

Being part of meetings for worship for business

Instructions for card based response activity

This activity uses brief quotations of advice about participating in meetings for worship for business, taken from *Quaker faith & practice* 3.08 to 3.11.

First, get into groups of four to six people. Each group need an instructions sheet and a set of cards.

Shuffle the cards and pick one at random. Read it aloud, then share responses to the piece of advice on the card:

- How easy or difficult do we as individuals find it to follow this advice?
- Do we as a meeting need to pay more attention to this advice, or are we doing ok?

Pick another card and repeat the process. Do this two or three times, depending on the time available.

Are your meetings for church affairs held in loving dependence upon the spirit of God?

Do you individually take your right share in the attendance and service of these meetings so that the burden may not rest upon a few?

Be as regular, faithful and punctual as possible in your attendance.

On taking your seat, try to achieve quietness of mind and spirit.

Try to avoid having subcommittees or conversations just as the meeting is about to begin.

<p>Turn inwardly to God, praying that the meeting may be guided in the matters before it.</p>	<p>Pray that the clerk may be enabled faithfully to discern and record the mind of the meeting</p>	<p>Remember the onerous task laid upon the clerk and do all you can to assist.</p>
<p>Submit information about matters to come before the meeting in good time and preferably in writing.</p>	<p>Avoid if you possibly can any last-minute messages to the clerk.</p>	<p>Give your whole attention to the matter before the meeting.</p>
<p>If you want to speak, try to sum up what you have to say in as few words as possible. Speak simply and audibly, but do not speak for effect.</p>	<p>Except in very small meetings, those able to stand to speak should do so.</p>	<p>Listen as patiently as you can to all other points of view. Even Friends you consider ill-informed or wrong-headed may make positive or helpful points: watch for them.</p>

<p>Be certain of your facts. Avoid stating as facts things which are matters of opinion.</p>	<p>Do not take offence because others disagree with you.</p>	<p>Be chary of ascribing, even in your mind, unworthy motives to others.</p>
<p>Promote the spirit of friendship in the meeting so that Friends may speak their minds freely, confident that they will not be misinterpreted or misunderstood.</p>	<p>Value the meeting as a social occasion.</p>	<p>Introduce strangers to one another.</p>
<p>Be approachable; be cheerful.</p>	<p>If you are an experienced Friend, invite newcomers to come with you. Help them to understand the business and to get to know the membership.</p>	<p>If, when all that is necessary has been said, the clerk is not ready to submit a minute, uphold those at the table in prayerful silence.</p>

Session 3 Activity Sheet 2 – *Cut out the instructions and cards along the solid lines*

<p>If the minute is in general acceptable, do not harass the clerk by raising several minor corrections at once.</p>	<p>Do not, under the pretext of altering the minute, raise new matter for discussion or reiterate your original contribution.</p>	<p>Try not to take things personally.</p>
<p>A pause after each contribution will enable what has been said to find its right place in the mind of the meeting.</p>	<p>Do not repeat views which you have already expressed.</p>	<p>Do not address another Friend across the room but speak to the meeting as a whole.</p>