

## RESPECTING QUAKER FUNERALS

### A Checklist for Elders

#### A) Meeting the Bereaved Following a Death

Make it known that you are available if required

Ask if they would like you to accompany them when visiting the Funeral Director or the Registrar

Did the deceased express any wishes about the manner of their funeral or disposal of their body?

Where would the family like the funeral to be held?

Any special requirements?

Will there be a separate Memorial Meeting?

#### B) At the Funeral Director's

Where will the mourners meet the hearse? Any transport needed?

What kind of coffin is required?

Will anyone wish to visit the deceased in the Chapel of Rest?

Rings - left with the body or given to Family?

If a cremation offer to meet the crematorium administrator to explain Friends' procedures

How might the ashes be disposed of?

Entry desired in a Book of Remembrance or other memorial?

Costs

Flowers or donations to a favourite charity?

Music: what and when, if desired?

Should notices be placed in the Friend or other publications?

#### C) Funeral Service

Ensure that all mourners are welcomed

Provide information for visitors unfamiliar with Quaker practice

An order of service sheet bearing a brief statement about the deceased can be helpful

Agree beforehand who should do what

At a crematorium should the curtains be drawn before mourners leave or the coffin be left in view as they file past?

Will all mourners know where to go for any follow-up family reception?

#### D) Memorial Meeting

Book the Meeting House

Agree the programme with the deceased relatives

Decide what arrangements should be made for refreshments

How should the Meeting House be arranged for this occasion? Flowers?

If recorded music is to be played, check that the equipment works in good time

How should the meeting be brought to an end?

Bob Ward, Jan. 2011