



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

Guidance for Gathering

*"Trust in the Light that gives life and empowers
everyone who comes into the world."*

- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice

Written by Emily Provance with Graphics by Bianca Santini-Dumas



✓
**The World
Community**

Page 10

✓
Worship
Page 2

✓
**The Wider
Body of
Friends**

Page 9

✓
**Corporate
Discernment**
Page 2

✓
**The Local
Community**

Page 8

✓
Stewardship

Page 7

✓
**Service
to the
Meeting**
Page 6

✓
**The Meeting
Community**

Page 4



Have we made opportunities recently to talk with each other about our experiences of worship, including but not limited to the technical aspects?



Are we open to occasionally trying different types of worship, such as singing, worship sharing, queries and stories to see whether this helps some of us connect more deeply with Spirit?





Are we patient and loving with one another and willing to be flexible in order to help each other participate in corporate discernment?



Are we committed to practices that help everyone participate in Meeting for Business?

Are we all in agreement about how we will use the virtual chat function, ask to speak, approve minutes and so forth?



Generational Relationships

Page 4



Religious Education

Adults Children

Page 5 Page 4



Fellowship

Page 5



Pastoral Care

Page 4



Remote Membership

Page 6



The Meeting Community

Page 4



Generational Relationships

Page 4

Do all of us make specific efforts to build inter-generational community?

What aspects of inter-generational community feel joyful to us?



The Meeting Community

Page 4



**Religious
Education**

Adults

Children

Page 4

Do our children, youth
and parents feel well
cared for?

Does our meeting as a whole
support the religious education
of children and youth?

**The Meeting
Community**

Page 4



Religious Education

Adults

Children

Page 5

Are we providing regular opportunities for religious education for adult members for our community, including but not limited to newcomers?

Are these opportunities easily accessible to all?

The Meeting Community

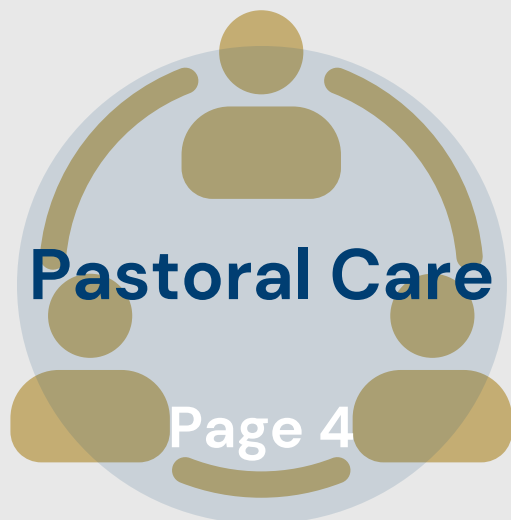
Page 4

Are they interactive?



If a member of our community had a serious problem or joyful life event, would the rest of us know about it? How?

Have we found ways in which all members of our community, regardless of physical location, can both give and receive pastoral care?





Does our meeting make space
for social connections on a
regular basis?



Do we connect socially with
everyone in the meeting or have we
subdivided ourselves?



Do we believe geographically distant members and attenders to be full and equal participants in our meeting community?

Have we come to a sense of the meeting about whether our status as a hybrid or virtual meeting is temporary or permanent?

The Meeting
Community

Page 4



Page 6



Nominations

Page 6



Flexibility

Page 7



**Service
to the
Meeting**
Page 6



Nominations

Page 6

Do we understand the ways in which various committees' responsibilities may have changed if we shifted from an in-person community to virtual/hybrid?

Do we have a sense of the full list of Friends who consider themselves part of our community and who currently participate regularly in our worship and activities?

Service
to the
Meeting
Page 6



.....

How are we experimenting with our committee structure and distribution of tasks?

.....

Flexibility

Page 7

.....

Are we prepared to try new things that might work better for our community?

.....

✓

Service to the Meeting
Page 6



Property

Page 7



Budgets

Page 8



Transitions

Page 8



Stewardship

Page 7



Property

Page 7

.....
**What does our property
(building and grounds)
mean to each of us?**
.....

.....
**How are we led to use
our property?**
.....



Stewardship


Page 7



Budgets

Page 8

When we consider our meeting's budget, do we feel as though we are experiencing scarcity, abundance or something in between?



Does our budget accurately reflect our Spirit-led priorities at this time?



Stewardship

Page 7

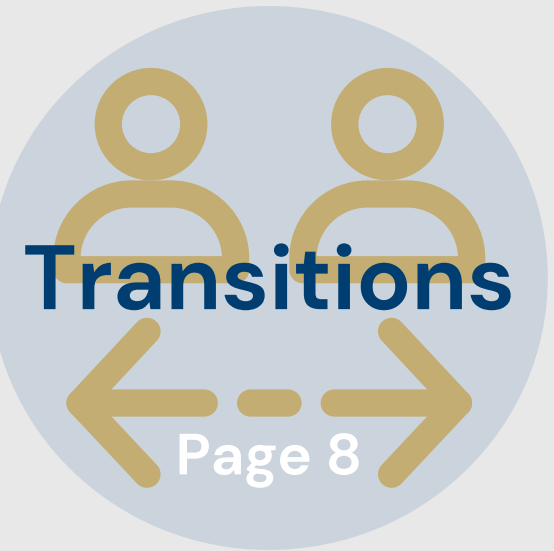


Whose care are
we under?

