

Queries for Worship Sharing

prepared by Michael Gibson, 2006

- What has been my experience of worship (in and out of meeting for worship)? What does worship mean for me in my daily life?
- What were my earliest experiences of corporate worship? How have my understandings and experiences of worship changed over the years? What about meeting for worship is most important to me now? Where do I hope to grow now in relation to worship?
- What, if any, are my expectations of the First Day worship hour?
- How do I prepare for meeting for worship?
- What can I do (or how can I be) to foster or nurture a living silence?
- How has my week affected meeting for worship, and vice versa?
- Who or what calls me into worship? How do I experience this call?
- What are we as a meeting community doing to prepare our children for corporate and private worship?
- What am I as a parent, grandparent, teacher or concerned adult doing to nurture the spiritual lives of children within my spheres of influence, and how do I honor or nurture their sense of wonder, prayer, and worship?
- When I receive a message or prompting in worship, am I faithful in my response to that prompting? How or how not?
- Do I receive the vocal ministry of Friends free of cynicism, bitterness, jealousy, impatience, aggravation, or comparison of my own gifts and abilities to those of others?
- What do I “do” with messages I hear that speak to my condition? How do I deal with what I do not find helpful?
- How do I treat myself in meeting for worship? What adjectives might I use to describe how I am with myself? How do I relate to others in meeting for worship?
- What, if anything, helps me to experience the Presence in the midst? How do I respond to that Presence? (If “Presence” does not have meaning for you, what word(s) might you use that has significance for you?)
- What does a covered or gathered meeting ask of me? How does it affect me? How does it touch my understanding of community? Of God, Christ, or the Spirit?
- What are my responsibilities to myself, to the community, and to the Spirit in meeting for worship?
- How does my experience of meeting for worship compare to my experience of private prayer?
- The early Friends repeatedly spoke of “the power of the Lord over all,” often in relation to meeting for worship. Some Friends today experience this power as coming from. Someone with whom they are in relationship. Others experience this in a more abstract, impersonal way. Some may find the language of “power” and “Lord” off-putting or entirely irrelevant. How do I hold in my heart, particularly in worship, those within the meeting community whose experience may be radically different than, or seemingly contradictory to, mine? How do I hold meeting members between meetings for worship?

For personal reflection: What might my daily routine and my relationships look like if I fully and consistently carried the attitude of meeting for worship throughout each week? (There is an assumption here that no one does this all the time. Please be honest, but gentle, with yourself.)