

Travel Documents and Endorsements

This document describes the travel minute and/or the letter of travel we recommend be carried by Friends visiting in ministry. It also shows how they should be endorsed by the clerk of the body being visited.

Minutes of Travel

A “travel minute” is a formal document from a monthly meeting on behalf of a Friend, indicating that the bearer has the approval of the meeting to travel in the ministry. A minute of travel usually:

- Sends greetings to Friends being visited
- Asks those Friends to give loving care to the visiting Friend
- Confirms that the visiting Friend is a member of the meeting and has the approval of the meeting to travel in the ministry
- Introduces the Friend and the reason for the travel
- Affirms the gifts of the traveling Friend
- Closes with a prayer that the travel is blessed

A minute of travel is signed by the clerk of the traveling Friend’s meeting noting approval of the meeting. If the Friend is traveling outside of the yearly meeting, it is sometimes also appropriate for the letter to be approved by the quarterly meeting and signed by its clerk, and then by the yearly meeting and signed by its clerk.

Sample Minute of Travel

Date [14 Ninth Month, 2016]

Dear Friends:

Loving greetings from Friends at [Harbor] Monthly Meeting in [Great Lakes] Yearly Meeting. We commend to your loving care Friend [Allen Bocker], who is a member of [Harbor] Monthly Meeting, and will be traveling in the ministry this next year visiting with Friends.

[Allen currently serves on the on the Ministry and Counsel Committee of our meeting, and is recording clerk of Great Lakes Yearly Meeting. He is also a representative of our yearly meeting

to the Central Committee of Friends General Conference where he serves he serves on the Finance Committee.]

[Allen] has shared with the meeting his leading to [travel in the ministry among meetings which are seeking to deepen their practices of spiritual nurture among Friends.] After careful consideration the meeting has found unity to approve this minute of travel.

We hold [Allen] in our prayers and trust that God will richly bless your time together.

On behalf of [Harbor] Monthly Meeting, Signature, clerk [Harbor] Monthly Meeting, [Great Lakes] Yearly Meeting

Endorsements of Travel Documents

When a meeting receives a visitor who holds a travel document, it is the job of the clerk or of a designated Friend to endorse the document. An endorsement includes a few sentences written at the bottom of the letter. Clerks use the endorsement as a way to:

- Send back greetings to the visiting Friend's meeting
- Comment on the visit
- Explain how the visit was received by Friends
- Report on the faithfulness of the traveling Friends to their work, to God, and to their meetings

Endorsement is one way of holding traveling Friends accountable for the right use of their gifts. Endorsed travel minutes received from the traveling ministers' meeting should be returned to the Friends who may carry them to other meetings before returning to their own.

Sample Endorsements

Here are some typical endorsements received in the past on returned letters of travel. The names have been deleted because it is not the individual who is important, but the work being done under Divine guidance.

"[This Friend's open] and disciplined process and queries helped our meeting come together and share our spiritual longings and hopes for community together"

"Their spiritual depth and wisdom and eagerness to share and be with us made them a perfect match for where we are now and where we want to be. We consider this retreat one of our most fulfilling and inspiring ever. [This Friend's] plan for our weekend on the topic of "Living

Faithfully” was beautifully paced with time for focused discussion and sharing, time for walking meditation, and a sense of relaxed, but profound seeking together”

“Our meeting expresses deep appreciation for the visit of [this Friend] and [her elder/spiritual companion]. Her encouragement for us to be more intentional and seeking the Divine and listening to the Spirit was most helpful. But it was not just what she said and did, but the presence she brought which was most beneficial to us.”

“We found her to be a good listener with sensitive ways of eliciting mutual sharing of our Quaker experience. She continues in the tradition of Elias Hicks and other itinerant ministers who bring a connection to the wider world of Quakers and a rejuvenation of spirit for small, scattered meetings”

“We are grateful for their affirming presence, as some of us often feel isolated as Friends. They were great help developing and initiating a worship-sharing program at the state penitentiary. This was a major step in realizing the fulfillment of a two-year leading”

“Beyond her words and personal qualities, both valuable to us in themselves, we have received the example of her support of [the minister with whom she travels]”

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