which can be found [here](#). If you'd like to be in touch with Susan, you can email Zachary at zdutton@pym.org. The particular technology that Byberry and Upper Dublin chose was funded grant funds available through the Membership Development Granting Group. To find out more about this funding opportunity and to apply, visit this page on the website: