

To all clerks of area and local meetings

For action

Priority g of A Framework for Action is about being good stewards of the resources in our care – putting our assets to work in the world, not sitting on them. Quaker Stewardship Committee, with input from Meeting for Sufferings, has prepared the attached queries for area and local meetings to use in exploring the issues this raises.

Please use the queries in whatever way best suits your meeting but try to identify actions that your meeting can take as a result of your discussions.

Meeting for Sufferings will be considering meetings' responses to these queries in July. Please send your minutes to the Recording Clerk's Office (not to Meeting for Sufferings direct please) by May 20 so that they can be collated in time for the July meeting.

Gillian Ashmore

Recording Clerk

January 2010

The queries

Could our resources - people, buildings and money - be better put to use for what love requires of us, which may challenge and disturb some Friends?

People

1. Sharing skills Has your meeting helped other meetings by sending Friends to assist them? Have you ever asked for help from outside?
2. Impact of central work Does your meeting benefit from Friends in your area who serve on central committees or are their skills and energy drawn away from the local and area meeting?
3. Service in the Area and Local Meeting How does the meeting decide which roles are essential and which could be done in a different way?
4. How flexible and imaginative are your Nominations processes? Do Friends and attenders have an opportunity to talk about their skills and experience and what they might offer to the meeting? Is there feedback to the Nominations Committee?
5. When you ask someone to take on a role, is it clear what is expected of them and where they can go for support?

Meeting Houses

6. What proportion of our resources are devoted to property? Does the cost (both financial and in terms of our energy levels) exceed the benefit of owning property?
7. Do you need a meeting house? How could you put your meeting house to better use?

Reserves

8. What are the purposes of holding reserves? Has the meeting discussed whether the size of its reserves is appropriate?

Communication and ways of working

9. What new ways of working would benefit your meeting?
10. How does Information Technology help and hinder in building your Quaker community?