

Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 2: Ways of working together

Queries for individual reflection

1. How do I understand the distinction between eldership and oversight? Which feels more important or less important to me, and why is that?
2. Where do I think my meeting's system of pastoral care fits in the grid? Do other Friends agree with me? (Consider asking a few.)
3. 'It is the responsibility of everyone to be part of ensuring the right holding of worship, for caring for one another and for building community.' How far do I agree with this? What is my part? What is the part of Friends not appointed to eldership or oversight roles?

Queries for pastoral groups

1. Where do we see overlap between eldership and oversight, and where differences? How do we achieve 'close co-operation' in practice?
2. Where does our system of pastoral care fit in the grid? Has this changed over time? Does it need to change in any way?
3. 'Being included and being involved are the two basic building blocks of community.' How actively do we encourage Friends' involvement in the provision of eldership and oversight?

Queries for meetings

1. Why is pastoral care structured in a certain way in our meeting? What are the advantages of our way of providing eldership and oversight, and what are the disadvantages?
2. How active are eldership and oversight in the life of our meeting? Do we want it to be more or less active? What else would we like to see happening that isn't happening now?
3. 'Pastoral care, which in many other churches is given in part by a separated ministry, is in our yearly meeting a responsibility shared by all members.' (*Qf&P* 11.12). How far is this true in our meeting?