

Are You Ready to Join Us?

Providence Monthly Meeting of Friends

99 Morris Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

401-331-4218

Worship: Sunday 10:00 am



Applying for Membership in Providence Monthly Meeting

Why should you consider joining?

While we always welcome Meeting attenders, we encourage regular attenders to explore Meeting membership. Membership in the Meeting reflects a deeper commitment to Friends principles and practice as well as a willingness to participate in all aspects of the life of the Meeting.

In a practical sense, membership in Meeting is essentially a continuation of attender status with a few added aspects. While both members and attenders contribute to the operation and spirit of the Meeting, certain committees -- Finance and Ministry and Counsel, for example -- and positions -- such as Presiding Clerk -- are restricted to Meeting members.

How will you know you are ready?

Membership is generally thought of as an understanding by both the applicant and the Meeting that we are joined in a mutual commitment to a Quaker way of life.

There are many roads to preparation for membership. Most likely you have found Friends' testimonies relevant to the challenges of the twenty-first century and have participated in the life of the Monthly Meeting. Because we are, above all, a community, it is important that you feel in harmony with the diversity of Friends, both locally and in the larger world.

You should also have attended meeting for some time and developed an appreciation for our form of worship and business.

If you find that you are in unity with the principles, testimonies and practices of Friends, especially as reflected in *Faith and Practice*, it may indeed be time for you to consider membership. Although the appropriate time for membership varies with each individual, one indication that you may be ready is the

realization that Meeting for Worship has become an integral part of your life.¹

What is the procedure for becoming a member?

The process of applying for membership is generally quite enjoyable and enriching for both the attender and the various Meeting members involved in the membership process. Becoming a member involves the following steps:

- As a prospective member, you would write a letter to the Presiding Clerk requesting consideration for membership and explaining your reasons for seeking to become a member.
- A Clearness Committee would meet with you to review the privileges and responsibilities of membership and discuss both your spiritual path to Friends and your reasons for seeking a deeper relationship with Meeting.
- Following a period of discernment, the Clearness Committee presents its recommendation to Ministry and Counsel, which then, in turn, presents its recommendation to Meeting for Business.
- Your membership is accepted upon the approval of Meeting for Business. Within a short time, you will be welcomed at a potluck lunch.

You are encouraged to direct any questions about membership to the Presiding Clerk or the clerk of Ministry and Counsel.

¹ Section on readiness for membership adapted from *Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends*, 1985.