

CARE OF MEETING FOR WORSHIP

General description

The person who has care of Meeting for Worship, is appointed by Ministry and Counsel. The Care of Meeting person is attentive to the worship on Sunday mornings and ends the worship at an appropriate time.

Responsibilities

- Having care of Meeting means to be in prayer for the worship, asking for divine guidance. It also means being present for the entire time and not being late to worship.
- One the first Sunday of the month, when it feels right to share, the Care of Meeting person reads the query and advice provided by Ministry and Counsel.
- The Care of Meeting person is usually the one who deals with distractions during worship, such as noise coming from the outer room.
- The person with Care of Meeting is responsible for closing the meeting. If there is a message close to when meeting should close at noon, it may be important to keep meeting going for a few minutes of silence after that final message.
- To close meeting, the Care of Meeting person will shake hands with those sitting nearby and say a greeting such as, "Good Morning Friends."
- Lively conversations may erupt at this break from silence. As soon as practical, the person with care of meeting should invite Friends to share personal Joys and Concerns. Note: in our Meeting we do not ask Friends to share afterthoughts, messages that may not have arisen during Worship.
- At the conclusion of the sharing of joys and concerns (typically about 5 minutes, but it might need to go on longer, the Care of Meeting person should welcome visitors, for example by saying something like *"Friends, it is now time for us to welcome visitors. If you are visiting today, or if you are a recent attender and we haven't had a chance to know your name yet, or if you haven't come in a while and need to remind us of your name, please rise and introduce yourself."* The care-of- Meeting person normally shows interest in visitors with such comments as "Welcome," "Thank-you," and "Would you like to tell us where you're from and what led you here this morning?" to those introducing themselves.
- After introductions, the care-of-Meeting person will say in their own words, *"Now we will hear any brief Meeting-related announcements that Friends have to share."* Friends making announcements will raise their hands and wait for the care-of-Meeting person to recognize them. If one or two Friends start asking the announcer for more information than the group as a whole is likely to be interested in, the care-of-Meeting person may need to ask them to continue their discussion after Meeting.

- After announcements (typically five to ten minutes) the care-of-Meeting person will say in their own words, *"Let us now break for hospitality and fellowship. If you have questions or need to talk to someone, you can see me after Meeting."*
- The care-of-Meeting person also is encouraged to seek out visitors and newcomers after the rise of Meeting to help them feel welcome, offer to answer any questions they may have, and point out the guest book and any free literature they may take advantage of. Do not encourage visitors to check materials out of the Meeting library.

III. Last Revised: November 6, 2019-11-09