

# Minneapolis Monthly Meeting

## Information for Speakers at Semi-Programmed Worship

Revised January 2015

**Spoken messages:** We encourage people to share a brief message (two to ten minutes) which will lead people into worship rather than serve as the central element. The intent is to help those in worship focus and gather, with your message acting as a springboard into worship. We hope the message will help draw the Meeting into communion with God and with one another, not into discussion.

Readings from the Bible or Quaker Faith and Practice or other Quaker materials are a welcome and needed addition or alternative to a developed message. Read slowly. Allow silence between readings if you have more than one. You might even want to read some passages or shorter readings twice, or share why you have chosen them.

Please feel free to call members of the Worship Planning Committee or Ministry and Counsel if you would like help or have questions about the nature or length of a message you are considering. It is very appropriate to ask Pat Jones, Director of Ministry, to meet with you to help you prepare if you wish. She can also guide you to appropriate Quaker or Biblical resources and to other people who might be a resource for you.

**Music:** There is a wealth of songs in the file drawers in the office with a complete listing at the front of the file. Usually music is chosen from these songs or the hymnals. Please call the office with your choices **by Monday** before you are speaking, **at the latest** (earlier is better). The office will then call the musicians who need time to practice and will make Braille copies of your selection available for Sunday. If the office does not hear from you, someone else will choose the music. If you would prefer not to choose music, please let the office know.

**Quotations in the bulletin:** People like quotations to be included in the bulletin. Scripture, queries, items from Quaker Faith and Practice, and other spiritual writings are all possible. If you have chosen a quotation, please call the office **by Thursday noon** prior to speaking, (earlier is better), or drop it in the "Bulletin" file in the blue box, outside the outer office door by Thursday.

**Audibility:** Audibility is a continuing problem. Please practice using the microphone a week or so before speaking if you are unfamiliar with using it. Worship Planning Committee members, Property Committee members, Frank Bacon, or Pat Jones would be happy to help you.

**Written message:** If you write out your message, please give the meeting office a copy for hearing-impaired people, for those who are working with children, and others unable to attend meeting for worship. If you do not fully write out your message, it would still be helpful to hearing-impaired people to have a copy of any notes or quotations you are using.

**Children attending:** During the first day school year, children may be in attendance through the first hymn. During the summer months, (and possibly part of September) children seven and older may come for the whole hour. You may want to keep this in mind as you prepare your message.

**Listening to the Spirit:** You may speak out of the silence (from the podium) when it feels right for you. Most people begin their message within 5 to 10 minutes after the first hymn, but know that you may follow your leading. Please remember that even though you have agreed to speak, if you do not feel led to speak, or it doesn't feel right to proceed with your message, you do not need to speak.