



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

# Guidance for Gathering

*"Trust in the Light that gives life and empowers  
everyone who comes into the world."*

- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice

*Written by Emily Provance with Graphics by Bianca Santini-Dumas*



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**Have we made opportunities recently to talk with each other about our experiences of worship, including but not limited to the technical aspects?**



**Are we open to occasionally trying different types of worship, such as singing, worship sharing, queries and stories to see whether this helps some of us connect more deeply with Spirit?**





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Are we patient and loving with one another and willing to be flexible in order to help each other participate in corporate discernment?

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**Corporate Discernment**  
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Are we committed to practices that help everyone participate in Meeting for Business?

Are we all in agreement about how we will use the virtual chat function, ask to speak, approve minutes and so forth?

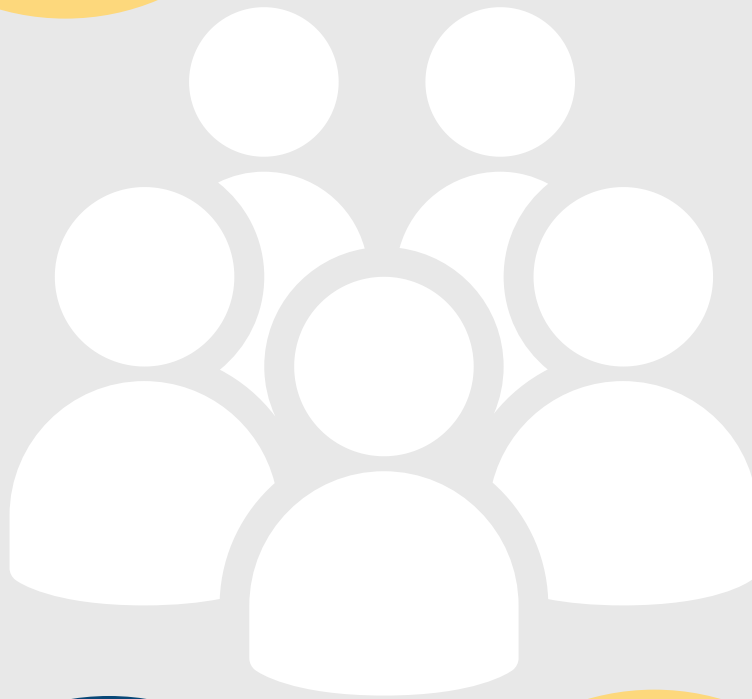


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**Generational Relationships**

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Do all of us make specific efforts to build inter-generational community?

What aspects of inter-generational community feel joyful to us?



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**Religious  
Education**

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Do our children, youth  
and parents feel well  
cared for?

Does our meeting as a whole  
support the religious education  
of children and youth?

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## Religious Education

Adults

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Are we providing regular opportunities for religious education for adult members for our community, including but not limited to newcomers?

Are these opportunities easily accessible to all?

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Are they interactive?



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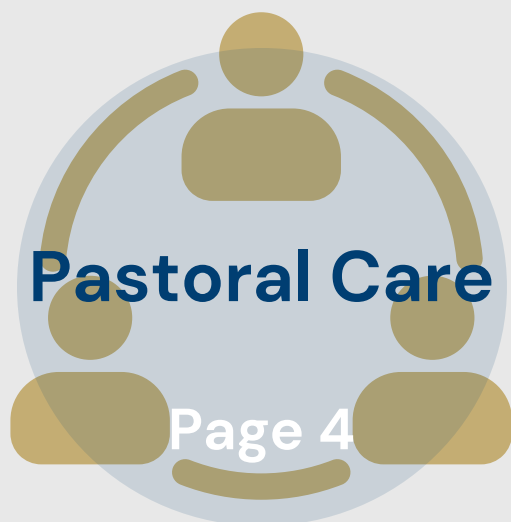
**If a member of our community had a serious problem or joyful life event, would the rest of us know about it? How?**

.....

.....

**Have we found ways in which all members of our community, regardless of physical location, can both give and receive pastoral care?**

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Does our meeting make space  
for social connections on a  
regular basis?



Do we connect socially with  
everyone in the meeting or have we  
subdivided ourselves?



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Do we believe geographically distant members and attenders to be full and equal participants in our meeting community?

Have we come to a sense of the meeting about whether our status as a hybrid or virtual meeting is temporary or permanent?

