

Confidential Survey:

Summary of Results

One hundred and thirty one Friends provided responses to the survey. And a great number of comments were included in response to each of the questions. This is an attempt to summarize the 46 page report and convey the statistical results together with a sense of the written comments on the questions that were not statistical (did not require selection of an answer or ranking options). Missing is a sense of the many comments made to each of the statistical questions.

We hope that this document provides a sense of the opinions held by Adelphi Friends, and the degree to which they are shared. But we encourage Friends interested in reviewing the range of comments to view the full report on the Adelphi Web (www.adelphifriends.org/bof/).

Our Most Compelling Needs. Friends were asked to register their agreement or disagreement that money should be raised and spent on the following needs, using a scale that included both Agree Strongly and Agree as well as both choices with Disagree. Then they were asked to rank the needs they agreed with starting with 1 = most important, 2 = next most important, etc.

The following table is a simplification of the survey report. It combines all Agree responses (both Agree Strongly and Agree) and all Disagree responses. It presents the needs in the approximate order in which Friends agreed that money should be raised and spent to meet the need.

The lines ranked 3 through 7 are shaded to indicate that the statistical difference between these five needs is insignificant; each is rated roughly the same as the others.

1. Meeting House

		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>Total*</u>	<u>No</u>	
		<u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Opinion</u>	
1	Handicapped accessibility, including bathrooms and sound system	103	96.3%	4	3.7%	107	10
2	Improved eco-friendliness, sustainability, energy efficiency	102	94.4%	6	5.6%	108	12
3	Better, more functional kitchen	76	84.4%	14	15.6%	90	31
4	Flexible, multi-use space, capable of more regular, ongoing use throughout the week	72	80.9%	17	19.1%	89	27
5	Modern bathrooms	75	79.8%	19	20.2%	94	26
6	More attractive and functional social space	71	78.9%	19	21.1%	90	29
7	Improved overall appearance, a comfortable, welcoming space with good aesthetics	74	75.5%	24	24.5%	98	22
8	Improved acoustics	59	75.6%	19	24.4%	78	42
9	Adequate storage space	55	70.5%	23	29.5%	78	40
10	Adequate space for weddings and memorial services	53	67.1%	26	32.9%	79	40
11	More natural light	45	63.4%	26	36.6%	71	46

2. White House

		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>Total*</u>	<u>No</u>	
		<u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Opinion</u>	
1	Improved eco-friendliness, sustainability, energy efficiency	98	92.5%	8	7.5%	106	10
2	Modern bathrooms, accessible to the handicapped	93	93.0%	7	7.0%	100	12
3	Additional First Day School space and facilities	77	85.6%	13	14.4%	90	24
4	More attractive and functional rooms	68	84.0%	13	16.0%	81	31
5	Office space, including dedicated records storage (could be in an expanded meeting house)	61	80.3%	15	19.7%	76	37

* Total number of Friends who gave their opinion on the need.

Location of the Meeting. Help us to understand how important the location of our Meeting is to you.

3. **Moving away from our present location.** Please check the response that most closely expresses your position.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
I would oppose moving the Meeting under most circumstances	35	29.9%
I would consider other locations on their merits, but I have a strong preference to stay where we are.	43	36.8%
I would consider other locations on their merits.	39	33.3%
Total responses	117	100.0%

See the full Survey Report for comments.

4. **Moving to the Friends Community School (FCS) property.**

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
I would oppose moving to the Meeting to the FCS property under any circumstances/	42	36.2%
I would consider moving the Meeting to the FCS property, and support evaluating the pros and cons.	61	52.6%
I would prefer to move to the FCS property.	13	11.2%
Total responses	116	100.0%

See the full Survey Report for comments.

Size of the Meeting. Questions have been raised in threshing sessions to date about the size of the Meeting. Please let us know your preferences.

5. Size of the Meeting.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
I am satisfied with the present size of the meeting	87	73.7%
I would prefer a slightly smaller meeting	15	12.7%
I would prefer a slightly larger meeting	10	8.5%
I would prefer a significantly smaller meeting	6	5.1%
Total responses	118	100.0%

See the full Survey Report for comments.

6. Splitting the Meeting. If the commute to a new location as well as Meeting facilities issues were to your satisfaction, which statement best expresses your feelings on splitting from the present Meeting?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
I would most likely remain in the larger community.	72	66.1%
I would consider joining Friends in a smaller Meeting	37	33.9%
Total responses	109	100.0%

See the full Survey Report for comments.

Final Questions

7. What is your biggest concern, reservation, or hesitation about proposed changes to our facilities?

Of the 98 Friends who responded to this question, over 1/3 registered concern about financing, about the ultimate cost of changes, how the money would be raised, could it be raised, the financial impact on members and attenders, and concern about taking on debt.

The next most frequently listed concern was about moving away from our present location. Many registered their love for the present location and a strong desire to remain, while some registered openness and a few registered a preference to move to the FCS property.

Maintaining the community of the meeting throughout the change process was another commonly registered concern. As one Friend wrote, "I'm concerned that moving forward will be divisive and that Friends might become polarized on choices rather than working together in a Spirit-led way."

Some Friends registered concern that the process used to ultimately define and make changes will be too fast, or too slow, or insufficiently inclusive, or that we will be unable to come to consensus on any significant changes.

Finally, a number of Friends registered concern that the discussions and planning will stray too far from connection with our "mission", or "calling"; that it will no longer be in keeping with our tradition of simplicity and plainness, with our Testimonies.

