

Madison Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

1704 Roberts Court, Madison, Wisconsin

Robin Greenler, Presiding Clerk
Madison Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Madison, Wisconsin

Wisconsin State Supreme Court
April 26, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Madison Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to strongly counter the concern that Evers Safer at Home order might decrease access to religious support and expression.

The Madison Quaker Meeting has been following Ever's Safer at Home Orders by conducting all of our religious activities including robust Sunday services by online web conferencing (Zoom). We have been doing so since March 13 when we closed our meetinghouse to all activities. Online web conferencing activities have included two regular services on Sunday mornings, weekly adult education sessions, Sunday School classes for ages preschool through high school, our monthly Business Meetings sessions, social gatherings, committee meetings, and Clearness Meetings for consideration of individuals applying for membership. We are prepared to continue to do this as long as necessary and can and will conduct online memorials and weddings, if needed.

While being unable to worship in person has been a loss, we have also noticed that the online format has increased accessibility for members less able to travel, as well as members or attenders who live at a distance. We have been regularly joined in worship by individuals from all over the country. Ironically the online format has increased accessibility to our worship for many individuals.

We are committed to the online format in order to protect and support the health and safety of our Quaker community and of our broader society for as long as necessary. Governor Ever's Safer at Home orders protect us all, especially the most vulnerable amongst us; this is a witness that we strongly support. Lifting the Safer at Home Orders would place many people at severe risk of sickness and death and would be an unconscionable act. The witness to protecting life and safety must come before politics, economics or convenience.

Thank you,

Robin Greenler

Robin Greenler,
Presiding Clerk of Madison Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.