

# Who Will Visit My Meeting?

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The answer to that question is, of course, up to your meeting and its discernment. You need to directly contact a traveling Friend and interview them to make certain that their gifts and ministry meets your needs and meeting culture.

As you think about bring such Friends to your meeting, we do have some suggestions. First is that we recommend that visiting Friends travel in pairs. These Friends generally fit one of two primary roles, described below.

## **Seasoned Friend**

Friends are called “seasoned” when their outward way of life demonstrates their deep experience of learning humbly from the Inward Teacher, and of seeing themselves in the powerful glare of God’s Light. The Friends on our list are seasoned and have travelled for FGC programs or projects in the past. These Friends have demonstrated spiritual maturity and faithfulness, they carry gifts of ministry, and are recommended and held accountable by their meetings for the ministry they can provide. A Seasoned Friend serving as a visitor to a meeting:

- May offer a retreat or workshop on specific concerns of the meeting or to help nurture and build community
- May offer one-on-one time with Friends to delve into ways that the Spirit is moving within them
- Should carry a minute of travel from his or her own meeting

## **Companion in the Ministry**

We recommend that seasoned Friends traveling in the ministry be accompanied by a companion in the ministry. The practice of traveling with a companion to deliver the messages of the Spirit goes back to the days of early Quakers and early Christian times. Like the traveling minister, the companion is someone who has demonstrated spiritual maturity and faithfulness. The companion in the ministry travels with the seasoned Friend to provide both spiritual and practical support to the visitor and to the meeting. Companions in ministry who travel with the visitor:

- Hold the seasoned Friend and the gathering in prayer during the months or weeks before the visit
- Hold the visitor and the meeting in the Light during the visit

- Concentrate on the practical details in order to free the visitor from distractions
- Observe the dynamics of the group and offer discernment to the visitor
- Provide feedback to the visitor
- Carry a minute of travel from their meetings.

This document was downloaded from the website of Friends General Conference. Explore the many resources and opportunities we offer for Quakers, Quaker meetings, and all interested individuals. Go to [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org).

