

Grand Rapids Friends Meeting  
Worship Sharing Topic

Political Discussions in Meeting

There has been conversation among Friends recently on how to address political concerns in Meeting. Since the Presidential election in November, discussions following worship have frequently turned toward political concerns. Other Meetings have been experiencing the same thing and LEYM has asked all monthly Meetings to consider what this means to their Meeting community.

At our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in February, it was agreed that this is an important topic, but there were not enough people in attendance for meaningful discussion or to discern any direction. It was suggested that there be a special Worship Sharing session on this topic on the next 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. It will be scheduled for Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, following Meeting for Worship.

Using a Worship Sharing format, two or three queries on the topic will be read for consideration, one at a time. Friends will be asked to consider each question separately, in worshipful silence. It is expected that anyone led to speak on the query will share their thoughts, and all in attendance will be encouraged to respond. Respectful waiting will follow each sharing before the next person responds. Worship Sharing is not a conversation or discussion, nor is there an expectation that the group will arrive at any conclusions or action to be taken. This is an opportunity for Friends to express their feelings during Spirit led worship.