

Minneapolis Friends Meeting



Handbook

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www.MinneapolisFriends.org

Contents

Quaker Worship	1
Adult Program	4
First Day School for Children	4
Youth Program	4
Nursery	5
Decision Making	6
Membership	7
Marriage	8
Clearness Committees	9
Director of Ministry	10
Stewardship & Finance	11
Social Activities	13
Library	14
Quaker Activities in the Twin Cities Area	15
Wider Quaker Activities	16
Brief History of Minneapolis Friends Meeting	19
The Building	20
Glossary of Quaker Terms	21
Additional Resources	25
Sunday Schedule	26

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www.MinneapolisFriends.org/handbook

Quaker Worship

Friends' worship depends on God's presence and the immediate leading of God's Spirit. George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, said, "Christ is come to teach his people himself." These words became the basis of what has been the Quaker understanding of Divine leading and expectation in worship.

This Meeting has two periods of Sunday Quaker worship, the earliest being unprogrammed and the later one semi-programmed. Unprogrammed worship is silent attention to God. There may be vocal ministry as Friends are led to speak. Semi-programmed worship includes some pre-planned elements of music and/or vocal message in addition to a significant period of silent attention to God. People may also speak as led from this silence.

The term "meeting for worship" (rather than "worship service") is about connecting with one another and with God, about meeting and being met; it's communion more than individual silent meditation.

Silence

In unprogrammed or open worship times, there are often sounds around us – perhaps birds or a mower outside, street noise, or children in First Day School. Those worshipping, however, attempt to still themselves, to become quiet. We let the cares of the world and the personal cares of our lives fall into God's hands. We rest, we contemplate, we pray. We "wait upon the Lord" and see – when we put our own agendas, efforts, interests and wants aside for a time – what might come to us from beyond – what Presence, direction or blessing. We listen for the voice and we await the touch of God.

Vocal Ministry

Quakers believe that God can use anyone in ministry, including in vocal ministry. From the earliest years of Quakerism, men, women, and even children have “preached.” The rule of thumb for speaking from a period of silent, open worship is to not come determined to speak and to not come determined not to speak. When we sense a leading to speak, we generally wait to see if the sense persists. We ask ourselves, “Is this message from God or from just me?” “Is this message for me alone or for the meeting?” “Is it for the meeting now?” “Is it a message for me to give or might it be for someone else to give?” “Is it a message to be given in the context of the meeting for worship or better given in another context?” A person who never or rarely speaks probably should go ahead with even a mild prompting, while a person who speaks often should carefully weigh whether keeping silence might minister more.

Before speaking, Friends are always asked to leave time after any previous speaker, to be brief or fairly brief, and to stand, as able, and speak so that a person in the farthest corner of the room can hear.

We’re all asked to come prepared for worship, to attend in all our lives to that which will prepare in heart, mind, body and spirit. Such disciplines as reading Scripture and Faith and Practice books, leading faithful and committed lives in all daily things, and stretching ourselves, help us be ready to meet corporately with God. When a person is asked to prepare to speak at the Meeting’s semi-programmed worship, they’re being asked to consider ahead of time a possible message and to prepare in a special way for that meeting. People approach that preparation in their own individual ways. They’re asked to go ahead with a planned message if it feels right to do so at the time in the appointed meeting.

Quaker Beliefs

The founder of Quakerism, George Fox, was a devout Christian. Since Quakerism is non-credal, our members hold a range of beliefs about Jesus and the Bible. While many Quakers consider themselves Christians, some have found resonance with humanism or other religious foundations such as Unitarianism, Buddhism, or Judaism. We respect and honor Christian and non-Christian religions alike.

Quaker Testimonies

Since the early days of Quakerism, Friends have shared their testimonies of practices and attitudes that have helped them to develop a fuller spiritual life. At the core of every testimony is the belief that there is that of God in everyone and each person can receive guidance directly from the Spirit. The testimonies are not a strict set of rules, but ways of relating to God and the world that are shared by many Quakers. Each Quaker may have a different understanding of what the testimonies are, but the principles remain quite similar. It is a constant challenge to find ways to express the testimonies of Friends that are relevant to present times.

