

March 6, 2022

Dear Friends,

We write to you from the Worship and Ministry Committee and send Love and Light in the New Year. These past two years have required all of us to adapt and change during the pandemic and Germantown Monthly Meeting has certainly done so. We are grateful to have been able to see many of you on Sunday via our Zoom and Hybrid Meeting for Worship. During this time, we have been able to maintain our deep spiritual connection while continuing fellowship and community. We have even been able to bring back distant and long lost members which has been a gift. We also know that we have lost some of the magic of Meeting for Worship. Settling in on the old Quaker benches where so many have sat before us. Looking across the room at a dear Friend or someone we have not seen for many years. We miss Social Hour and all the connections, conversations and planning that can happen there. We miss those delicious treats as well! So, while we have shown resilience and adaptability during this difficult time, we know too, that there are elements to mourn. We look forward to the time when we can again safely settle in together on those creaky old benches.

We would like to share the enclosed pamphlet. After reading the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *On Vocal Ministry*, our Committee has been discussing in depth the issue of Friends being called to speak in Meeting for Worship. We have developed a pamphlet on this topic based on several other Friends' publications and enclose it here. It has been approved by our Meeting for Business. The pamphlet provides queries to consider during Meeting for Worship if you are questioning whether or not you should speak. The purpose of this pamphlet is twofold. We often have newcomers attending- how can they learn about our form of worship and about listening for the Spirit to speak through us? And as seasoned Quakers, it can also be helpful to consider if we are truly called to share our message. We hope this pamphlet is supportive and helps to improve the quality of our worship together. We look forward to worshipping with you, whether from within our Zoom boxes or, we hope soon, together again in the Meetinghouse.

Yours in Friendship,

GMM Worship and Ministry Committee

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