Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 14: Conflict and difficulty in the meeting

Queries for individual reflection
1. What part can I play in supporting helpful behaviour in the meeting? How aware am I that my own actions and ways of being a Friend have an influence on others?
2. What do people find difficult about me? Am I able to empathise with someone who causes difficulty by behaving badly or unwisely?
3. How do I respond to conflict? Do I avoid it; am I anxious to find a compromise; do I want to win? How might my response affect my ability to support others in resolving their differences?

Queries for pastoral groups
1. This chapter lists many behaviours and actions that support community. What can we do to build on the positive ways Friends interact and contribute in the meeting, and encourage more of these?
2. How can we be more alert to signs of difficulty? What are we looking for or what are we turning a blind eye to?
3. What conflict resolution strategies do we feel competent to employ? What nature of difficulty would lead us to look for help outside our meeting?

Queries for meetings
1. 'Our primary task is to nurture the development of a healthy and vital worshipping community.' What can we do as a meeting to actively support the helpful behaviours that contribute to our resilience as our community?
2. When disagreements or difficulties arise between Friends, how will our community support all the people affected? How will we each avoid getting involved in conflict by taking sides?
3. What does it mean to behave as a Friend should? What are the boundaries of acceptable behaviour we agree on as a meeting?