The testimonies most commonly referred to today are *peace*, *equality*, *integrity* and *simplicity*. The *peace testimony* guides us to eliminate all occasions for war and to respect that of the Divine in every person. The *equality testimony* attests to the equality among all human beings, men and women, rich and poor. The *integrity testimony* calls forth truthfulness in our everyday interactions, which generates trust. The *simplicity testimony* encourages spiritual detachment from the things of this world and challenges us to shun superficialities which tend to obscure our vision of reality.

Adult Program

On Sunday mornings during the school year there is a 45-minute Adult Program scheduled in between the two meetings for worship. This time is used for a variety of programs, including Quaker education for adults, presentations on peace and social justice issues, and small group discussions on spiritual topics. Subjects of Adult Programs are announced in the weekly bulletin and on the web site.

First Day School for Children

The Meeting provides religious education classes for children preschool through high school. Classes meet on Sunday mornings during the school year, simultaneously with semi-programmed worship. Children in elementary grades and preschool sit with their parents in the main meetingroom for the beginning of worship, then go to their classrooms after the first hymn. Junior and senior high youth usually go directly to their own classrooms. Age groupings and classroom assignments vary from year to year depending on enrollment, so please inquire.

The curriculum focuses on Quaker values, Quaker history, and Bible stories. The First Day School program is planned by the Religious Education Committee which has representatives who work with each of the age groups.

Youth Program

A youth program for junior and senior highs provides additional opportunities outside of First Day School for young

people from the Meeting to see one another, have fun, participate in service projects and connect to wider Quaker activities, such as Northern Yearly Meeting weekend retreats. The Youth Programs are planned and overseen by the Youth Committee, composed of adults who work in consultation with the youth in the Meeting.

Nursery

The Meeting provides a nursery for young children on Sunday mornings. The nursery is located on the lower level, on the southwest side of the building. Baby care and unstructured toddler play are the norm. Children three and under are cared for by a nursery staff person and a volunteer. At times of low nursery population (early unprogrammed worship and summer), children through age six may be accommodated. A Nursery Committee hires and supervises the Nursery staff person and maintains a list of volunteers who work with the staff person so that two adults will be present with the children.

Protection of Children

Aware that child abuse can happen in any community, this Meeting has developed a policy and program to protect both children and anyone who might be accused. All those who work regularly with children in any meeting activity must participate in a clearness process provided by the Child Welfare Committee. It's expected that where possible two people so cleared will be present in a First Day School class or other activity. If you see what appears to be child abuse, you should report it to a member of the Child Welfare Committee so that a careful process of review can begin.

Decision Making

The practical affairs of the Meeting, including basic policies, are decided by all the members of the Meeting who care to participate. The ultimate authority lies in the Monthly Meeting for Business, which is a special kind of meeting for worship. Preparatory work and implementation are carried out by committees. While some decisions are delegated to committees, any matter of importance will be decided ultimately by the Monthly Meeting. All are encouraged to attend this Monthly Meeting and every member can participate fully in decisions. This process of discernment is known as “finding the sense of the Meeting.” It differs from ordinary parliamentary procedure in two important ways: first, in attitude; and second, in procedure. The appropriate attitude is one of intention to reach agreement of all members through loving listening and sharing with one another. Traditionally, Friends have regarded this as a way of seeking the will of God to guide our actions. The procedure does not involve motions, amendments and votes. Instead, a proposal is discussed, restated and reworked until all can agree on the wording of a Minute of Decision. This process is guided, not by a Chairperson who is an arbiter of procedural rules, but by a Clerk who is a skilled shaper of agreements. When the oral statement by the clerk is approved by all members present, the Recording Clerk writes it as a Minute and reads it back to the Meeting for final approval. It then becomes the permanent record of decision for future reference.

Committee Structure

Much of the work of the Meeting is accomplished through committees made up of members and attenders of the Meeting. For example, committees arrange speakers and music for worship services, plan religious education and activities for youth,

look after the Meeting's finances, attend to maintenance of the meetinghouse, and plan social events. Each committee has a clerk who typically convenes committee meetings and serves as a contact. Committees meet as needed to accomplish their particular goals and responsibilities. They bring issues which require Meeting discussion and approval to the Monthly Meeting for Business.

At the February Monthly Meeting for Business, the Nominating Committee recommends a slate of individuals for committee membership. The usual term of service on a committee is three years. Members and attenders are encouraged to participate on committees and may make their interests known to the clerk of the Nominating Committee or the Director of Ministry.

