

Suggested Queries for Monthly Meetings Providing Clearness Committees

The term "clearness process" may be ambiguous. When a Friend asks for a clearness committee on a personal issue such as a career change, the committee's focus is on whether the individual is clear to proceed. On the other hand, for matters which require monthly meeting action (for example, membership or marriage under the care of the meeting), the committee necessarily has a dual focus: Is the individual clear, and is the meeting in unity with that choice and clear to endorse or recommend it as a corporate decision? The process for Friends traveling with a concern should be of the latter type. Both Permanent Board and the quarterly meetings rely on the discernment of monthly meetings whether a particular Friend is an appropriate person to represent New England Yearly Meeting.

1. Does the Friend have a divine leading to share with FUM Friends in that which is eternal? Is the Friend's primary motive a spiritual one, rather than self-interest, including political aims or professional interest in FUM?
2. Does the Friend display the spiritual and emotional maturity which will enable him or her to be attentive, with an open heart, to the needs and conditions of FUM Friends?
3. Will this Friend respond with sensitivity and wisdom to differences in culture, life style, theology, or form of worship which she or he may find disturbing?
4. When unexpected difficulties arise, for example in the logistics of travel or in interpersonal relationships, will the Friend respond with discernment, flexibility, and good judgment?
6. Is this Friend an appropriate representative of your Meeting and of New England Yearly Meeting, one whose visit among other YMs will enrich and strengthen the relationship between yearly meetings?
7. Is the Meeting prepared to offer the personal and spiritual support this Friend's needs before and after the trip?