

Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 20: Being in touch in a modern world

Queries for individual reflection

1. What is my relationship with electronic communications? Where can I seek support and encouragement if I lack confidence? How could I support and encourage others if I am more skilled or at ease than they are?
2. Have I – or other people I know – had experience of unfortunate consequences arising from email use or misuse? How did this affect my emailing habits, and what advice would I give to other users of email?
3. How would I contribute to a review of communications in the meeting? Am I prepared to move with the times, or even eager to do so? What might be the consequences of Friends resisting change?

Queries for pastoral groups

1. How can we facilitate learning and help Friends develop confidence with ‘new’ technologies? What could we do to encourage intergenerational support?
2. ‘Social media will become increasingly for many a natural way of maintaining contact and exchanging information.’ How do we respond to this idea? How can we become more aware of the implications for pastoral care and be part of raising awareness in the meeting?
3. How effectively are we using electronic communications to conduct eldership and oversight business? How will we develop this aspect of our pastoral practice?

Queries for meetings

1. Are we making good use of electronic communications as a meeting? Have we got a well-maintained, attractive and informative website, which encourages enquirers to want to see for themselves? If we need help with this or other electronic communications, where will we turn?
2. Do we need to discuss good practice in electronic communications as a meeting, perhaps agreeing to certain boundaries and drawing up guidance? How should we go about this?
3. How do we respond to the increasing use of social media, both in the culture around us and by the Society of Friends nationally? What might this ask of us in our meeting?