

## Vocal Ministry Workshop

### Quaker Worship

*In making comparisons with forms of worship that have evolved in other churches, one cannot ignore the semi-contemplative method which the individual Quaker worshiper employs, but under a sense of inward communion and with prophetic expectation. – Dean Freiday's introduction to Barclay's Apology*



### Receiving Vocal Ministry

What messages speak to you? What messages do you find troubling or off-putting?

We are not trained orators. Historically, the reluctant, less educated, and Friends with speech impediments have received vocal ministry gifts while the glib and more educated are led to other ministries. How do we listen for the spiritual truth in messages not perfectly presented?

Meeting for worship is said to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Could a troubling message be an opportunity for some inner work?

### To Speak or not to Speak

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

--Psalm 8:3-4

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

--Psalm 111:10

Why me, Lord? Who am I to speak for God? I don't like public speaking. Often it is the shy who are given vocal ministry gifts, while those naturally glib are not.

Faith & Practice advice: If you are not sure whether you are *really* led to speak, and you rarely speak, go ahead and speak. If you are unsure and you often speak, don't. Come to worship neither planning to speak nor planning not to speak.

### Betsy's Advices

- Use the language of the heart rather than the head.
- Speak up. Psalm 40:8-10
- Teach Friends faith and testimonies, while avoiding Quaker exceptionalism.
- Keep it simple.
- Welcome eldering and be self-correcting.
- After you speak, let the message go.