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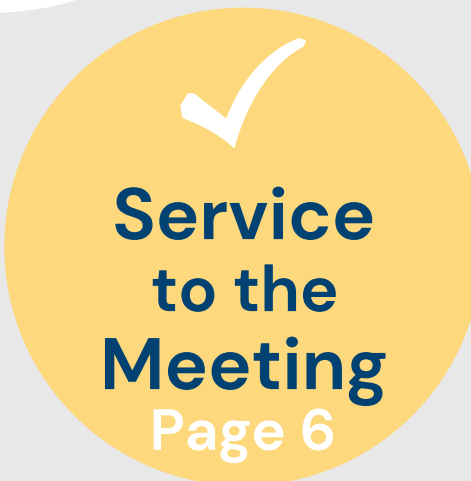
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## Flexibility

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## Nominations

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## Flexibility



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## Nominations

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Do we understand the ways in which various committees' responsibilities may have changed if we shifted from an in-person community to virtual/hybrid?

Do we have a sense of the full list of Friends who consider themselves part of our community and who currently participate regularly in our worship and activities?

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## Nominations

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**Nominations**

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.....

**How are we experimenting with our committee structure and distribution of tasks?**

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**Are we prepared to try new things that might work better for our community?**

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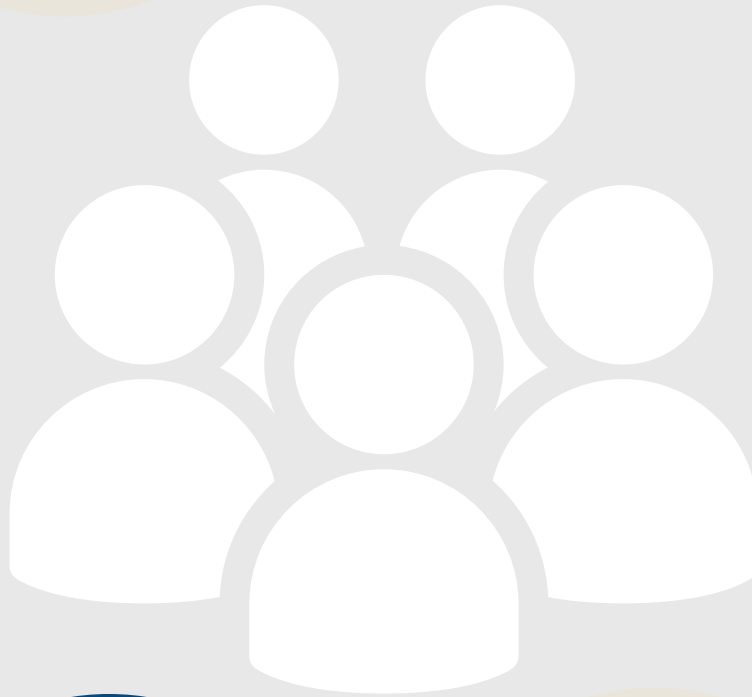


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## Property

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## Property

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## Budgets



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# Property

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What does our property  
(building and grounds)  
mean to each of us?

How are we led to use  
our property?

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## Property

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## Transitions

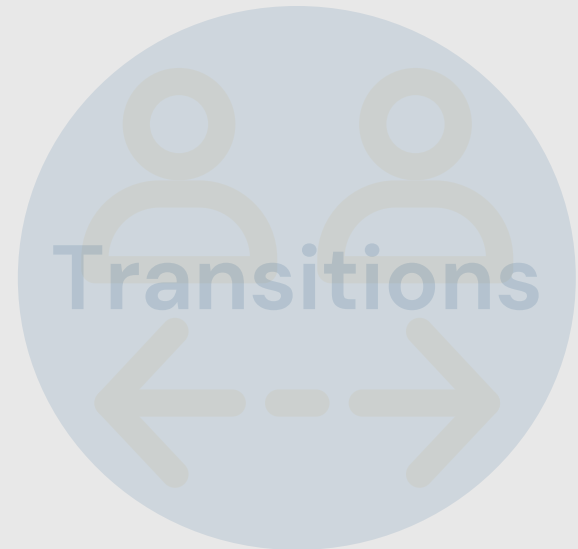
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## Stewardship

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## Budgets

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When we consider our meeting's budget, do we feel as though we are experiencing scarcity, abundance or something in between?



Does our budget accurately reflect our Spirit-led priorities at this time?



