

Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 6: Worship in the life of the meeting

Queries for individual reflection

1. How aware am I of worship being at the heart of meetings for worship for business, and of contributions offered as ministry? What do I do to support or encourage that understanding?
2. How well does our usual hour-long meeting for worship meet my spiritual needs, or fit with my other commitments or life style? What other ways of holding worship can I imagine working for me?
3. If I were to plan my own Quaker funeral, what would I ask for?

Queries for pastoral groups

1. What are the things we do to support worship as a Quaker practice that permeates all the meeting's activities? How might we instil a habit and appreciation of silence?
2. How well do we support the right ordering of meetings for worship for business? How can we encourage Friends' understanding of the spiritual purpose of business meetings?
3. Are we open to the possibility that experimenting with different ways and times might be a way forward for our meeting? Are there emerging needs in the meeting we should be considering? How could we find out about needs for worship in our locality that are not met by our regular practice?

Queries for meetings

1. What must we do for our way of worship to be also our way of conducting meetings for business? Are there things that make it harder for this to be the reality in our meeting? What can we do to build on the strengths of our existing practice?
2. 'Instead of talking about seeking the will of God, would it not make more sense to talk about seeking a Godly outcome?' If we differ in our perspectives on this, how do we ensure we end up in the same place?
3. How do meetings for worship on special occasions contribute to the worship and community life of our meeting? Might there be special occasions in Friends' lives, other than marriages, funerals and memorial meetings, when worshipping together would be a right and spiritually helpful way of marking it?