Is our meeting a hybrid
meeting or virtual
meeting?

Are we a monthly
meeting, worship group
or something else?

Is our current
status a good fit?



What do we think our
meeting will look like in
5 years?





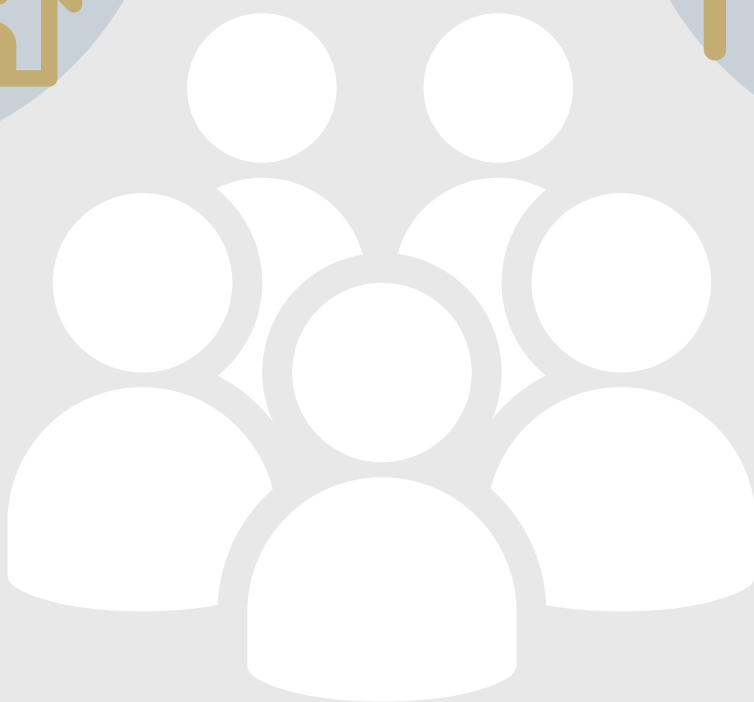
**Being Good
Neighbors**

Page 8



**Relational
Local Ministries**

Page 9




**The Local
Community**

Page 8



Being Good Neighbors

Page 8



What does it mean
to be a good
neighbor?



The Local Community

Page 8

Are we in right relationship with
the people who live, work and
play in the local area?



.....

**Does our meeting
have a local ministry?**

.....

.....

**How is that ministry
supported by the meeting
as a whole?**

.....

**Relational
Local Ministries**

Page 9


**The Local
Community**

Page 8

.....

**What active steps are we taking to ensure
that all members and attenders of our
meeting feel connected to, and informed
about, our local ministry?**

.....



Quarterly & Yearly

Page 9

The Wider Body of Friends

Page 9

Quaker Institutions

Page 10

Intervisitation

Page 10



Quarterly & Yearly

Page 9

The Wider Body of Friends

Page 9

Do we offer help and
expertise when others
need it?

Are we prepared to ask for
help from other Friends in
our quarterly & yearly
meetings?

Do Friends in our meeting
feel connected to our
quarterly & yearly meeting?

Do we understand these groups
as larger communities of
Friends of which we are each an
equal part?



What experiences have we had in connecting with large Quaker institutions such as the ones listed in this section?

**The Wider
Body of
Friends**

Page 9

Do we encourage Friends to try connecting with various Quaker organizations?

**Quaker
Institutions**

Page 10

How do we help Friends in our meetings know about opportunities with Quaker organizations?



When Friends from other meetings visit us, do we welcome them and make an effort to engage in meaningful conversation?

Do we make space to listen to what returning Friends may have experienced or learned?

The Wider
Body of
Friends

Page 9

Do Friends in our meeting visit other meetings?

Intervisitation

Page 10



**The World
Community**

Page 10



Outreach

Page 10



Witness

Page 11



The World Community

Page 10

Do we have a sense
of our meeting
identity?

Are we supportive of seekers
who are trying to discover
whether our meeting is the right
place for them long-term?

Are we prepared to say
clearly what sort of
meeting we are inviting
seekers into?

Are we explicitly welcoming
to visitors without
overwhelming them?



Outreach

Page 10



**The World
Community**

Page 10

.....

**In what ways does Spirit
lead us to witness to the
world as individual Friends?**

.....

.....

**In what ways does Spirit lead
us to witness to the world as
a meeting community?**

.....



Witness

Page 11



Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

“Dear Friends, keep all your meetings in authority, wisdom and power of Truth and in the unity of the blessed Spirit.”

- **the elders at Balby, 1656**

“Our Work is Simply to be Faithful”

- Emily Provance

Visual Presentation created by
Bianca Santini-Dumas

Guidance for Gathering, written by Emily Provance