

MARRIAGE UNDER THE CARE OF OUR MEETING

Come to a discussion

When:

Where:

1. What is marriage? What does it mean? Where does religion fit in?
2. How do we support marriage relationships at all stages?
3. Consider together what a marriage under the care of the meeting entails.
4. Learn about the origin of our Quaker wedding practices.

Here is our chance to interact with
a draft chapter for our Faith and Practice at a
fundamental level.

What do you like? What should be kept? changed? added?

The Faith and Practice Revision Committee seeks our input. What can we say?

Questions for Group Discernment

This is a new chapter, coming to our monthly meetings for the first time. Can we give input? We hope this chapter serves as a springboard for open conversation on marriage in our meeting, and gives us a chance to send our group response back to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee.

Definition of Marriage - Is the definition at the beginning of the chapter consistent with your experience of marriage (paragraphs 1-3)?

Helpful or Thought-Provoking? - We are asking you to respond to whether the content of this text is helpful. While we cannot cover any topic in detail, we want to touch upon topics and ideas that are fruitful. Do the pieces on considering marriage, sustaining marriage, challenges in marriage, separation and divorce open a line of thinking that is helpful, either for you, a committee, or for someone in those stages of a marriage?

Marriage Procedures - What is your experience of Friends marriages and procedures? Are there regular marriages within your meeting? Does this text enhance your understanding of the practical steps, and/or provide a handy reference?

History and You - Does the historical section give grounding to the procedures that follow in the sections about marriage today? Was any of this new to some of you?

Religious Context - What is your understanding of the spiritual aspects of marriage? Is this text helpful? Is the concept of marrying each other without an intercessory significant to you? Is it usual for the vows of Friends marrying in your Meeting to include the words “with Divine assistance”?

Extracts - Extracts are chosen to give the range of Friends responses to their experience over time. Which extracts strike you as most interesting and thought-provoking? Are the extracts helpful – which ones? Are there others that you might suggest?

Advices and Queries - Are the advices and queries helpful to people in your meeting? What others could be considered?

Appendix - This appendix was originally written in 2011, and is now being rewritten to amplify this new chapter. We are particularly seeking input from meetings on the second query in Appendix 6B#2. Is this query still useful? What is the experience of your meeting? Have you had occasions recently where couples, or the meeting, have struggled with this question? What were the circumstances in that situation? How might this query be re-written to reflect your meeting’s experience today?