A complete list of committees and their members is in the Meeting Directory, and a copy is posted on the bulletin board in the meetinghouse hallway.

Membership

As a person becomes acquainted over time with the Meeting and with Friends' ways by participating in the life of the Meeting, he or she may feel led to consider membership. A sense of readiness to apply for membership can come in a variety of ways. One may discover that the faith and practice of Friends has become central to her or his life. Another may feel a spiritual leading that becomes increasingly clear and strong. A third may report a sense of having found the right place, of being "at home" after long seeking. Others may identify with and feel a responsibility toward the Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends.

How to Apply to Become a Member

At Minneapolis Friends Meeting, an applicant for membership writes a letter to the Ministry and Counsel Committee indicating interest in membership. Ministry and Counsel assigns a group of members to serve as a “clearness committee.” The clearness committee will meet with the applicant and together they will explore the meanings, implications and responsibilities of membership and discern the appropriateness of proceeding with membership at this time. These meetings are not intended as a “test” of an applicant’s suitability, and an attender should not be deterred from applying for membership by a feeling that they have not reached some ideal standard. Moral and spiritual achievement is not what is required in an applicant; sincerity of purpose is.

Membership in a Monthly Meeting is also membership in the Yearly Meeting and the wider Religious Society of Friends. “Associate membership” is a classification used for members who are children. Parents can request that their children become associate members.

Marriage

When Friends wish to be married under the care of the Meeting, they notify the Presiding Clerk of the Meeting who presents their letter of request at a monthly meeting for business. The application then goes to the Marriage Preparation Committee which meets with the couple to discuss the clearness process and answer questions about Quaker marriage and weddings. A clearness committee is then formed; it gathers with the couple for worship and consideration of readiness for marriage and of the appropriateness of marriage in the context of the Quaker Meeting. If clearness to proceed with the marriage un-

der the care of Meeting is reached, the clearness committee brings that recommendation back to a monthly meeting for business. If the Meeting approves the recommendation, a wedding date may be set and an arrangements committee is appointed to help the couple plan the meeting for worship for marriage.

The Minneapolis Friends Meeting offers this care to both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. Normally at least one member of the couple would be a member of this Meeting.

Copies of the questions asked in clearness committees, and other Meeting marriage information materials, are available from the Marriage Preparation Committee.

Clearness Committees

A clearness committee is a small group of volunteers appointed by the Meeting to help a person or couple reach clarity about a course of action under consideration. A clearness committee is formed for any individual considering becoming a member of the Meeting, and for any couple wishing to be married under the care of the Meeting. Members may also request a clearness committee to help gain clarity about faith concerns, a leading to travel or take an action such as tax resistance or witnessing publicly, career changes, or other life-changing decisions.

A clearness committee may meet just once, or several times, as needed. Members of the committee will listen carefully to you and offer questions from the Spirit or from their own hearts that help to further your decision process.

To request a clearness committee, you may contact the Director of Ministry, or a member of the Ministry and Counsel Committee, and the Meeting will respond as we are able. For issues

other than membership or marriage under the care of the Meeting, another option is to organize a committee yourself by asking members of your own choosing if they are willing to participate.

Director of Ministry

Pat Jones serves as the Meeting's Director of Ministry, an unusual staff position for a Friends Meeting. The Director of Ministry listens for and attends to the Meeting's needs for ministry and leadership. She serves a pastoral role with individuals, families, and the Meeting as a whole. Most of Pat's work is "behind the scenes" and focuses on encouraging and supporting the leadership, ministry, and service roles of others in the Meeting, for their work in the Meeting, in the wider Society of Friends, and in the world. Pat often acts as a point of contact for inquirers, new attenders, and other Friends Meetings and organizations. She consults with members and attenders on all manner of topics, and assists them in making personal, spiritual, and other connections in the Meeting community. Because she is freed from the need to have paid work elsewhere for her livelihood, she is generally available for Meeting ministry and business at times when others are at their employment. She works 3/4 time.

Pat welcomes hearing from you. You can reach her by phone at the Meeting's office number, or through her private email: patjones@MinneapolisFriends.org.

