Third Month: Participation in the Life of the Meeting

There are varieties of Gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same One, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

I Corinthians 12:4-11 (New RSV)

Advices from *FAITH AND PRACTICE* 1993 (Participation in the Life of the Meeting)

The Meeting is enriched when all members and attenders participate actively. The working of the Spirit in our lives is expressed through prophetic ministry, pastoral caring for each other, and the example provided by lives lived in the Light.

In the active life of the Meeting, an individual's leadings are tempered and strengthened by the communal spirit. All members have responsibility for participation in, and financial support of, the Meeting.

Attenders are encouraged to become acquainted with Friends' ways and to apply for membership when it is evident that the Meeting has become their spiritual home.

When Meeting for Worship has a central place in one's life, regular and punctual attendance follows. We hold in the Light those who are unable to attend by reason of infirmity, or imprisonment, distance, or other stresses in their lives.

Queries

- Do you take an active part in the life of our Meeting? In what ways do you grow by participating in the life of the Meeting?
- Do you offer your spiritual gifts in service of the Meeting? Do we, individually and collectively, recognize and support others in doing so?
- How has our group grown together through its activities?
- How do we welcome and involve newcomers?
- Do we provide youth with responsible opportunities and encouragement to participate in Meeting life and structure?
- Do we urge attenders to consider membership when they feel ready?