

TRANSCRIPTION OF 11 *GATHER & GROW* EASEL NEWSPRINT PANELS
notes by Ken Jacobsen on 8/6/2011; transcribed by Judy Erickson on 8/7/2011

PANEL 1

Morning Queries for Chicago Friends:

- 1) *Where are the signs of life & growth among us & in our meeting?*
- 2) *What are our greatest challenges as meetings?*
- 3) *What new work are we being called to? Is it a collective call?*

PANEL 2

1) *Signs of life & growth*

- The Barber work in Belize
- Quaker Quest -- EMM
- Young explorers in Quakerism -- enlivened committees, peace
- Spirit of living Christ in community, young or old, small groups through week
- Spiritual continuity, children, more attenders, caring
- Much alive in many ways -- we will carry on -- lilies [of the field]
- Children, babies, much love shared

PANEL 3

1) *Life & growth*

- Minimalist approach, listening circles
- People seeking membership -- small but keeping structure open/cautious to social media -- we are here because of Spirit, not marketing
- Many contributions to project
- Many gifts shared/acknowledged
- Children's cabinet, traveling -- offering testimonies

PANEL 4

2) *Greatest challenges*

- moving beyond building; pressure of time; role of meeting in helping members, attenders
- how to be with God together deeply, articulately, openly in all our diversity
- too small for our buildings -- how to share with others
- too "busy" for commitment to Spirit depth & leading
- how to recognize & nurture leadership in meeting
- how to be aware of greater Quaker circles, not just mm
- arriving late
- lack of unity in spiritual vocabulary
- geography/logistics

PANEL 5

3) New work

- to connect/support Evangelical Friends in area
- needs of aging/dying
- more opportunities offered by MCGM -- new ways of reaching out, transportation/ bus
- spreading Quaker process/way with many & new sp recon. relationships
- to promote ourselves/become known/welcome
- continue strengthening the spiritual side, along with social action

PANEL 6

1) Life & growth

commitment	renewal
tenderness	stewardship -- talents/buildings
children	support
social action	

2) Challenges

time & distance	lack of flexibility & openness
age	spiritual vocabulary

3) New work

people who are different
more events together
outreach/inreach
voice in Chicago religious community

PANEL 7

Afternoon Queries for MCGM:

1. *Are we hearing a clear & vital need among Chicago Friends that MCGM might serve at this time? If so, what is it?*
2. *If there is no clear & vital need for MCGM in its present form, is it time to lay it down?*

PANEL 8

1) Clear & vital need? What is it?

Group #2 -- Provide way of relationships beyond mm -- crucial for health, may attract young Friends

Group #3

- Q endorsement of larger issues

- Programs: Quaker Quest; spiritual formation; leadership; Q process -- learning; fellowship -- more than YM; gathering young people; experience Q diversity
- Learning conversation around State of Society reports

PANEL 9

Group #4

- Spiritual & Social Fellowship
- Q volunteer service (Earlham)
- Person to help meetings with new people -- oversight? who?
- Buy-in from mms?
- Smoothly integrate new people?
- balance nurture & business
- build a critical mass to grow the Quaker way & share

Group #1 -- An organization that knits us together -- social service with fellowship (change name)

PANEL 10

2) Time to lay down?

Group #1 -- Time to lay down & create a new regional Q organization

Group #2 -- Should continue -- forging relationships, with business (regional support -- larger issues)

Group #3 -- Not lay down, but go in different direction

Group #4 -- If we lay down and have ILYM quarterly, what of CMM?

PANEL 11

1) Clear & vital needs MCGM could/should serve

- spiritual growth & education/enables service projects
- building relationships
- fellowship -- among/across traditions
- letting others in area know about us & our worship
- revealing our Q presence
- sharing experience of Q process with each other
- grow Quakerism in Chicago; worship meetings in neighborhood after neighborhood
- endorsement of Q representatives/legitimization
- regional voice of Q issues
- greater opportunities for young people