The Meeting Office

The Meetinghouse has an office area on the southeast corner of the main floor, up the ramp. The office is staffed part-time, with the Administrative Assistant, Carolyn VandenDolder, working

10-12 hours a week. The office phone number is 612-926-6159. Please leave a message if no one answers; sometimes Carolyn or Pat are just on another call or in another part of the building. The Meeting email is office@MinneapolisFriends.org.

Stewardship & Finance

Stewardship involves care of the earth's resources and sharing of our gifts of service, ministry and money. Opportunities for congregational and individual stewardship are discussed in committees and at Monthly Meeting for Business and are regularly highlighted in the weekly bulletin.

The annual budget is assembled by the Stewardship and Finance Committee based on requests from other committees, and approved at the March Meeting for Business. The Meeting's fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31. The current operating budget is posted on the bulletin board in the meetinghouse hallway.

Although we do not practice formal pledging and do not pass a collection plate, we encourage participants in the life of the Meeting to prayerfully conduct an annual review and consider commitments of time, service and regular monetary contributions so the Meeting can fulfill its goals. There are collection boxes for monetary contributions by the doors leading into the Meeting Room, and automatic withdrawals from checking accounts are possible.

Trustees Funds

A portion of the annual operating budget is designated for contributions to several long-term savings funds. The Meeting's Trustees oversee these funds and approve expenditures from

them according to criteria defined by Monthly Meeting for Business. The Trustees funds include:

- Building Maintenance Fund, for improvements and major repairs.
- Mission and Service Fund, to help finance adult and youth trips organized by the Meeting for fellowship and service. The Meeting has sponsored several trips to visit and assist Cuban Quakers, for example.
- Quaker Travel Fund, available to help individual members with expenses related to travel for Quaker service.
- Sabbatical Fund, to finance occasional sabbaticals for our Director of Ministry.

Shepherd Scholarship Fund

The Meeting created the Roland and Zephyra Shepherd scholarship fund in 1977 with a gift from the Shepherds. The purpose of the fund is to help members of the Meeting who are in need of financial assistance for post-secondary education. Grants are usually small, with amounts limited by the availability of funds and the number of applicants. To be eligible, a person must have been an active and contributing member of the Meeting (or another Quaker Meeting) for at least five years, or be the child of such an active member. For information, contact a member of the Shepherd Scholarship Committee.

Contributions to Other Organizations

The Meeting makes a practice of designating 10% of its annual budget for contributions to organizations that we wish to corporately support. These include Northern Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference (two larger Quaker organizations with which our Meeting is affiliated), several other Quaker or-

ganizations, ecumenical organizations, and a few other non-profit organizations which do peace-related work.

Each December, Meeting for Business selects one or two additional organizations to receive the annual “White Envelope Gift”. Members and attenders are invited to make special contributions to the White Envelope Gift fund, and the money collected is then donated to the selected organizations.

Social Activities

Monthly Potluck

We traditionally hold a potluck lunch on the first Sunday of every month immediately following semi-programmed meeting for worship. Food to be shared may be dropped off in the kitchen on the lower level of the Meetinghouse. Everyone is invited to participate, even if they are unable to contribute to the meal. Help with cleanup is always appreciated.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch group usually meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at noon for lunch and friendly conversation. Attendees are mostly older members of the Meeting, but the group is open to anyone who would like to attend. For location and other details, look for notices in the Meeting bulletin, or call the Meeting office.

Fall Camp

Since the mid-1950s, Minneapolis Friends Meeting has held a weekend retreat each autumn for members and attenders of all ages. It is a wonderful way to get to know each other as we

share meals, recreation, chores, and worship in a beautiful rustic setting. In recent years Fall Camp has been held at Camp Courage, located about one hour west of Minneapolis.

Expenses for Fall Camp are paid out of the Meeting's operating budget. Designated contributions are very welcome, but the intention is that anyone be able to attend regardless of whether they are able to contribute financially.

Journaling & Creative Writing

A journaling group meets monthly for creative writing exercises and sharing. Meetings are open to all who are interested, and are held at the Meetinghouse at the same time as Adult Program on the first Sunday of each month of the school year. The group does not meet during the summer.

Library

The Meeting maintains both an adult library and a children's library, containing books, magazines and audiovisual materials that may be checked out by members and attenders. The adult library is known as the Edith Jones Memorial Library in honor of the beloved former librarian for the Meeting. The library collections include works that support religious education, spiritual growth, and understanding of the Quaker testimonies.

