

Notes from the Nominations group at MFW in Llanbedr pont Steffan 22.02.2020

The process of nomination should come out of prayer, out of silence, be spiritually led. We have the Inward Teacher who will tell us how to act if we listen. George Fox focussed on the Inward Light: we need to become the be-er, not just the do-er.

The pluses of being on nominations committees: we meet new people, learn how extensive the work of Quakers is, and find our Quaker life is enriched.

Nominations are a barometer of the life of the meeting, and of the place of Quakerism in the life of a person. It reflects how we understand ourselves as a community.

Nominations is linked to the whole question of simplification of meetings: Friends have difficulty in accepting the amount of change needed.

The constant change of personnel on the nominations group can cause problems.

At present, we seem often to have too many jobs and not enough people. We need Friends to make things happen – both the on-going work and the simplification process.

A major issue can be that we are drawn into so much other work which we feel called to do. There is a tension between the spiritual and trying to save the world, between doing Quaker things and working with others.

Some roles are easy, other difficult to fill; conferences are never a problem, but the posts of:

- CYP work advocates
- Trustees
- AM and MFW clerks
- Prison chaplains
- Treasurers

all cause problems.

One danger is that we ask people to keep on doing the same type of job eg we don't ask the 10 year treasurer to take on a pastoral role, because we are fixated about the type of role they can/are willing to do.

There is an imbalance of those who do all the jobs and others who do nothing.

Suggestions of ways forward:

1. Staggering triennial appointments of eg trustees can help.
2. Ask about each role:
 - a. What work has to be done
 - b. What work doesn't have to be done
 - c. What work could be shared
 - d. How can we support – the clerk, the trustee, the treasurer.....?

3. Clerk: share the role between running meetings and doing the admin – some can do either ...or.
4. Treasurer: share out dealing with invoices/ data input/ cash collection
5. Use Quick Books or other electronic help to simplify the work, where each LM gets a regular email to say how much money is in the pot for that LM (Peter Hussey knows about this!)
6. Use Drop box as an effective way of keeping confidentiality about nominations.
7. Zoom meetings work well when people have already met face-to-face. It is the responsibility of the clerk of the meeting to ensure that everyone is drawn into and contributes to the meeting.
8. Make a radical and drastic change in our attitude to our property – how many historic meeting houses do we really need?
9. Ask people as they come into membership if there are any areas they would be interested in contributing to *in the future* and make a note of this for nominations.
10. Send every member a list of jobs to be done, and ask people to say what they would like to do.

We need feeding in the spirit.