

Lives and Callings sessions at Gwynedd Meeting

This series is presented periodically at Adult First Day School. In this series sponsored by the Worship and Ministry Committee of Gwynedd Friends Meeting, members and attenders are asked to talk about their path to their present work or other involvement outside the Meeting, the way in which this activity is an extension of themselves and their faith, and how the Meeting influences this activity. This series is intended to introduce us to each other from the perspective of our weekday activities and to open discussion on the relation of Quaker testimonies to our daily lives. Participants are chosen randomly to represent different walks of life.

- Format:

About ten minutes for you to introduce yourself, tell what you do in your daily pursuits (work outside the home, homemaking, volunteer activity, artistic endeavors, etc.) and explore with us your life and calling as a Quaker. We see these discussions as an opportunity to explore, share and learn from each other regarding the practice of Quaker testimonies in our daily walks, and from your generational perspective. You may find it helpful to use one or more of these questions as a way to organize your thoughts. That is your choice.

- Some questions to consider:

Vocation—a calling: is this still a valid way to think about our lives?

Is your work or other daily pursuit a “calling”?

What was the path that led to your primary activity?

To what extent is this an aspect of ministry for you?

How important is your working life (work for pay outside the home, if applicable) in relation to the rest of your life?

Would you like to change your work? Why?

To what extent do you get your identity from your work?

If the Divine sparks our daily life, as Quaker tradition states as a premise, how does this affect your relationships to your daily activity and people when other, hierarchical relationships prevail?

When is your job responsibility in conflict with your values?

Decisions you have made recently that epitomize the value of your daily activity to you.

Recent examples of how Meeting for Worship has influenced you in the week following—how does Meeting prepare you for the work week?

Please do not feel that all these questions need be addressed. Choose any focus you feel fits your situation best. We hope you will be able to participate in this ongoing discussion. Feedback from previous sessions was enthusiastic.