The adult library is at the south end of the upper level of the Meetinghouse, outside the doors to the main worship space. The children's library is in one of the classrooms on the lower level.

Quaker Activities in the Twin Cities Area

Friends for a Non-Violent World

www.fnvw.org 651-917-0383

FNVW is a Minnesota, Quaker-inspired peace and social action organization supported by this and other meetings in the Twin Cities area. It is an important force for leading action on Quaker values in this region. Our members and attenders serve on its board and committees and as volunteers in its programs.

Alternatives to Violence Project

www.fnvw.org 651-917-0383

AVP was started in 1975 by Quakers in New York Yearly Meeting and is now worldwide. In this area it is sponsored by FNVW. Its primary work is prison workshops to enable inmates to overcome violent responses to life situations, including the endemic violence of prison life. Emphasis is placed on personal and group transformation through drawing on spiritual power and practicing communication skills. Exercises develop self-esteem and trust in fellow participants. AVP workshops in the community train leaders for prison work to supplement prisoners who become leaders through the program. First level training sessions are held fairly frequently.

Friends School of Minnesota

www.fsmn.org 651-917-0636

This K-8 independent school was established in 1988 by Friends from this Meeting and others. Located in St. Paul, it is recognized for academic quality, loving care for each student

and a widely copied program in conflict resolution. Members of this Meeting serve on its board and committees.

Metro Friends

www.quaker.org/mfcc

The Metro Friends Coordinating Committee strives to connect Twin Cities area Friends by organizing fun Quaker intergenerational fellowship events, facilitating discussion on the concerns felt widely by Friends, and by providing opportunities for the Spirit to move among all of us. A winter gathering of area Quakers is hosted by Minneapolis Friends Meeting and Twin Cities Friends Meeting in alternating years, and a summer potluck picnic is held in a local park each year.

Quaker Women's Group

The Quaker Women's Group is open to all Quaker women in the Twin Cities area. Meetings involve a potluck lunch followed by a program or discussion, and are usually held at the Twin Cities Friends Meetinghouse in St. Paul. The group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon, March through November. Watch the Minneapolis Friends Meeting bulletin for notices of meetings, or contact Carol Bartoo for information: bartoo@spacestar.net

Wider Quaker Activities

Northern Yearly Meeting

www.NorthernYearlyMeeting.org

Minneapolis Friends Meeting is linked to nationwide and worldwide Quaker endeavors through this regional organization. NYM is composed of meetings in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas. Its annual sessions of business and spiritual

refreshment are usually held at a camp or campus. It has several days of business, worship, workshops and interest groups, including a strong program for children of all ages. It has no authority to direct the activities of monthly meetings, but represents their way of working together on regional concerns and relations to still wider Friends activities.

Friends General Conference

www.fgcquaker.org 215-561-1700

FGC is an association of yearly meetings of the traditional liberal or “Hicksite” persuasion (one of which is Northern Yearly Meeting, with which Minneapolis Friends Meeting is affiliated.) FGC provides services to member yearly meetings, including traveling ministry and religious education materials. Every summer, FGC sponsors a week-long Gathering of Friends at a college campus somewhere in the U.S. or Canada. The Gathering is like Yearly Meeting writ large, except that there’s no business! It typically draws about 1,500 Quakers from North America and around the world.

Friends United Meeting

www.fum.org

Like Friends General Conference, FUM is another association of Quaker yearly meetings, but with a more explicitly Christian basis than FGC. It is international in scope, with many members in Africa and the Caribbean as well as the United States and Canada.

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

www.quakernet.org

The monthly Meetings affiliated with IYM are unprogrammed with a more explicitly Christian basis than those affiliated with

Northern Yearly Meeting. Some members of Minneapolis Friends Meeting participate in IYM's annual meetings.

American Friends Service Committee

www.afsc.org 215-241-7000

AFSC is a national peace and justice nonprofit organization, one of the largest and most influential peace organizations in the world. Its nationwide and worldwide programs are supported not only by Friends but by many others. Many members of this Meeting have served on its Board.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

www.fcnl.org 800-630-1330

FCNL is a Quaker lobby in the public interest, based in Washington, D.C. Its newsletter, hot lines and website are among the most valuable sources of trustworthy political information and it provides excellent assistance to those who want to communicate with national officials. Members of this Meeting have served on its Executive Committee.

