

Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 15: Disability, vulnerability and times of stress

Queries for individual reflection

1. Where do I feel my strengths lie in attending to specific care needs. How will I convey this to others in the meeting or in my pastoral group?
2. What needs might I find it hard to respond to? Are there ways I could allay my discomfort or sense of inadequacy? Might I nevertheless feel able to support a Friend who responds to such a need?
3. What are my learning needs on this topic? Are there aspects of care and support I have given little thought to before now?

Queries for pastoral groups

1. How do we prioritise our time and energies in a meeting with a range of different needs – and some we haven't met so far but should be prepared for?
2. Do we need to identify lacks or make changes in our current provision for certain Friends or groups of Friends? How will we go about this?
3. How can we prepare ourselves to meet an urgent care need we are ill equipped to address or which affects us personally or emotionally? How will we ensure that our way of working together is built on sufficient trust to bear stresses when they occur in our group?

Queries for meetings

1. How disability-aware are we as a meeting? How can we be better informed on practical measures we should implement, and about helpful practice to employ in each area of meeting activity?
2. Are there some care needs that predominate in our meeting? How can we ensure that attending to these doesn't overstretch our resources or mean we cannot respond to other less pressing needs?
3. How do we care for the Friends who are giving a lot of service in caring for others?