

Minneapolis Monthly Meeting

Information for Speakers at Semi-Programmed Worship

January, 2025

Spoken messages:

We encourage the planned speaker to share a brief message (from two to no more than seven minutes in length) which will lead others into worship rather than serve as the central element. The intent is to help those present focus and gather, with your message acting as a springboard into worship. We hope the message will help draw the Meeting into communion with God and with one another, not into discussion.

Readings from the Bible, Quaker Faith and Practice, the works of Quaker theologians, or other materials lending themselves to Quaker values or matters of the spirit are a welcome alternative to a developed message.

Please feel free to call members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee if you would like help or have questions about the nature of a message you are considering. Ministry and Counsel members can also help guide you to materials and perhaps to other people who might be a resource for you.

Listening to the Spirit:

You may begin to speak or read out of the silence when it feels right to you (from the podium or standing at your seat, as you are able, or unmuting yourself on Zoom). Most people begin their message within 5 to 10 minutes after the prelude or the first hymn if there is one, but know that you may follow your leading. Please remember that even though you have agreed to speak, if you do not feel led to speak, or it doesn't feel right to proceed with your message, you do not need to speak.

Audibility:

Using the microphone, read or speak audibly and distinctly, and at a slow pace. Hold the mic close to your mouth. Allow silence between readings if you have more than one, and consider pausing between key thoughts to enable them to be more fully heard and held by all. You might even want to read some passages or shorter readings twice, or share why you have chosen them. The worship closer can assist if you are uncertain of how to operate the microphone or have concerns that it may not be working properly.

Music:

Semi-programmed worship can include an opening and a closing song, usually chosen by the planned speaker from the hymnals. If you wish to choose a song or songs, please call the office with your choices **by the Thursday of the date you are scheduled to speak, at the latest** (earlier is better). The coordinator will call the musicians who need time to practice, will make Braille copies of the hymn(s) / song(s) available, and will request the Tech Committee generate lyrics. If you would prefer not to choose music, please let the office know **by Thursday** as well. Second Sundays during the school year do not have planned music.

Quotations in the bulletin:

People like quotations to be included in the bulletin. Scripture, queries, items from Quaker Faith and Practice, and other spiritual writings are all possible. If you have chosen a quotation, please email the office at office@minneapolisfriends.org or call the office **by Thursday noon** prior to speaking, (earlier is better), or drop it in the "Bulletin" file in the blue box, outside the outer office door by Thursday. Informing Carolyn of the hymns and any quote(s) you choose to use can be done at the same time.

Written message:

If you write out your message, please give the meeting office a copy for hard of hearing people, for those who are working with children, and others unable to attend meeting for worship.

Children attending during the first day school year:

Children may be in attendance through the first hymn. During the summer months, (and possibly part of September) children seven and older may come for the whole hour of worship. You may want to keep this in mind as you prepare your message.