

Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 10: All age community

Queries for individual reflection

1. How do I feel about the presence of children in meeting, or their absence? Do I enjoy being involved, or do I prefer to leave this to others? Where do my attitudes to children and young people come from, and how have they changed over time?
2. What can I personally do to connect with and support a child or young person in my meeting?
3. How can I support Friends in the meeting who are very involved in children's work? Am I aware of the demands of this service? How can I express my understanding and appreciation?

Queries for pastoral groups

1. How do we exercise care and spiritual nurture of children and young people as individuals? Are we sufficiently aware of the spiritual and other care needs of children and young people? How can we find out?
2. Are we aware of families who don't attend or who don't bring their children to meeting for various reasons? How could we 'reach out to families in our area to discover how their needs and ours might coincide'?
3. How well do we liaise and cooperate with the Friends responsible for children's work in the meeting? How might we support that work more actively?

Queries for meetings

1. What do we understand by 'all age community'? How can we integrate children and young people more fully into the life of the meeting?
2. How will we make sure that everyone involved in the care and inclusion of children and young people in the meeting is aware of our written policy on this? If we lack a written policy, how will we go about drafting one? If no children attend our meeting currently, are we aware of the area meeting policy, and should we write a statement on our intentions regarding welcoming families?
3. Whether we have a thriving children's meeting, or we are getting by, or we have no children at all, do we support and engage in connections across the area meeting on children and young people's work? How might we contribute to keeping this work high on the agenda of our area meeting?