

Worship Sharing 6/1/21

Business in the Light

“Friends are not to meet (in Meetings for Business) like a company of people about Town or Parish business... but to wait upon the Lord.”

---George Fox, 1674

“How does a Quaker Meeting work? Its foundation is the conviction that God is not a distant or remote being but a living presence to be discovered in the deep center of every human being... The Quaker experience is that in the silence as we open to one another in love, we help each other by sharing our strengths and weaknesses. The Quaker conviction is that as we go deeper into ourselves we shall eventually reach a still, quiet center. At this point two things happen simultaneously. Each of us is aware of our unique value as an individual human being, and each of us is aware of our utter interdependence on one another”

---George Gorman, 1982

“Keep up your meetings for worship, and your men and women’s meetings for the affairs of truth, both Monthly and Quarterly. And after you are settled, you may join together and build a meeting house. And do not strive about outward things, but dwell in the love of God, for that will unite you together, and make you kind and gentle one towards another, and to seek one another’s good and welfare, and to be helpful one to another, and see that nothing be lacking among you, then all will be well. And let temperance, and patience and kindness and brotherly love be exercised among you, so that you may abound in virtue, and true humility, living in peace, showing forth the nature of Christianity that you all may live as a family.”

---George Fox, 1676

Queries

Early Friends found ‘Gospel Order’ (the manner of Friends organization and business process) to be fundamentally a part of the living spiritual path of Quakerism.

- How has your experience at Meeting for Business helped you to grow and deepen spiritually?
- How do these quotes speak to your experience or speak to your condition?
- How has working toward unity deepened our sense of community?