This summary offered by Bud Antrim.

8. What is your greatest joy, or positive feelings about proposed changes to our facilities?

Ninety-four individuals responded, and many offered multiple comments on issues raised earlier in the survey, including accessibility, environmental stewardship, the use of money, Friends Community School, the spiritual imperative in addressing facilities, the need for unity/comity, and the prospect of moving or relocating the meeting.

Friends are encouraged to read the comments themselves – some as a brief as one word, with the longest response amounting to three sentences – to better apprehend the thinking of these our friends.

For purposes of discussion, and offered with the certainty that the comments themselves are subject to multiple and sometimes contradictory interpretation, the following summary may be helpful as the community moves forward.

Supporting change: Fifty three respondents devoted most or all of their comments in expressing a positive view on the possibility of change and in how the process of considering such change is proceeding.

A representative comment: *"Meeting members are coming together to make great decisions in a thoughtful and inspired manner."*

Accessibility. Eleven respondents spent most or all of their words expressing the belief that Adelphi needs to address accessibility.

A representative comment: *"Making the meeting's facilities more handicapped friendly, and giving the children more usable space is a positive move."*

Comity/Unity/Peace: Twenty eight respondents devoted most or all of their words to encouraging that Facilities Committee engagement within the community proceed in an inclusive, 'friendly,' supportive climate so that everyone can be involved, every voice heard, including those who may not agree with the dominant opinions. It is important to note that no one complained that the Facilities Committee is NOT doing this, rather, that the comity at hand needs to be continued.

A representative comment: *"I am very impressed by the careful threshing and listening we are doing. I am hopeful that we'll slowly be able to grow into solutions that will not fracture our community in painful ways."*

Environment: Eight respondents devoted most or all of their words to express the hope and joy that whatever road is taken Adelphi will commit itself to upgrading, rebuilding or building new facilities mindful of the need for environmental stewardship.

A representative comment: *"People are taking the conservation/green/sustainability concerns more seriously now."*

Money: Two respondents devoted most or all of their words to express concern over how money is spent on facilities.

A representative comment: *"I would love to have a building that didn't drain our time and resources, and I would love to have a larger space for community gatherings that require a larger space than the meeting room."*

Opposition: Two respondents devoted most or all of their words to express opposition to the options implicit in the discussion on improving Adelphi facilities.

Representative comments: *"Some physical aspects of the Meeting do seem rundown. It would be nice to have everything fresh and clean, but then the challenge is to keep it that way. I think a lot could be done by just getting new furnishings rather than by making structural changes." And "I am not sure I have positive feelings about anything other than fixing up the bathrooms and make the place more accessible."*

Friends Community School: Two respondents devoted most or all of their words to include the school and the perception that there is a wound within Adelphi over the FCS.

The comments: *"I'm new, so I don't know what the schism about FCS is, but there definitely is one. I hope doing something with FCS will help heal that breach." And "Whether we move to FCS or not, the current discussion is bringing the conflicts with FCS over the years to the forefront."*

Spirituality: Six respondents devoted most or all of their words to discuss the spiritual aspect the facilities process.

A representative comment: *"More spiritual space."*

Kids: Two respondents devoted most or all of their words to address issues involving young friends.

Comment: *"My greatest hope is that whatever happens with the facilities, we find ways in which all members can contribute (even children)." And "We need to listen to young friends."*

Nuance: *"I want the central focus of this change to be moving our community closer together – rather than having a nice place to meet."*

Offered in the light. Ray Lane

7. Please add here any additional comments you want to make about these or other issues.

A number of people expressed their support for the project (*Let's go for it!*) and thanked the facilities group for their *"hard work and creativity"* and for *"developing this process and guiding us through it."* There was a request for more opportunities to discuss these issues while another respondent preferred that others more skilled in evaluating such projects *"refine proposals and present them in a thorough and articulate fashion."*

New ideas, not covered elsewhere in the survey, included the suggestion to acquire (buy or lease) the vacant lot across the street for parking; budget for a part-time paid maintenance person; create a design for greater connection with nature and the outdoors, as with an outdoor pavilion or meeting spot; consider prefab construction; visit Langley Hill Meeting to experience a successful remake; build a more functional nursery with child-size bathroom facilities; focus on fire and electrical safety issues; support Takoma Park Preparatory Meeting to grow in number of attenders/members and support them financially to buy a building to grow into; consider access to public transport—pointing out that a larger Takoma Park Meeting could be metro-accessible.

Others used this item to reiterate strong feelings tapped earlier in the survey, including moving or not moving to FCS, as well as the need to deal with interpersonal conflict and unresolved differences vis-à-vis FCS. The need for accessible bathrooms, record storage space, and better spaces for socializing, meetings, and First-Day School was repeated. Some feel that building changes should flow from clarity about our spiritual focus or the decision about whether we will be a large or small meeting. Others repeated their pleasure with the Meeting House as is (*don't try to change a good thing*).

Some comments were less enthusiastic about certain changes, as one who *"will contribute financially to the future of this meeting,"* but cautioned they *"would not contribute to... trendy... artifacts like solar power or green roofs."*

One respondent put in perspective the concern about potentially expensive issues causing strain in the community by pointing out that *"the way we have been doing things now (or not doing them) has also created a strain for far too long, and imposed a heavy burden on too few volunteers;"* while another observed *"We are not proposing a Cathedral so I think spending some money on making the place attractive and functional is not out of line with Quaker value of simplicity."*

Summary by Kate Prager