

Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Meeting Visit Report

Your name: Martha Gay
Meeting visited: Goose Creek
Date visited: 1/20/13
Traveling companion: Liz Hofmeister (Bethesda)

Number attending: 15 (no signup sheet)

Jot down below what you heard:

2012 version contains a lot of good information, but is a bit intimidating because of size. Friends usually don't sit down and read it, but dip into it to get specifics. Several suggestions on content:

- **Information on aging**, including how meetings confront issues around aging and how individuals deal with aging. A Friend mentioned that in some meeting this discussion has quickly turned to questions about suicide and euthanasia, in part because older people don't want to be a burden. This fear can be allayed when a person is surrounded by a loving community. Britain Yearly Meeting has a pamphlet and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is supposedly working on something. Winchester/Hopewell Friends were also mentioned. We need at least to point to some good resources.
- **Additional examples** of, for example, Memorial Minutes and Minutes of Social Concern. The process for forwarding Minutes to Yearly Meeting needs to be discussed somewhere. If this is in the *Manual of Procedure* then it needs to be referenced. In addition, the ***Manual of Procedure*** needs to be listed in the resources section.

Queries. The Queries are well liked. Friends found in them a path. They suggest a process and steps to be taken. In this Meeting the new form produces more vocal ministry. Friends felt they could deal with the larger number.

Voices. Friends really liked the voices, which give a “framework” for the Queries and give them background and depth. A Friend said she refers newcomer to the Meeting to the Voices section as she believed these voices give a succinct view of what Quakerism is all about.

Music. Should there be mention of the (appropriate?) use of music in Meeting for Worship and by Meetings generally? Is music vocal ministry?

There were remarks about embodying vocal ministry. How do we live our lives. Christ calls us to give up our lives.

Would it be helpful to the revision committee and the YM to have monthly meetings be asked how they are using F&P and/or the queries? This should perhaps be part of any visit.