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## Property

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## Budgets

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## Stewardship

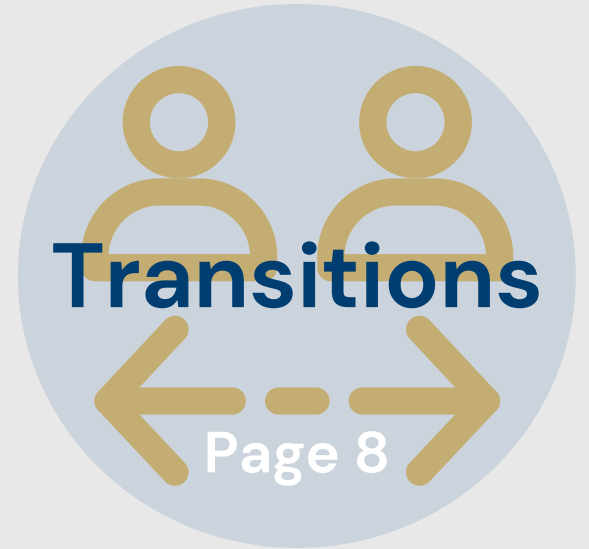
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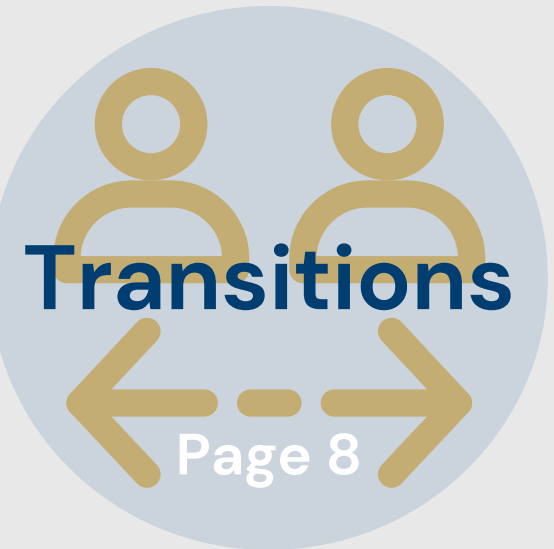


Whose care are  
we under?

Is our meeting a hybrid  
meeting or virtual  
meeting?

Are we a monthly  
meeting, worship group  
or something else?

Is our current  
status a good fit?



What do we think our  
meeting will look like in  
5 years?





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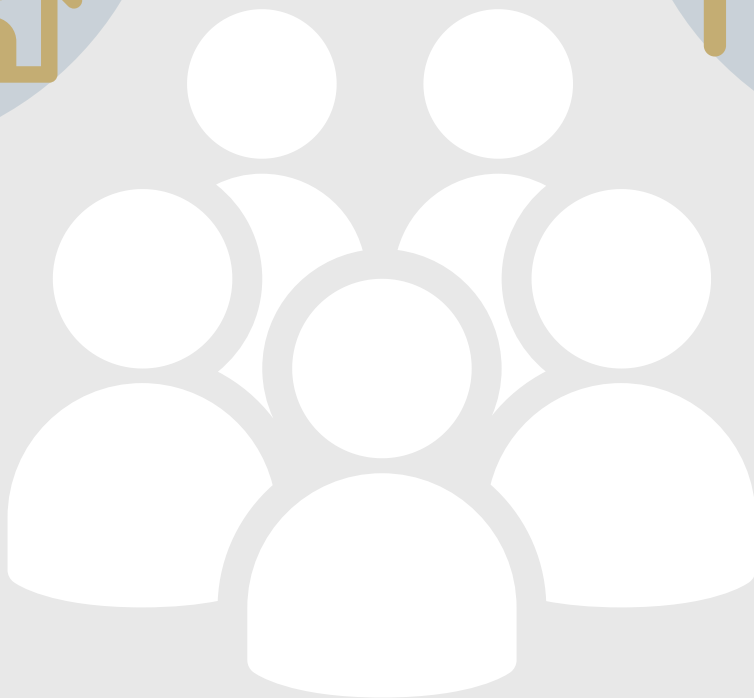
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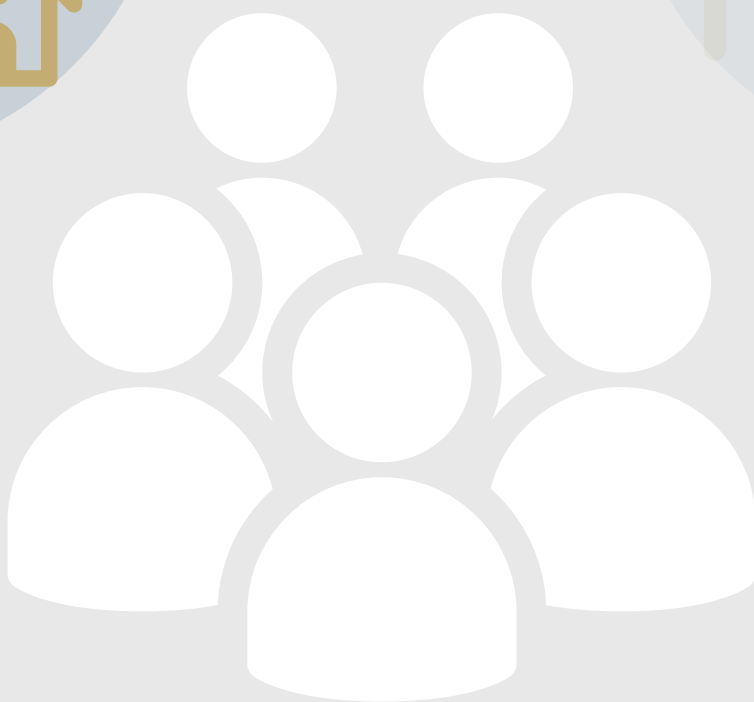


