

Brief explanation for new Attenders and reminders for long-standing Friends

Ministry

Anybody attending MfW may speak in ministry, and all present at a MfW contribute to the meeting, even if they do not give spoken ministry.

Vocal ministry is spirit-led, comes from a deep place within us and arises out of personal experience, perception, insight or inspiration. It arises in the moment and should not be prepared in advance of the meeting.

Please speak only if, after careful consideration, you feel compelled to do so. Ministry is not an occasion for information-giving, debate or criticism, but for the expression of deep feeling. Other Friends' ministry may not speak to you but may speak to others.

Please leave a suitable space for the previous ministry to be absorbed by the meeting before speaking yourself; and allow the last five minutes of meeting to remain silent.

Afterword

Afterword is an opportunity for Friends to voice thoughts or experiences that they have had during meeting, or at another time, which they wish to share, but which are not appropriate to express in ministry. The same discipline, however, still applies regarding the respectful and constructive way in which views, thoughts and other matters are communicated.

Norwich Local Quaker Meetings Elders, February 2021