

MAINTAINING NORWICH LOCAL QUAKER MEETING COMMUNITY

Guiding Principles

- Recognising that of God, the creative spirit of the universe, in everyone and everything.
- The values of simplicity, truth, equality, peace and sustainability.
- Speaking plainly, whilst thinking about the possible impact of our words and tempering plain speaking with love.
- Considering that any one of us may be mistaken.
- Being guided by Quaker texts.

Our Expectations of Good Quaker Practice

Meetings for Worship

- Arriving on time for the beginning of the Meeting.
- If unavoidably late, finding a place to sit that causes least disturbance to others already gathered in worship.
- Making spoken contributions to worship (ministries) normally concise and spontaneous, that is arising from a deep sense that they should be shared in the context of the particular meeting for worship, though they may spring from experiences and reflections that have built up over time.
- Making use of the “afterword” for contributions which Friends have been uncertain about sharing as ministry.
- Considering carefully whether ministry or afterword might contain language hurtful to or critical of others.

Business Meetings

- Beginning the Meeting with an open mind, in the belief that the Light will lead us beyond our individual prejudices and preoccupations.
- Waiting to be called before speaking.
- Leaving a space between contributions.
- Except for clarification, speaking only once on an item of business.

The General Life of the Meeting

- Respecting personal space and privacy.
- Avoiding putting anyone (including yourself) in a vulnerable or compromising situation.
- Avoiding inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others.
- Ensuring that allegations or suspected abuse are dealt with according to the AM safeguarding policy.
- Any member or attender who experiences distress or discomfort at the behaviour of another should report the matter with reasonable speed to an elder or overseer (as set out in the Conflict Resolution Procedures document).

Other Norwich Local Meeting Policy Documents

Policy documents relating to specific aspects of Meeting life are available for to view for reference:

- Elders' Explanation of Ministry & Afterword,
- Procurement Policy
- Lone Worker Policy
- Conflict Resolution Procedures (to be brought to NLBM in May)
- Safeguarding Policy (Area Meeting document)