

Suggested Queries for Individuals Traveling in Relation to the FUM Personnel Policy on Sexual Ethics

Spiritual Preparation

1. Do I have a sense of divine leading to visit among Friends within New England or other YMs within FUM? Do I have a concern to spend time with FUM Friends, to be open to their concerns, and to share with them in the life of the Spirit?
2. In what capacity am I led to travel? Am I called to bear the weight of this concern with a travel minute? Am I called to travel as a companion with a letter of introduction? Or am I called to know and be known, with a letter of introduction.
3. Does my monthly meeting confirm my sense of leading, after a clearness process?
4. Am I committed to the Society of Friends and to New England Yearly Meeting? Am I familiar with New England Friends and the breadth of theological diversity we encompass, as well as the Advices and Queries of New England Yearly Meeting, so that I can represent New England Friends appropriately?
5. Am I ready to experience worship outside my tradition, be it Bible-based, Christ-centered or Universalist Quakerism? Have I attended both programmed and unprogrammed worship in New England?
6. Am I familiar with the Bible, especially the Gospels? Am I able to attend committee meetings or other gatherings in preparation for the trip?
7. How do I explain my faith to those who may experience God and Christ differently from me? Can I dialogue without rancor with Quakers who are also proselytizers, Jewish, pagan, Buddhist or non-theists?
8. Are there any personal or family issues which affect my decision to travel? Can I be released from work, school, and family responsibilities to enable me to go on this trip? Do I have any health conditions which may affect the trip? Am I willing to raise all or part of my own expenses, if need be?
9. Am I willing to be changed?

Cross Faith dialogue

1. What ways can I share positive impressions or stories about FUM Friends and their ministries?
2. How much do I understand the common ground and conflicts among the five branches of Friends?
3. Have I considered how Christianity has both supported oppression and has given liberation to those who are oppressed?

4. While visiting, am I willing to listen to Friends' different viewpoints? Am I thinking of offering a more structured format?
5. What ways do I handle those who are reticent to dialogue at all on this topic?

Ethics

1. What informs the ethical standards that I hold to in the area of sexuality? Am I familiar with relevant published material on sexuality such as NEYM minutes, *Faith and Practice*, and *Living with Oneself and Others*?
2. Am I prepared to open my heart to Friends even if I disagree with them on questions of politics and life style, such as Friends who have testimonies of absence from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and sexual activity outside legal marriage as part of their Quakerism?
3. Do I understand completely the meaning of the FUM personnel policy and its ramifications for Friends in different parts of the world?
4. Am I familiar with Bible passages that refer to same sex relationships and am ready to dialogue with those who feel homosexuality is wrong?

Conflict & Reconciliation

1. Am I comfortable communicating with those who disagree with me and who show anger on this topic?
2. Jesus asked us to love our enemies. Do we see those who disagree with us as opponents and how do we work together for justice?
3. Am I aware of my own internal feelings, such as anger or pain? Do I use these feelings honestly, creatively and constructively?