

Listening Session at Adelphi Monthly Meeting

November 18, 2012

Visiting Team: Howard Fullerton, BYM
Mochiko Y. De Silva, F & P Revision Committee Member

Present: 10 Friends/friends

As a framework to facilitate the expressions of thoughts and feelings, the team used 4 queries which appeared in Betsy Meyer's article on Faith and Practice in the last BYM Interchange.

-“Voices” spoke most deeply in F & P.

-“Voices” could be stated more succinct, direct and focused.

-The uses of Quakerese such as “elders” would be confounding to those new to Quakerism.

-12 queries were convenient, but there are many more things we should be thinking about... Therefore, it would be ok to increase the number of them.

-Changes to “how” from “do you” of the 1988 version of queries lacks the directness. Some questions absolutely require the clarity of “yes” or “no”.

-There is no mention of public school. To ignore it diminishes public education. Those Friends and friends who are in a teaching profession need support. Those students who attend public school need support. The Friend who expressed this stated that she felt very strongly.

-Most procedures are “nuts and bolts”. It would be nice to have more guidance even though different Mtgs are allowed to decide on ways of handling the “nuts and bolts” such as memorial services.

-Meeting is not the priority for most people who attend the Meeting. Similarly, Faith and Practice has not been the central guidelines for most people. How can we change this?

-More is needed on how to resolve disputes.

-We could do a better job of RE with children. We need to build from the bottom to increase the knowledge of who Quakers are, i.e. who we are.

-BYM might make Faith and Practice more integral part of each monthly meeting by provide guidelines.

-User's manual could help.

-We need to talk about Faith and Practice more in the Meeting. We need to talk about each other's understanding of Quakerism.

-Continuing revelation is in the realm of theology.

-F & P ought to be a reflection of realities and not directives.