

!!! News from C'nR - Check this Out !!!

The Consultation and Renewal Working Group (C'nR) is planning a visit to all Meetings and Worship Groups in Canadian Yearly Meeting sometime between September 2005 and May 2006. We have been asked by Yearly Meeting to listen to and consult with Friends and Attenders across the country and to recommend ways forward which will deepen and nurture our spiritual life. Our discussions will encompass how our Yearly Meeting may change in the foreseeable future because of increasing costs, the concern to leave as faint an ecological footprint as possible, the desire to make our Yearly Meeting a more vital part of the lives of Canadian Friends, and difficulties inherent in our current structure.

We hope in these consultations to include Friends and attenders who do not normally attend Yearly Meeting and who usually do not participate in discussions about Yearly Meeting. Ideally we would like to meet with each group for a full day if possible. We have sent a pamphlet by Elizabeth Cazden to each group, as it raises questions for us to consider about what kind of Society we are and how we organise it and what level of commitment we make to it. Below are the QUERIES we hope you will individually and collectively consider before our visit.

QUERIES

From the Consultation and Renewal Working Group (C'nR)

A LIST: to consider first

1. Is your Monthly Meeting or Worship Group a central and life-transforming commitment, or is it one of the activities that competes for your attention, allegiance and money?
2. How can we openly engage with the diverse Quaker theology within our Yearly Meeting?
3. What does our Quaker faith ask us to DO?
4. Where do you experience a "gathered meeting"? What would foster it?

B LIST: to consider after considering list A

5. How can our Quaker practice involve everyone in every stage of life, from childhood to old age?
6. How does the structure of our organisation shape your experience of Quakerism? For example, bottom-up/top-down, local/regional, national/international.
7. How can we be faithful to our concern for the environment, live this out with increasing integrity, and maintain a Canadian Yearly Meeting?
8. How do relationships of Canadian Friends with other Quaker, Christian, non-Christian, and interfaith groups enrich the life of your Monthly Meeting or Worship Group? ☺

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