

FWCC Annual Meeting 2008  
Morgantown, Indiana

Small Worship Group Queries

*So then, let us be always seeking the ways which lead to peace and the ways in which we can support one another.* Romans 14:19

Session 1: Peace Within

What thoughts, habits or actions contribute or detract from peace within my own life? What is the connection between my personal faith and my inner peace? Does my outward behavior demonstrate an inner peace such that I may be a peaceful example to others?

Session 2: Peace in Community

What are the issues that threaten peace in my family, my meeting or church, my work/school environment, with my friends and neighbors? How can I allow my faith to make me an instrument of peace in community? Can I demonstrate a helpful compassion for those who are in conflict?

Session 3: Peace in the World

How can we demonstrate commitment to our beliefs while respecting the beliefs of others? How can we as The Society of Friends, with our diverse interpretations of faith and practice, demonstrate peaceful living to the world? Do we offer a viable alternative to the ways of conflict and war?

Guidelines for Small Worship Groups:

Speaking:

We speak from our heart, out of personal experiences and feelings; avoid abstract ideas and generalizations beyond our experiences.

We speak for ourselves, out of prayerful silence.

We may speak, or pass (and perhaps speak later), to any query.

We avoid speaking more than once until everyone has had a chance to speak.

We leave space between speakers.

Listening:

Between speakers we pray and reflect on what was shared.

We are hesitant to answer, disagree, dispute, or comment on the thoughts of one another.

We respect confidentiality; we repeat nothing beyond the group that we have heard from others within the group.

While others are speaking, we listen attentively—rather than “tuning them out” to prepare what we will say.

We seek to hear what God may be saying to us through another’s words—especially when we feel resistant to those words.

Good Order:

We are mindful of the allotted time, so that everyone who wishes can share.

When needed, the facilitator will remind us of time limitations.

We support the facilitator’s efforts to maintain good order.

We trust God to guide our group.

## **Worship at Annual Meeting** Morgantown, Indiana 2008

Especially in worship, we enter with reverence into communion with God

### **Morning Worship**

After breakfast and before each morning business session, Friends will have the opportunity to worship together. We will be led by Friends from a different worship tradition each morning. Together we will experience some of the ways Friends find spiritual comfort, guidance, hope and strength. It is intended that the business sessions flow directly out of the morning worship time. The clerk will determine when a break is needed.

### **Small worship groups; Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday afternoon**

The worship groups are designed to provide a place to worship, pray and share together around our theme. We hope that everyone attending Annual Meeting will participate in their assigned worship group. We ask that you stay with the same group for all three sessions so that you may begin to know each other on a more personal level. This is a wonderful opportunity for heart-to-heart connections among Friends. Spoken contributions need to be brief, with time left between contributions so that we may understand the words and spirit of what has been said. Those listening will do so with respect, sincerity and prayerfulness. Experiences and thoughts shared with the group need to be held in confidence within the group.

Do not try to answer or debate what others in the group have offered. Speak from your own experience in truth and with love.

We anticipate that most groups will be English-language only; one or two may be Spanish-language only, or bi-lingual. We will make every effort to mix the participants in the group to ensure that Friends from different traditions and yearly meetings are included in each group.

### **Sunday Worship**

As the final event of our Annual Meeting, we will gather together in worship.

### **Quiet Room**

A room will be made available for those wishing a quiet place for retreat. Those wishing a place for silent reflection or prayer may use this room.