

SCYM State of the Yearly Meeting Report 2021

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic around the world are reflected in experiences of our members, our monthly meetings, and our yearly meeting. Monthly meetings have not been able to meet in person for the past year, and our yearly meeting sessions have been virtual.

Coping with the physical separation has been met with video conferencing software which allows a large or small group to see one another and share thoughts and opinions. In this way we have still managed to have business sessions with Friends decision making, to participate in workshops, and to hear inspirational speakers. In spite of some disadvantages this format has caused, it has also provided the benefit of a closer touch with former members now physically distant and visitors to our yearly meeting who would not otherwise have been able to attend in person. Having been pushed out of our accustomed comfort zones, we've also taken advantage of an extended schedule, spreading events over more days than we are able to in person.

The state of the meeting reports from monthly meetings also reflect the stress that meetings and their members are feeling. In spite of the best efforts to be gathered meetings, it is evident that these conditions are not as satisfactory. Perhaps because of the sense of physical separation or perhaps simply from the stress of the times, monthly meetings often find members less engaged with the usual committee work of the meetings.

There is a tangible sense of yearning to be able to get together again in person and for the world to seem more 'normal' even with the recognition that some shifts in our world will be permanent.