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## Being Good Neighbors

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What does it mean  
to be a good  
neighbor?



## The Local Community

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Are we in right relationship with  
the people who live, work and  
play in the local area?



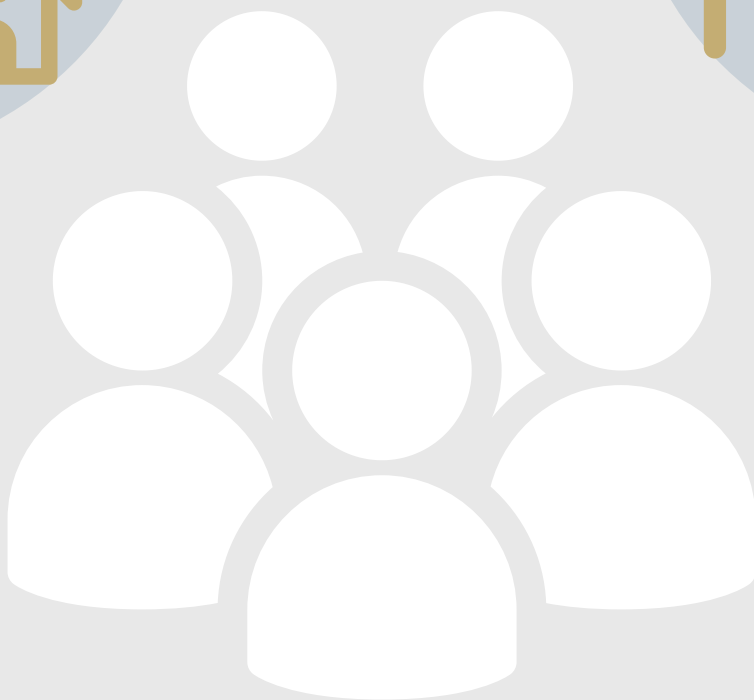
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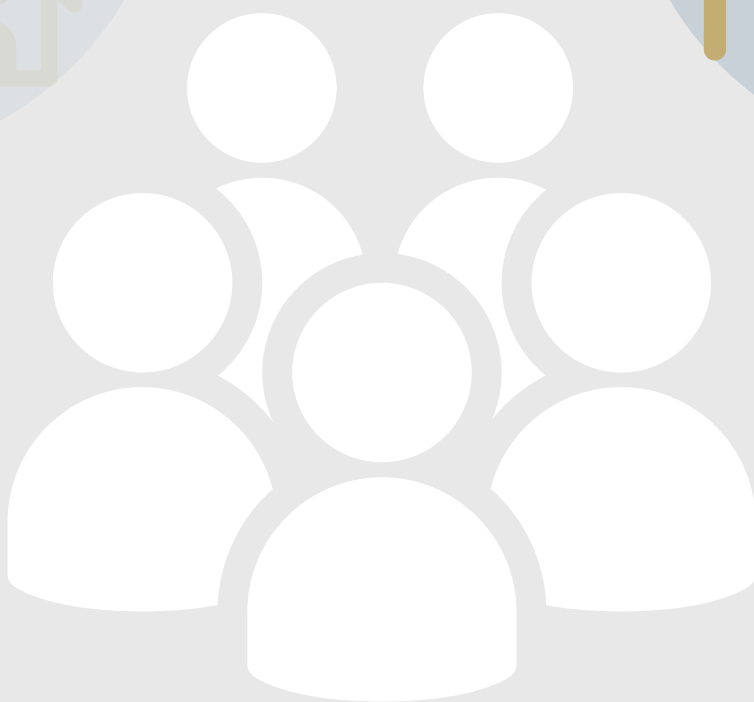
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Being Good  
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Does our meeting  
have a local ministry?

