

London Grove Monthly Meeting
Reading Resource List for Clerks
of Committees and Meetings

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2012

Martin D. Reber
Clerk
London Grove Monthly Meeting
10th Month, 15th Day, 2012

Reading Resource List for Clerks

Quick Guide - Essential Readings for all Clerks

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice, 2002

Decision-Making and The Good Order Used Among Us
Monthly Meetings: Governance, Nurture and Committees

Spiritual Responsibility in the Meeting for Business

Patricia Loring, Hartford Monthly Meeting

Leadership and Authority in the Religious Society of Friends

Arthur Larrabee, 44th Annual Walton Lecture, Southeastern Yearly Meeting

A Handbook for the Presiding Clerk

David O. Stanfield, North Carolina Yearly Meeting

Turnaround: Growing a Twenty-First Century Religious Society of Friends

Benjamin Lloyd, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #387

Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting

Barry Morley, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307

Beyond Majority Rule: Voteless Decisions in the Religious Society of Friends

Michael J. Sheeran, S.J.

For further information about these readings, please see the following pages.

About Clerking, Committees and Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meetings: Governance, Nurture and Committees

PYM Faith & Practice, 2002, pp. 177-191

Leadership and Authority in the Religious Society of Friends

Arthur Larrabee, 44th Annual Walton Lecture, Southeastern Yearly Meeting, 2007, 24pp For the 2007 Walton Lecture, Arthur Larrabee provided an insightful appraisal of the state of contemporary Quakerism's fear of leadership. His reassuring and enlightening lecture offers solutions for attitude change. This booklet is a must-have for those interested in the future of Quakerism.

Where Should I Stand: A Field Guide for Monthly Meeting Clerks

Elizabeth Boardman, FGC

The author draws on her 4 years as a monthly meeting clerk and the wisdom of 15 other experienced clerks to answer questions including: How should I relate to the committees? What about my life and beliefs? How do I get support for this work? How do I help sustain the faith community? What will be my challenges and rewards?

A Handbook for the Presiding Clerk

David O. Stanfield, North Carolina Yearly Meeting, 20pp.

Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches

Mathilda Navias, Friends Publishing Corporation, 2012, ISBN 9780977951147 A thorough survey of the nuances of Quaker process and practice. Includes historical context to how Quaker process has evolved, shares common practices and variations used by contemporary Friends, and gives real-life examples of model Quaker process in action.

Before the Meeting: a Handbook for Clerks

Keith Redfern, Quaker Home Service, London, 28pp, ISBN 085245256x Good information from a British perspective - easily translated to U.S. use.

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Unforeseen Joy: Serving A Friends Meeting As Recording Clerk

Damon Hickey

An excellent and delightful guide for recording clerks. Practical advice with a spiritual basis.

Servant of the Meeting: Quaker business meetings and their Clerks

Cecil W. Sharman, Quaker Home Service, London, 47pp., ISBN 0852451725 A guide to the organization of British meetings: local, monthly, general and national - with reference to the duties of the clerks.

About Quaker decision-making

Decision-Making and The Good Order Used Among Us
PYM Faith & Practice, 2002, pp. 21-28

Spiritual Responsibility in the meeting for Business

Patricia Loring, Hartford Monthly Meeting, FGC Leaflet, ISBN 1888305622

This pamphlet points out the differences between Friends' process and the secular process of "reaching consensus."

When Friends Attend to Business

Thomas Brown, PYM Leaflet

Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting

Barry Morley, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307

Gets to the essential components of discerning the sense of the Meeting, grounded in worship. In seeking the sense of the meeting we open ourselves to being guided to perfect resolution in the Light, to a place where we sit in unity in the collective inward Presence. "Reaching consensus is a secular process. In sense of the meeting God gets a voice." Morley describes three essential components in discovering sense of the meeting: release, long focus, and transition to Light, all of which are nurtured by worship.

Beyond Majority Rule: Voteless Decisions in the Religious Society of Friends

Michael J. Sheeran, S.J., ISBN 0941308049

This book traces how Friends successfully employ a tradition of religious decision making which is deeply embedded in Scripture but which other Christians have

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typically lost. Social scientists and political philosophers are invited to discover in Quakers what may be the only modern western community in which decision making achieves the group-centered decisions of traditional societies. The conclusion discusses Friends as a possible answer to the common contemporary wish for advancement beyond the fragmented individuation of "liberal" man.

