Queries for reflection, discussion and learning

Chapter 11: Addressing need

Queries for individual reflection

1. How do I care for people? How involved am I in noticing, or enquiring, or responding to need, and how are my responses received? Do I feel my care is valued?

2. Is caring a burden at times? Do I find it difficult to limit my involvement or the time a Friend takes up? How well do I cope when my care is rejected or criticised?

3. In what ways do I take responsibility for meeting my own needs as a member of my worshipping community? How can I do this without feeling disconnected or left to my own devices?

Queries for pastoral groups

1. How can we ensure we 'prioritise the needs of the community as a whole, while being responsive to the legitimate needs of each person'? If we have had to make a difficult choice at some time, how do we feel about that now (or how would we make that choice)?

2. How do we prepare for needs or circumstances we don't often meet? Is there a point in giving scarce time to this? In what ways would it help when the unexpected happens?

3. Are we prepared to learn from getting things wrong? How will we do this in our group without blaming or scapegoating?

Queries for meetings

1. 'A caring meeting enables everyone to contribute and to be part of how needs are met; just as importantly, it encourages the kind of community where needs are noticed, made known, uncovered, anticipated and planned for in the normal course of being among Friends.' To what extent are we this kind of caring meeting?

2. Are arrangements in the meeting for caring for people sufficient and working? Where are there lacks or difficulties in providing for Friends' needs?

3. Do we invariably look to certain Friends to provide most of the care? As a caring community, how can we all support and care for one another? What does or will this mean in practice?