

UPPER DUBLIN FRIENDS MEETING STRATEGIC PLANNING 2025

To recap: in July 2024, Friends met and considered several options for the revitalization of Upper Dublin Friends Meeting, including a School of the Spirit program and hiring a community engagement coordinator like Byberry Monthly Meeting. [link to report].

In May 2025, Friends responded to a survey to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the meeting. Here is a summary of the responses: [link to full report]

Strengths		Weaknesses		Most interest	
Worship	12	Diversity	5	Diversity	5
Hospitality	12	Healing	4	Worship	3
Contemplation	11	Testimony	4	Testimony	3
Beauty	10	Justice	3	Justice	3
Reflection	10	Discernment	2	Hospitality	2
Healing	8	Reflection	2	Contemplation	2
Justice	8	Beauty	1	Healing	2
Diversity	6	Contemplation	1	Reflection	2
Discernment	5	Worship	0	Beauty	1
Testimony	5	Hospitality	0	Discernment	1

On May 28, Friends met at Upper Dublin meetinghouse to consider the state of the meeting and the proposal to begin a revitalization project. Some of the ideas that came out of that discussion are here: [link to full report]

- Host a Queer-friendly Bible study or a Queer-friendly Quaker study group
- Invest in Unplug and Recharge (more frequent, more publicity)
- Host an AFSC advocacy group: start with a speaker, read the newsletter together, choose a topic to study and an action each month
- Post the self-guided historical tour brochures and a QR code to recorded video or audio tour and a donation box in the garden

Next steps: On August 17, Friends will gather again to review the results and consider three options for the future of Upper Dublin Friends Meeting. These proposals were developed by Robin Mohr in light of the previous discussions. She will lead us through a series of questions to consider the options. This evening will not be a time to make a final decision. It will be a time to talk about the proposals and consider their implications.

If a sense of unity around one of the proposals (or a new alternative) emerges, then a minute will be drafted to consider at the September business meeting. If unity is not emerging yet, then we will schedule another session to more formally thresh through the leading proposals before September 21.

If financial support is required to carry out the decision of the meeting, the request from Upper Dublin will be included in a letter of inquiry that will be submitted to the Shoemaker Fund on behalf of Abington Quarterly Meeting, Byberry MM and UDMM on October 15 to request funding.

Three proposals:

One: Reduce expectations.

- Write task descriptions for the three basic functions of the meeting: Treasurer, Clerk, Worship and Ministry.
- Rotate the placeholders every six months.
- Hire a property management company.

Two: Try a small experiment

- Pick one new project that the meeting will work on from the list generated at the June session.
- Everyone volunteers to take on some part of the project.

Three: Commit to new growth.

- Hire a community engagement coordinator to carry out events at the meetinghouse in 2026.
- Allocate funds from UDMM budget and apply for additional funds from Shoemaker.
- Name a hiring committee and a supervisor
- Welcome all visitors to attend worship