

Membership Questions and Queries

1. What does the phrase "there is that of God in everyone" mean to you? How does this find expression in your life and in your relationships with other people?
2. Where are you now in your spiritual journey? What are you seeking? What are you leaving behind? How do you relate to other current or former religious affiliations? What are some milestones in your spiritual journey? How do you expect membership in the meeting to help you in this journey? What have been some of your spiritual experiences and openings while participating in the Religious Society of Friends?
3. Are you comfortable with the thought of relying on the Inward Light as a guide on your spiritual journey, finding continual revelation within rather than relying on external authority? Do you find the collective experience and insights of Friends helpful in reaching your own understandings?
4. Do the teachings of Jesus and traditional Christian views of Jesus have a place in your religious life? Are you comfortable with the wide range of views in this regard among Friends? Are you comfortable with a Society whose unity of spirit coexist with a diversity of beliefs? Are you prepared to join a meeting family whose perspectives may differ considerably with your own?
5. Do you find the emphasis on the living silence in Friends worship helpful to your religious life? Do you find the messages in the spoken ministry of Friends helpful to you?
6. Do you understand the distinction between a programmed and an unprogrammed Friends meeting? Are you comfortable with the view that all participants in the Meeting are ministers who, through their words or actions, serve the spiritual needs of one another?
7. How does your family feel about your seeking membership in Friends Meeting? Does this present any problems for you?
8. Are you familiar with the historic testimonies of Friends, and to what extent do you try to exemplify them in your life?
 - The testimony of peace or non-violence
 - The testimony of respect for individuality
 - The testimony of community
 - The testimony of simplicity
 - The testimony of honesty
 - The testimony of equality
9. Have you weighed the queries and advices of Southeastern Yearly Meeting? Does their guidance speak to you?
10. Are you prepared to suffer (as Friends have done) if God calls you to take actions which are difficult, unpopular, or even contrary to the civil laws?
11. Does the idea of integrating your inner spiritual life to the outer world of your everyday life appeal to you? Does meditation play a part in joining inner and outer?

12. What does it mean that Friends Meetings for Business are conducted in a spirit of worship, and that decisions are reached by active search for unity?
13. What contributions and talents do you feel you can bring the Meeting community through membership? What gifts might you receive from others?
14. How would you characterize a vital Meeting? What responsibilities do you feel the Meeting has towards its children? What are the greatest strengths and weaknesses of the Society of Friends as it faces the future?
15. What are your interests in the wider family of Friends as represented by such organizations as Yearly Meetings, Friends General Conference, American Friends Service Committee, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker House, Carolina Friends School and the like?
16. Do you understand the relationship between the monthly, quarterly and yearly meeting? Are you aware of and willing to meet our expectations of financial support for programs, services and facilities at these levels of organizational structure?
17. Are you familiar with Quaker publications such as the Friends Journal, Pendle Hill Pamphlet Series, etc.? Are you aware of the Meeting's own resources (e.g., the library, various funds, clearness committees, adult and children's religious education programs)?
18. What are your expectations of membership in the Meeting? How can the Meeting facilitate your integration into its membership?
19. What reservations, doubts, or unanswered questions do you have concerning membership in a Friends Meeting?