

Friends Business Practices

As offered by Sarah Rose House Lightner on 4/25/2020

Friendly Reminders

Remember we are in a Meeting for Worship.

Raise your hand and wait to be called on by the clerk.

Trust that the clerk is discerning who to call on.

Speak when spoken through.

Take time to listen & discern what your ministry is and try to speak only once to a topic.

Avoid cross talk.

Offer reminders for cushions of silent discernment as led.

Selected Readings

Give over thine own willing, give over thy own running, give over thine own desiring to know or be anything and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee and be in thee and breathe in thee and act in thee; and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of Life, which is its portion.

- Isaac Pennington, 1661

In the gathered meeting the sense is present that a new Life and Power has entered our midst. We are in communication with one another because we are being communicated to, and through, by the Divine presence.” - Thomas Kelly

When one rises to speak one has the sense of being used, of being played upon, of being spoken through. It is an amazing experience as that of being Prayed through, when we the praying ones are no longer the initiators of the supplication, but seem to be transmitters, who second an impulse welling up from the depths of the soul. - Thomas Kelly

There is no way to find yourself until you discover how utterly to lose yourself.

~ Rufus Jones

Through the process by which Quakers attain the sense of the meeting, transformation occurs. We are changed. We feel, in a literal way, the loving Presence which hovers over us. It manifests in the love we have for one another. We form invisible bonds among ourselves which transcend the petty and make the next sense of the meeting more desirable and more readily attainable. We are participants in each other's well being. Later we may stop to wonder whose idea evolved into the sense of the meeting. But we can't remember. Often the person through whom the idea came cannot remember. We sense that the sense of the meeting came through us and for us, but not from us. We are amazed that it works — exactly as it's supposed to. Over and over we are amazed; it is appropriate that awe and transformation coexist. - Barry Morley, 1993

Individuals strive to be present at business meetings with open, non-judgmental states of mind. Part of that involves a willingness to lay aside our preconceived opinions and personal agendas in favor of emptying ourselves to the motions of the Spirit. We listen carefully, holding the speaker in love so that a

sense of the meeting may be found in the atmosphere of God's love. We remember that no one person, including oneself, speaks God's will alone.

Strong feelings and reactions of individuals might be best examined by the individual. Is there a strong emotional reaction from past experiences? Is there an ego-driven reaction? Is there a true leading of Spirit?

- Ministry and Counsel Committee of Madison MM, 2005