



Clearness Committee for Gabi Clayton

Read at Olympia Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business
on November 12, 2017.

October 29, 2017

We began with silence and then Gabi shared that she has been an attender for 6 years but has thought of herself as a Quaker since attending John Woolman High School. As a young woman she was inspired by Catholic Workers service to community and became a Catholic for a time but did not agree with all of the Catholic beliefs. Her life has been full of providing service to others. It has included among many other things, running a shelter that mostly hosted battered women and their children, working in homeless services, supporting hate crime victims and their families, and serving in a leadership role with PFLAG Olympia. After stepping back from that role to allow others to step forward, she started attending OFM when Ramona started to give her rides to meeting, and she began to feel like OFM was her spiritual home. Being at worship is a light that is powerful for her.

Gabi has been intentional about asking for membership, taking time and trusting what she needed to share in her request letter. It is important for her to be known for who she is – including as a red diaper baby and a non-theist. She feels that being an atheist does not rule out her having a spiritual journey. That even though she does not believe in a creator she recognizes that people have hearts and souls and “spirit” which is more than their physical body. She believes in the power of love and the importance of people joining together. She honors other’s spiritual paths even if they are different from her own. Her knowledge of Quakers and Quaker testimonies is strong. Noting that the testimonies of peace, integrity, and the stewardship of people are very important to her. She intends to continue as Clerk of Peace on Social Justice and is interested in working with others to more deeply explore what it means to be a Quaker and a non-theist. Perhaps that may mean leading a worship group at Quarterly Meeting about it.

The committee recommends Gabi Clayton as members of Olympia Friends Meeting.

In the Minutes of the Olympia Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business on December 10, 2017:

Gabi Clayton’s membership request was approved by the Meeting.