

Frederick Friends Meeting Queries for Worship

The following queries are adapted from The Baltimore Yearly Meeting 2013 Resource for Faith and Practice.

Frederick Friends Meeting follows a practice, common to many meetings, of contemplating a different set of queries each month. Queries are questions used among Quakers to uncover how our faith is being lived out, both individually and as a community. To learn more about queries and how Friends use them in the practice of their faith, see Baltimore Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*.

July: Caring for One Another

- In what ways do I show respect for that of God in every person?
- How well do I reach out with spiritual and practical care to those with special needs?
- How do we share in the diverse joys and transitions in each other's lives?
- How well do we recognize and affirm the gifts of all in our community, including older Friends and youth?

August: Education and Spiritual Development

- Do I strive to develop my physical, emotional, and mental capacities toward reaching my Divinely given potential?
- Do I make time for meditation, prayer, and worship?
- What efforts are we making to be better acquainted with Quaker faith and practices and the beliefs of other faiths?
- How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

September: Integrity

- In what ways does my life speak of my beliefs and values?
- How do we seek truth by which to live? How do we recognize it?
- In what way is my life in harmony with truth as I know it?

October: Membership and Worship Together

- How do I actively support the meeting community?
- How does Meeting nurture my spiritual growth and transformation?
- How does my participation contribute to a spirit of worship, understanding, and forbearance in our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business?
- Do I enter Meeting for Worship in expectant waiting for Divine guidance?

November: Stewardship of Personal Resources and the Environment

- Do we regard our time, talents, energy, money, material possessions and other resources as gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given?
- What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to nurture our gifts?
- How do we encourage the members of the larger community to be careful stewards of their gifts?
- How do we use the world's resources with care and consideration for future generations and with respect for all life?

Frederick Friends Meeting Queries for Worship

December: Simplicity

- What in my present life most distracts me from God?
- How well do the ways in which I choose to use my time, my possessions, my money, and my energy reflect my most deeply held values?
- What am I ready to release so that I can give my attention to what matters most?

January: Community and Family Life

- Are love and harmony within the Meeting community fostered by a spirit of open sharing?
- What helps our Meeting build trust of one another?
- How do our conflicts have the potential to enrich the life of our community?
- How does the Meeting support families of all kinds in their attempts to improve communication, family life, and the rearing of children in an atmosphere of love?

February: Outreach

- How does my life witness to my Quaker faith?
- In what ways do I reach out to new attendees and encourage their exploration of the Quaker Way?
- How does our meeting convey Quaker faith and practice to the wider community?
- How can we encourage members, attenders, and all seekers to continue participating in the Meeting?

March: Vocal Ministry and Listening

- How do I discern when to speak and when not to speak, both in Meeting and elsewhere?
- How do we encourage Friends to allow ample time to absorb the previous message before speaking?
- How do I practice listening to the Truth which may be revealed by others?
- How have I been changed by deeply listening to another, to God, and to nature?

April: Peace and Social Concerns

- How does my life reflect “the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all war”?
- Where hatred, division, and strife exist, how can I be an instrument of reconciliation and love?
- As I work for peace, am I nourished by peace within myself and within the meeting?
- How have I expressed my faith in action? How are my actions grounded in my faith?

May: Equality

- How do we respond, as individuals and as a community, to prejudice and injustice?
- How do we show through our way of living that love of God includes affirming the equality of all people, treating them with dignity and respect?

Frederick Friends Meeting Queries for Worship

June: Diversity

- How well do I work toward creating a community of different people, rather than a community that just lets different people in?
- Are we willing to be in communion with each other, open to our differences yet secure in the one Spirit that calls us all to be Friends?
- Do I seek out and listen to perspectives that promote equal access, inclusion, and welcome for people of all cultures and backgrounds?