

## Reading Resources for Yearly Meeting Clerks & Recording Clerks

**Advices And Queries** Britain Yearly Meeting.

This set of advices & queries is a helpful framework for approaching most any topic facing a meeting.

**Before the Meeting: a handbook for clerks** Keith Redfern

Good information from a British perspective – easily translated to US use

**Before Business Begins: notes for recording clerks and recorders** William Watson

Good process guidelines for the working relationship of presiding & recording clerks

**Being Together: Our Corporate Life In The Religious Society Of Friends**, Margaret Heathfield.

Considering what type of organization provides the fewest obstacles to the free flowing of the Spirit, the author addresses guidance within our individual & corporate lives. Margaret draws on history & theology, as well as contemporary theories of management & the nature of organizations.

**Conflict In Meetings: 2nd, Revised Edition**, Committee on Eldership & Oversight of Britain YM,

Conflict is inseparable from living. Whether it constrains or liberates depends on our response. This book is for clerks, elders or oversight committees, & anyone called to deal with conflict. It will enable Friends to identify the resources in their meetings & use them to forge a living peace testimony.

**Fellowships, Conferences And Associations: the Limits Of The Liberal Quaker Reinvention Of Meeting Polity**, Elizabeth Cazden.

A look at the "confusion & disagreement" about how meetings govern themselves. Cazden reviews classical Quaker models & then looks at the "alternate model that has come to characterize liberal unprogrammed ('FGC-type') meetings in North America." An important read for anyone trying to understand contemporary Quaker debates over same-sex marriage, the meaning of membership, the role of committees & issues of leadership in the RSoF.

**Fostering Vital Friends Meetings: A Handbook For Working With Quaker Meetings**,

Jan Greene & Marty Walton. Growing from the common purpose of nurturing & encouraging meetings, this handbook provides guidelines, tools & exercises that meetings can use to strengthen Quaker practice. Details who, what, how & why people can be about the work of fostering vitality in meetings.

**Handbook For The Presiding Clerk** David Stanfield. A very logical & practical for guiding clerks.

**Leadership And Authority In The Religious Society Of Friends**, Arthur Larrabee. The former clerk & current general secretary of PhIYM, provides an insightful appraisal of contemporary Quakerism's fear of leadership. His reassuring & enlightening lecture offers solutions for attitude change.

**Leading Quakers: Discipleship Leadership As A Friends Model**, Jennifer Isbell. "with this resource, ESR seeks specifically to help groups create sacred space for study, reflection & conversation that will nurture the gifts & development of leadership in the local meeting. Along the way, we expect a growing appreciation of the meeting as a spiritual community knit together by worship & ministry"

**Living The Way: Quaker Spirituality And Community**, Ursula-Jane O'Shea. The author asks the questions "What is it about Quakers that has sustain this small religious group for 350 years?" She traces the life-cycle of the RSoF & examines its current state of transition. She points to the singular aspects of Quaker spirituality & community life that have the power to revitalize modern Quakerism.

**Practicing Discernment Together: Finding God's Way Forward In Decision Making**, Lon Fendall, Jan Wood & Bruce Bishop. Group discernment is an essential ingredient of anything that Quakers seek to do together, & a central part of Quaker process. Even the smallest Bible study group or informal gathering makes decisions. That decision making carries with it the potential of strengthening the spiritual depth of each member of the group, & of discovering God's will - but only if the participants understand & abide by the process.

### **Sustaining Our Spirits: Women Leaders Thriving For Today And Tomorrow**

Darlyne Bailey, Kelly McNally Koney, Mary Ellen McNish, Ruthmary Powers & Katrina Uhly This title promises to deliver an unconventional exploration of women in leadership. The premise of the book is based on a five-year examination of interconnectedness among women, leadership, & spirituality, involving women from a variety of sectors, backgrounds, & ages (20's-60's).

**Unforeseen Joy: Serving A Friends Meeting As Recording Clerk**, Damon Hickey. An excellent & delightful guide for recording clerks. Practical advice with a spiritual basis.

### **Where Should I Stand?: A Field Guide For Monthly Meeting Clerks**, Elizabeth Boardman

The author draws on her 4 years as a monthly meeting clerk & the wisdom of 15 other experienced clerks to answer questions including: When should I attend committee meetings? How should I relate to the children of the meeting? How do I get support for this job? How do I help sustain the faith community?

### **Your own yearly meeting's Faith & Practice or any of the other yearly meetings'**

### **Where The Wind Blows: Vitality Among Friends**, Jay Marshall

Imagine two meetings located near to one another. Who can say with certainty why one thrives for generations & the other never does? A variety of factors influence patterns of growth & vitality. Where the Wind Blows is the result of surveys & conversations with nine flourishing Friends meetings (FGC) or churches (FUM) of Friends. This project had 2 primary goals: share positive news of worship & ministry among Friends; & create a resource for Friends seeking assistance with their own quest for vitality.

## **PENDLE HILL PAMPHLETS** (Available from Quaker Books and Pendle Hill)

**The Authority Of Our Meetings Is The Power Of God** (PHP#365) Paul Lacey. Addresses the thread of continuity from early to modern Friends in terms of power & authority, in particular that of God.

### **Beyond Consensus** (PHP#307) Barry Morley

Gets to the essential components of discerning the sense of the Meeting, grounded in worship.

### **Gospel Order: a quaker understanding of faithful church community** (PHP#297)

Sandra Cronk, What it means to live into being a faith community

### **Matthew 18: Wisdom For Living In Community**, Connie McPeak Green & Marty Paxson Grundy

Friends are called to live in community, but difficult interactions with others challenge us to wrestle with our own strengths, weaknesses, & former experiences. The authors have spent years exploring the 18th chapter of Matthew, which contains Jesus's advice to his disciples about how to get along with one another. Living in accordance with this guidance may be the most difficult thing they have ever tried to do, but they've found the instructions straightforward & suffused with love.

### **Members One Of Another: The Dynamics Of Membership In Quaker Meeting (PHP#371)** Tom

Gates. A thoughtful & rich consideration of what it is to be a member of a meeting & the relationship between individuals & the body of the meeting.

### **Turnaround: Growing A Twenty-first Century Religious Society Of Friends (PHP#387)**, Benjamin

Lloyd. Why are we diminishing in numbers when we have so much to offer? In this essay, Ben presents his own creative ideas & encouragement for a reinvigoration of our meeting communities. Which of our traditions & practices should we renew? And where are the places where continuing revelation calls us to be open to the winds of change that will come with the next generation of Quaker leaders?