Friends World Committee for Consultation

www.fwccworld.org

This committee seeks to have all yearly meetings of the world as its members, and nearly all are. Its principal purpose is for Friends to meet together and discuss mutual concerns, through representative triennial meetings in different parts of the world and world conferences about every 15 years. Its world headquarters is in London, and it sponsors programs at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

Brief History of Minneapolis Friends Meeting

Among the European-Americans who came to Minnesota in the 1850s were Quakers from New England, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. In 1860, they built their first meetinghouse at the corner of 8th Street and Hennepin Avenue. The Minneapolis Friends Meeting was formally established under Indiana Yearly Meeting in June 1863. Just three months later, however, in September, Iowa Yearly Meeting was formed and Minneapolis Friends became charter members.

The early Meeting had no pastor and worship was unprogrammed. Traveling Quaker ministers came to visit and several yearly meetings sent Quaker books to begin a small library. In the 1870s, the Meeting was caught up in the national evangelical movement and set off several small, short-lived meetings in Wright, Renville and Redwood counties. Friends were very involved with the early development and social welfare of Minneapolis. They helped to improve race relations, worked to provide opportunities for unmarried women with children, protested against establishments that served alcohol, supported high-quality education, and were involved in the establishment of Abbott-Northwestern Hospital.

As the 1800s came to a close, Minneapolis Friends followed the trend in Midwestern Quakerism and began to hire pastoral ministers who preached in meetings for worship, provided pastoral care, and reached out to the community to bring in new members. In 1895, a new and larger meetinghouse was built at 14th Street and 1st Avenue (where the convention center is now located). During World War I, the Meeting supported the work of the newly-formed American Friends Service Committee, active-

ly demonstrating that their opposition to the war came from humanitarian impulses rather than cowardice or lack of patriotism. During and after World War II, the Meeting was particularly supportive of AFSC relief work in Europe.

In 1950, Friends purchased the current meetinghouse on York Avenue. Membership grew dramatically when conscientious objectors and veterans of the world war who held Christian pacifist convictions brought their families to the Meeting. In the 1960s, Friends began holding two meetings for worship on First Days, one unprogrammed and the other programmed. Pastoral staff no longer preached regularly, but instead assumed the role of coordinator. Vietnam War draft resisters were supported and draft counseling and sanctuary were provided.

In the early 1980s, the historic affiliation with Iowa Yearly Meeting was discontinued because of distance and philosophical differences that included leadership style and a variety of social issues. After several years, Minneapolis Friends affiliated with Northern Yearly Meeting, the regional grouping that includes the majority of Friends in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Meeting also took both St. Cloud and Winona Preparative Meetings under its care. In 1990, Friends addressed issues of accessibility and future growth by renovating and adding to the meetinghouse.

Today, Minneapolis Friends support a wide variety of Quaker service and outreach organizations, including the American Friends Service Committee, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Friends for a Nonviolent World, and the Friends School of Minnesota.

The Building

In the Quaker tradition, it's the worshippers who are sacred, not

the places where they worship. Nevertheless, our Meetinghouse serves as the center for most of our activities, and we treat it with care.

The Meetinghouse was built in 1909 for the St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church. In 1925 it was sold to Lake Harriet Lutheran Church, which is now known as the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. It became the home of Minneapolis Friends Meeting in 1950. In the early 1990s the old church building was extensively remodeled into the current, accessible Meetinghouse.

Our building is regularly open at times of worship and other MFM community events. People wishing to enter the building at other times or to reserve meeting space should contact the office to make arrangements. We have a building use policy which provides guidelines for people planning to use the building. A copy of the policy can be obtained from the Meeting office.

Mayim Rabim

Since 1999, our building has also also been the place of worship for Mayim Rabim, a Reconstructionist Jewish congregation. Mayim Rabim pays rent to Minneapolis Friends Meeting for its use of the building.

Glossary of Quaker Terms

ATTENDER: An individual who attends a Meeting but has not taken the step of formally becoming a member. At MFM, attenders can participate fully in Meetings for Business and other activities, and can serve on most committees, with a few exceptions.

CLEARNESS COMMITTEE: Those appointed by a Meeting to help a person or couple reach clarity about a course of action under consideration, such as membership in the Meeting, marriage under the care of the Meeting, or other life-changing decisions.

