

## **Monthly Meeting Queries for Interim Discipline**

### Meeting for Worship

1. Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent waiting, and for a free and unprogrammed ministry that may be shared by all? Is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together by the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst; and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives? Do we come to meetings for worship with hearts and minds prepared, open and ready to worship in silence or vocal ministry or prayer as the Inward Guide leads us? How does our meeting encourage and support those who may have a gift for ministry in worship? Do we strive to make our meetings for worship welcoming to those who are new to the practice of waiting worship?

### Love and Unity

2. How does our meeting community work to foster and sustain authentic love and unity among its members? Is our community a safe place for individuals to disagree on specific matters while maintaining a sincere love for one another, as people equally beloved by God? How have we cultivated a forgiving spirit, and discouraged destructive criticism of others within the meeting? Do we extend this practice to persons in the public arena who espouse principles and practices with which we disagree?

### Life in Community

3. How do we nurture a sense of community in our meeting in which individuals risk being known deeply? How have we made our meetings for worship and other activities accessible for all people? Does the meeting value the gifts and abilities of its members, encouraging each to share in the commitments of time, effort, and financial support necessary to carry out its work? How do we connect with each other outside formal activities, and do these connections help us care for one another?

### Spiritual Growth

4. How does the meeting provide for the continuing spiritual growth of its members and attenders at every stage of life? What opportunities do we provide for newcomers and seasoned Friends to learn more about our Quaker faith and practice? How does the meeting make members and attenders aware of growth and study opportunities outside the monthly meeting? Does the meeting help individuals overcome financial or other obstacles that might otherwise prevent their participation in these opportunities?

### Inviting and Welcoming

5. How is the meeting visible in its service and witness in the surrounding community? What techniques does the meeting use to help make seekers aware of the meeting and its events, including meeting for worship? Are we careful to make our worship and other practices inviting and transparent to new people and

families? How does the meeting help visitors and seekers learn about Quaker faith and practice? Are nonmembers encouraged to share in Meeting activities and to consider membership when they are in agreement with the principles and practices of Friends?

#### Care of Creation

6. How does the meeting seek to be in right relationship with God's creation of which we are a part? What opportunities does the meeting offer for communing with and learning directly from nature? How is the meeting addressing the challenges of climate change and ecological destruction that face us? Is the meeting active in systemic changes as well as individual ones? What steps is the meeting taking to reduce its own environmental footprint? How is it helping individuals and families adopt and sustain more harmonious ways of living in creation?

#### Equality of all persons in the love of God

7. Does the meeting regularly consider how discrimination, conscious or unconscious, has impaired our faithfulness in engaging people as equals in the love of God? What steps has the Meeting taken to reveal and address racism, classism, sexism, and all other forms of human inequality which exclude, subordinate, oppress, or otherwise harm other human beings? How is the meeting a resource for its members who wish to undertake similar steps as individuals and families?

#### Economic Justice

8. Is the meeting aware of the various financial needs of its members and attenders, offering economic or other assistance as needed? How do we ensure that economic obstacles do not prevent any Friends appointed by the meeting from being able to fulfill their appointed role? Are committees and other meeting representatives mindful of the importance of acting justly in economic matters, including a living wage? How is the meeting addressing issues of economic injustice in the wider society?

#### Peace

9. Do we endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war? Is the meeting vigilant in keeping clear of the "war economy" in all its dealings, investments, and purchases? In what ways is the meeting a resource for its members and attenders, young and old, who wish to examine their own lives to see where the seeds of war might lie and how they are called to respond? How is the meeting addressing issues of systemic violence in its locality, state, and nation?

#### Meeting for Business

10. Are our meetings for business held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance? What steps has the meeting undertaken in the past year to educate individuals, especially newcomers, about the principles underlying our practices in meeting for business and how they apply to specific situations? Do Friends

demonstrate their acceptance of the responsibilities of membership by attending meeting for business whenever possible?