

Steps To Membership (based on Faith & Practice, pages 141-153)

When an attender feels ready to request membership in a Monthly Meeting, that person would initiate the process.

1. Write a letter to the clerk of Meeting requesting membership.
2. Clerk sends an acknowledgment to the applicant/requester.
3. At the next Business Meeting, the letter is read to the meeting.
4. The request is then handed over to the Oversight & Counsel (O&C) committee.
5. O&C appoints a clearness committee.
6. The clearness committee meets with the requestor to discern the rightness of the relationship and readiness of the applicant. If it is believed that the applicant is NOT ready for membership, it may advise the applicant for more preparation.
7. When ready to make a positive recommendation, the clearness committee makes the recommendation to the O&C committee.
8. When O&C has a positive recommendation, it is presented to Business Meeting.
9. The recommendation shall lay over for one month.
10. Business Meeting approves or disapproves of the request (the requestor generally leaves the meeting room while the request is discussed).
11. Upon approval of the application, the Meeting documents its acceptance of the new member in the minutes, and the Recorder or another designated person (Meeting Membership Clerk) completes membership form.
12. The Meeting Welcoming Committee arranges to provide a warm welcome into the community. Additionally, the new member is welcomed with a gift of a book and/or celebration.

Queries for Membership (based on Faith & Practice, page 229 to 230)

Applicants may find it helpful to review the following Topics prior to meeting with their Clearness Committee. These questions appear in the context of conversation and seek to clarify questions of membership and the workings of Meeting, give opportunities for committee members to become acquainted with the applicant on a deeper level, and allow committee members to share their spiritual lives with the applicant.

What are some milestones along your spiritual journey? How do you expect membership in the Meeting to help you in this journey?

What attracted you to Friends beliefs and practices? Are there some that you find puzzling or disturbing? Are you easy with the variety of expressions use by Friends to express their faith and with the different perspectives of Christianity that they reflect? What is your attitude toward other religions? With what past decisions of the Monthly Meeting are you familiar and what did you think of the process and outcome?

In what ways do the Advices and Queries speak to you?

In what ways do you find the testimonies helpful? Not helpful?

How are you prepared to support the Meeting's nurture and religious education of its children?

Do you understand the relationship between the Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings?

Are you aware of and willing to participate (as you are able) in your attendance at Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Business, and to meet our expectation of financial support for programs, services and facilities at these three levels of our organizational structure?

How will your membership affect your family relationships?

Do you have anything else you want to discuss with us?