How is that ministry  
supported by the meeting  
as a whole?

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What active steps are we taking to ensure  
that all members and attenders of our  
meeting feel connected to, and informed  
about, our local ministry?

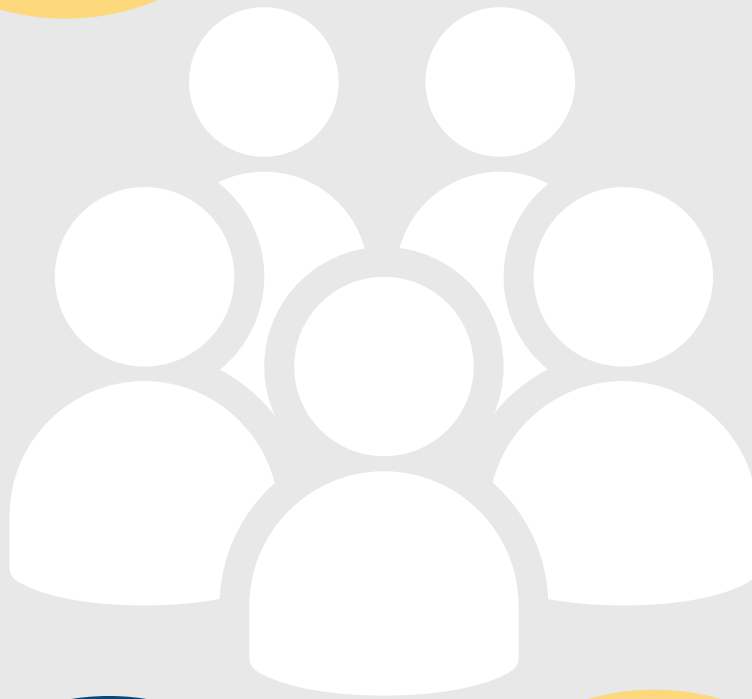


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# Quarterly & Yearly

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# The Wider Body of Friends

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# Quarterly & Yearly

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## The Wider Body of Friends

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Do we offer help and  
expertise when others  
need it?

Are we prepared to ask for  
help from other Friends in  
our quarterly & yearly  
meetings?

Do Friends in our meeting  
feel connected to our  
quarterly & yearly meeting?

Do we understand these groups  
as larger communities of  
Friends of which we are each an  
equal part?



# Quarterly & Yearly

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Intervisitation



What experiences have we had in connecting with large Quaker institutions such as the ones listed in this section?

  
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**Quaker Institutions**  
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Do we encourage Friends to try connecting with various Quaker organizations?

How do we help Friends in our meetings know about opportunities with Quaker organizations?



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When Friends from other meetings visit us, do we welcome them and make an effort to engage in meaningful conversation?

Do we make space to listen to what returning Friends may have experienced or learned?

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Do Friends in our meeting visit other meetings?

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**Outreach**

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**Outreach**  
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**Witness**



## The World Community

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Are we supportive of seekers who are trying to discover whether our meeting is the right place for them long-term?

Do we have a sense of our meeting identity?

Are we prepared to say clearly what sort of meeting we are inviting seekers into?

Are we explicitly welcoming to visitors without overwhelming them?



## Outreach

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**Outreach**

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**Witness**

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**Outreach**



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In what ways does Spirit  
lead us to witness to the  
world as individual Friends?

In what ways does Spirit lead  
us to witness to the world as  
a meeting community?

**Witness**

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Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
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“Dear Friends, keep all your meetings in authority, wisdom and power of Truth and in the unity of the blessed Spirit.”

- **the elders at Balby, 1656**

*“Our Work is Simply to be Faithful”*

- Emily Provance

Visual Presentation created by  
**Bianca Santini-Dumas**

*Guidance for Gathering, written by Emily Provance*