CLERK: The person who leads a Meeting for Business or committee meeting.

CLOSER: The person who senses when a Meeting for Worship is ready to end, and initiates the end of worship. At MFM's semi-programmed meeting, the closer also announces hymns and the scheduled speaker, if any.

FAITH AND PRACTICE: A book describing procedures, practices, and values adopted by a yearly meeting. Northern Yearly Meeting (with which MFM is affiliated) is in the process of creating its Faith and Practice.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL: Religious education classes for children. This term is used in place of "Sunday School" because Quakers have traditionally used numbers for days of the week rather than Sunday, Monday, etc. which were considered pagan.

FRIENDS: Members of the Religious Society of Friends; also called Quakers. The term Friends, or "Friends in the Truth," was used as early as 1652.

HOLD IN THE LIGHT: Expressing a wish for God to comfort a person or illuminate their path through a situation.

LAY DOWN: To terminate a committee, work, or practice when it is felt to be complete or no longer needed.

LEADING: A sense of being led by the Spirit to take a certain action.

MEETING: An appointed gathering of Friends. This term is used in place of “congregation” because of the expected participation by all, meeting or encountering God together. (Also used in place of “church” to mean the organization of a local congregation of Friends.)

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: A regularly scheduled time when Friends meet to conduct business and make decisions under the leading of the Spirit. Also known as “Meeting for worship with attention to business.”

MEETING FOR WORSHIP: A gathering to worship under the leading of the Spirit. This may be either programmed (with scheduled speakers and music) or unprogrammed.

MEETINGHOUSE: The building in which Friends meet. This term is used in place of “church.”

MINUTE: Written record of an action taken in a Meeting for Business.

MONTHLY MEETING: Another term for “Meeting”, used because a Quaker congregation traditionally holds a Meeting for Business on a monthly basis.

QUAKERS: Nickname given to early members of the Society of Friends, referring to people trembling when feeling moved by the Spirit to speak. Used interchangeably with “Friends.”

QUERIES: Questions that invite individuals and Meetings to examine themselves, their values, and their practices.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS: The proper name of the Quaker sect.

SENSE OF THE MEETING: Discernment that the Meeting as a body is led toward a certain decision. Similar to the secular term “consensus” but with the added component of collective listening to leadings of the Spirit.

TESTIMONIES: The lived convictions and values shared by most Quakers, such as the testimonies of peace, integrity, simplicity, equality and community.

THAT OF GOD IN EVERYONE: The aspect of God (or inherent goodness) that is in every person, leading Quakers to value every life, reject war and violence, and work for social justice.

VOCAL MINISTRY: Speaking out of the silence in a Meeting for Worship after sensing a leading from the Spirit to speak.

Additional Resources

Minneapolis Friends Meeting Web Site:

www.MinneapolisFriends.org

Minneapolis Friends Meeting Bulletin:

The bulletin is distributed every Sunday at the meetinghouse. If you would like to receive it every week by e-mail, send your request to office@MinneapolisFriends.org.

Northern Yearly Meeting's Faith & Practice:

www.NorthernYearlyMeeting.org/faith-practice

Religious Society of Friends Web Site:

www.quaker.org

Friends General Conference Bookstore:

www.QuakerBooks.org 800-966-4556

Friends Journal:

A monthly magazine of Quaker thought, life, news, and art.

www.FriendsJournal.org 215-563-8629

Sunday Schedule

Please check the bulletin or www.MinneapolisFriends.org for updates.

School Year Schedule

Most Sundays

9:00 - 10:00 AM	Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship
10:15 - 11:00 AM	Adult Program
11:15 - 12:15 PM	Semi-Programmed Meeting for Worship & First Day School

2nd Sunday of the Month

9:00 - 9:45 AM	Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship
9:45 - 11:15 AM	Meeting for Business
11:15 - 12:15 PM	Semi-Programmed Meeting for Worship & First Day School

Summer Schedule

Most Sundays

9:30 - 10:30 AM	Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship
11:00 - 12:00 PM	Semi-Programmed Meeting for Worship

2nd Sunday of the Month

9:00 - 9:45 AM	Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship
9:45 - 11:00 AM	Meeting for Business
	No Semi-Programmed Meeting

1st Sunday of the Month, Year Round

Potluck lunch after Semi-Programmed Meeting