The author hopes Quakers themselves will find in these pages a helpful mirroring of Friends decision making. Newcomers to Quakerism and those in roles of leadership within the community may see in this study an outsider's understanding of the possibilities and pitfalls of the Quaker method of going beyond majority rule.

Guide to Quaker Practice

Howard Brinton, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #20

This is an accessible, clear and concise description of Quaker distinctives, beliefs and practices. "For more than sixty years, Friends have used the Guide to Quaker Practice to demystify Friends' customary procedures. Howard Brinton wrote the Guide assuming that somebody would improve on his work as the Religious Society of Friends grew and changed in the second half of the twentieth century. His Guide proved more durable than he anticipated. He described Quaker practice by reference to theology, applying historical precedent insofar as it did not interfere with the clear description of contemporary practice.

About leadership and authority in the Religious Society of Friends

Members of One Another: The Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting

Thomas Gates, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #371

A thoughtful and rich consideration of what it is to be a member of a meeting and the relationship between individuals and the body of the meeting.

The Authority of Our Meetings is the Power of God

Paul Lacey, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #365

The author holds in creative tension the individual and corporate responsibilities in our monthly meetings to witness to the power and authority of God.

Spiritual Underpinnings for Clerking

Experiencing God: Three Spiritual Practices

Arthur Larrabee, 2003, 28pp.

Presents the practices of dissolving attachments, dying into fear and embracing the paradox as powerful ways to God.

Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting

Edward Hoare

"How do we deepen the spiritual life of the meeting?"

"Since there were no birthright Friends in the 1650s, what made them Quakers?" The author approaches these questions based on conviction, conversion, and conviction.

Handling conflicts

Conflict In Meetings: 2nd, Revised Edition,

Committee on Eldership and Oversight of Britain Yearly Meeting Conflict is inseparable from living. Whether it constrains or liberates depends on our response. This book is for clerks, elders or oversight committees, and anyone called to deal with conflict. It will enable Friends to identify the resources in their meetings and use them to forge a living peace testimony.

Dealing With Difficult Behavior In Meeting For Worship: *Meeting The Needs Of The Many While Responding To The Needs Of The Few,*

Ministry and Nurture Committee of Friends General Conference

When someone disrupts meeting for worship, what can the meeting community do?

Explore your options and find caring solutions.

Matthew 18: Wisdom For Living In Community

Connie McPeak Green and Marty Paxson Grundy, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #399 Friends are called to live in community, but difficult interactions with others challenge us to wrestle with our own strengths, weaknesses, and former experiences. The authors have spent years exploring the 18th chapter of Matthew, which contains Jesus's advice to his disciples about how to get along with one another. Living in accordance with this guidance may be the most difficult thing they have ever tried to do, but they've found the

Deepening the life of the Meeting

Fostering Vital Friends Meetings: A Handbook For Working With Quaker Meetings

Jan Greene and Marty Walton

Growing from the common purpose of nurturing and encouraging meetings, this handbook provides carefully seasoned guidelines, tools and exercises that meetings can use to strengthen Quaker practice in a concise and user-friendly manual. Sections detail who, what, how and why people can be about the work of fostering vitality in Friends meetings everywhere.

Turnaround: Growing a Twenty-First Century Religious Society of Friends

Benjamin Lloyd, Pendle Hill Pamphlet #387

Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting

Edward Hoare

"How do we deepen the spiritual life of the meeting?"

"Since there were no birthright Friends in the 1650s, what made them Quakers?" The author approaches these questions based on conviction, conversion, and convictionment.

Where The Wind Blows: Vitality Among Friends

Jay Marshall

Imagine two meetings located near to one another. Who can say with certainty why one thrives for generations and the other never does? A variety of factors influence patterns of growth and vitality. Where the Wind Blows is the result of surveys and conversations with nine flourishing Friends meetings (FGC) or churches (FUM) of Friends. This project had 2 primary goals: share positive news of worship and ministry among Friends; and create a resource for Friends seeking assistance with their own quest for vitality.

Reading Resource List for Clerks

Where to obtain these publications

Books and pamphlets in this bibliography are available from many libraries and booksellers including the following:

London Grove Library at London Grove Meeting

PYM Library at archive.pym.org/library/index.php

FGC Bookstore at www.quakerbooks.org

Pendle Hill Bookstore at

www.pendlehill.org/bookstore/catalog