

Proposal for the Welcoming of Newborn and Recently Adopted Children into the FMW Spiritual Community

Adopted at Meeting for Business, 3.11.2018

- The Friends Meeting of Washington enthusiastically welcomes children born or adopted into families within our Meeting Community.
- When Members and Attenders families have children joining their families, by birth or adoption, they are invited to request that the Marriage and Family Relations convene a meeting for worship with a concern for welcoming their child into our spiritual community (a Welcoming Meeting).
- Marriage and Family Relations will invite the child's parents or guardians to name a clerk for the Welcoming Meeting (the Committee will provide a co-clerk) or, if they prefer, the Committee will identify a clerk and a co-clerk.
- The Welcoming Meeting will be scheduled on a First Day that is convenient for the family for up to half an hour following the regular 10:30-11:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship and children will be especially welcomed to attend. Other dates and times also may be used, depending on the wishes of the involved families. As is the case with Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Marriage, others who care about the child and the family (grandparents, family friends, relatives) also will be welcomed. The Welcoming Meeting may be convened in the main FMW Meeting Room or elsewhere on the FMW Campus, depending on individual family preferences.
- Following the Welcoming Meeting the family may choose to host a celebratory reception or a similar event, but it is not expected.
- For each Welcoming Meeting a welcoming document (certificate or something similar) will be prepared by the family for the welcomed child and FMW Members and Attenders, as well as all those attending the Welcoming Meeting, will be invited to sign. For the child of an FMW Member, the document will welcome them as an Associate Member; for the child of an FMW Attender, the document will welcome them as a Member of our Spiritual Community. The text of the document will express the Friends Meeting of Washington's joy and commitment to help nurture the spiritual wellbeing and growth of the named child.