

Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 7: Openings for the Spirit

Queries for individual reflection

1. Where else apart from meeting for worship do I seek spiritual nourishment in my meeting community?
2. What spiritual practices or spiritual preparation for worship are meaningful for me? Do I have a part to play in supporting the spiritual preparation or prayer life of other Friends?
3. How do I feel about spiritual diversity in the meeting, and is this an issue for me? How might I contribute to exploration of belief and concepts of God, helping this to be enriching rather than divisive?

Queries for pastoral groups

1. How can we know about spiritual needs in our community? How will we ensure that eldership supports the spiritual life of the meeting in ways that are welcomed by and accessible to Friends?
2. How might we encourage and support Friends' personal spiritual practice? Where does prayer fit in? How do we feel about promoting use of the Bible and other writings, and how might we approach this expectation in the list of elders' responsibilities?
3. In what ways do we address spiritual diversity among Friends, including in our group? How could we go about making opportunities for exploration on matters of belief and concepts of God in our meeting, or in the area meeting?

Queries for meetings

1. We each have different spiritual needs. How will we support one another on our individual journeys? Might we personally have needs and preferences in common with a few others? How will we find this out and respond?
2. In addition to meetings for worship, what are our shared needs for spiritual nurture? What could we do together at other times that will help deepen worship?
3. Are we aware of differences in spiritual or religious perspective in the meeting? How can we be more open to one another in a spirit of enquiry and learning?