

Worship Groups Proposed Definition for Faith and Practice

When Friends or other seekers choose to worship together on a regular basis, whether in the community or in a prison, they may form a worship group by requesting the care of a nearby monthly, quarterly, regional, or half-yearly meeting. A committee of care and accountability should be appointed by that meeting to assure the conduct of the worship group in the manner of Friends. The care committee for that worship group should include meeting members or attenders who attend the worship group regularly. Attenders at the worship group should be familiar with the ways of Friends faith and practice; new attenders should be welcomed.

Attenders of a worship group may apply to the monthly meeting providing care for the worship group for membership in the Religious Society of Friends, or for marriage, in accordance with the process used by the meeting to which they apply, and the guidance offered in this Faith and Practice. If the worship group is under the care of a regional, quarterly, or half yearly meeting, they may apply for membership or marriage to any monthly meeting in that region, quarter, or half yearly meeting.

A worship group (sometimes called an indulged or allowed meeting) may hold material or financial assets, and may receive and disburse funds on behalf of its attenders. It may also conduct business, such as choosing a treasurer or clerk, and prepare business and forward it to the meeting under whose care it operates.