

Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 19: Making connections

Queries for individual reflection

1. What kinds of positive contribution do I make when working in groups? What are my less helpful habits? How can I support the positive contributions of others?
2. How often do I use informal or chance conversations for transacting meeting business? What safeguards should I observe to ensure these are helpful and in right ordering?
3. How do I feel about welcoming newcomers to meeting and engaging in conversation afterwards? How can I do this in ways that make genuine connections? Recalling an occasion when I felt uncomfortable arriving somewhere for the first time, what should I do differently for a newcomer here?

Queries for pastoral groups

1. How do we ensure a range of learning and other group activities that allow everyone in meeting to have choices that will work for them? Which Friends find it hardest to attend groups or are least inclined to? How can their needs be accommodated too?
2. What are our own training or learning needs regarding working in groups? How might we introduce less familiar approaches to learning and sharing into the meeting and help Friends develop skills and confidence, including in setting up and leading groups?
3. How can we encourage more informal connections among Friends, including people who are less involved in the meeting, and between generations?

Queries for meetings

1. What is going on that enables visitors, and all of us, to experience our meeting as welcoming and friendly? How can we build on connections that work well and create more fruitful connections where we find lacks?
2. What opportunities exist for people to share their stories, spiritual journeys, reflections or experience? How could we involve more Friends in such activities and make them a more regular part of the life of our meeting?
3. What part do all our informal connections with one another play in our community? How can we encourage the positive life in these interactions and ensure they don't exclude certain individuals or groups? What more can we do as a meeting to encourage conversation and friendly contacts between individuals?