

Advices & Queries — Expectant Worship, Vocal Ministry

We prepare ourselves for meeting for worship in many ways—for example, through regular study, meditation and prayer—so that we come into meeting with open, expectant spirits seeking after Truth.

Search within yourself before rising to give vocal ministry—be aware of the physical and spiritual promptings that underlie true vocal ministry.

If prompted by the Spirit to give vocal ministry, we speak audibly, clearly, simply, and as briefly as possible.

Listen to the ministry of others as if it is the voice of the Divine; seek the thoughts behind the words and hold the speaker in love.

After a message is given, Friends take time to ponder its meaning and to give space before rising to speak if we are so led.

Prepare the children of meeting to understand and experience the power of Quaker worship and vocal ministry.

- How do we prepare our hearts and minds for meeting for worship?
- Do we worship together in a way that honors and respects other Friends' beliefs? How do we listen to ministry that seems wrong or misguided?
- Do we meet for worship in expectant waiting for the promptings of the Divine Spirit? How do we carry this inspiration into our daily living?
- How do we take care that our vocal ministry is not lightly given? Do we offer vocal ministry under the leading of the Spirit, in the simplicity and sincerity of truth?
- As we listen, or as we speak, are we guided by the inward Light and sensitive to one another's needs? Are we careful not to speak at undue length or beyond our call?