

Friendship Meeting

The Care and Counsel Committee bears a responsibility for the general well being of the corporate life of Friendship Friends Meeting and care for its members. This includes trying to foster a harmonious and nurturing sense of community, addressing as best it can “complaints or any estrangements from harmony which might impair the participation of individuals in worship and the business of the meeting” Since care for others is a responsibility for all members of the community, one responsibility of the committee is to discern and call upon the gifts of others for this work. This committee is responsible for the administration of **the Emergency Assistance Fund**.

Care and Counsel and Worship and Ministry Committees will each spring collaborate on writing a joint report for the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Ministry and Oversight Committees' yearly session.

One must be a member or sojourning member to serve on the Care and Counsel Committee. Care and Counsel will meet jointly with the Committee on Worship and Ministry at least once a year, and the two committees are encouraged to seek other ways to maintain regular communication. Specific committee tasks include:

1. Overseeing applications for membership, including nominating, for the monthly Meeting for Business approval, a clearness committee to meet with the applicant. That committee (with the same membership as far as possible) will meet with the applicant again after a year to reflect on the first year of membership.
2. Overseeing weddings, including nominating, for monthly Meeting for Business approval, a clearness committee to meet with the couple and, if the marriage is approved, an arrangement committee. Further, a committee (with the same membership as the clearness committee as far as possible) will meet with the couple again after a year to reflect on the first year of marriage.
3. Overseeing memorials, including attending to the needs of the family.
4. Arranging a clearness committee for someone who requests an opportunity to share a concern, in confidence, with a selected group of Friends.
5. Providing pastoral care to members and attenders in need.
6. Reviewing periodically membership records, with particular attention to inactive members.
7. Administering the Emergency Assistance Fund.
8. Ensuring the visibility of the Meeting in the community.
9. Welcoming visitors.

Minutes of each meeting are placed in the Meeting's archives at Guilford College. Friendship Friends Meeting,

Religious Education

The Religious Education Committee is responsible for planning and coordinating a program for Friendship Friends Meeting's children. This includes first day school and pre-school child care during Meeting for Worship, child care as needed for other meeting functions, and occasional family-oriented gatherings such as the traditional Christmas celebration. Committee members are responsible for providing teachers for First Day School and for encouraging members of the Meeting to volunteer for this valued ministry. The committee purchases educational materials, toys and supplies as needed for the First Day School and nursery and maintains them in a neat condition. When an organized First Day School is not appropriate, the committee shall arrange for a program to care for visiting children which allows their parents to attend Meeting for Worship.

Worship and Ministry

Ministry is a shared responsibility of all who participate in our Quaker worship. The responsibility of Worship and Ministry Committee is “to foster the spiritual life of the Meeting” (p. 27, Faith and Practice, North Carolina Yearly Meeting-Conservative). In particular the committee attends to the spiritual quality of the Meeting for Worship and the Meeting for Business. This may include encouraging those with gifts in ministry, whether spoken or otherwise. In addition, the committee provides opportunities for spiritual growth for members and attenders.

Specific committee responsibilities include:

- Arranging forums and other opportunities, such as all-meeting retreats, to foster religious education and spiritual growth
- Arranging a clearness committee and/or support group for someone seeking ways to develop and share with others specific spiritual gifts or other spiritual discernment
- Providing opportunities, through literature or otherwise, for visitors and attenders to learn more about the beliefs and practices of Friends
- Participating in closing the Meeting for Worship
- Ensuring that our Yearly Meeting Queries are answered each year
- Ensuring that NCYM-C advices are read at least once a year

One must be a member or sojourning member to serve on the Worship and Ministry Committee. Worship and Ministry will meet jointly with the Committee on Care and Counsel at least once a year or as needed. Minutes are given directly to the archives.