

## OCMM Meeting for Learning Deep Hospitality - Part II - March 2, 2025

### Suggested practices

Deep Hospitality author Rhiannon Grant offers 9 suggested practices. In summary, they are:

1. Relax about our history
2. Accept that we now keep times and seasons
3. Focus on celebrating, not disciplining, our bodies
4. Open up (you yourself)
5. Change our attitude toward time (and therefore towards latecomers, etc.)
6. Communicate confidently (about your experience of Quakerism, etc.)
7. Listen to others
8. Become invitational about membership
9. Welcome ourselves

### Questions for consideration deep hospitality and flipchart notes

1.) *The author notes that what we observe depends on where we observe from. What is your "vantage point"? How does that vantage point help and hinder your understanding of how to welcome people with different lived experiences?*

A few friends shared about their personal vantage point.

2.) *How do we invite people further in? Who is invited to serve on committees? Do our committees need restructuring? Do we invite attenders to apply for membership in the Meeting?*

- Don't wait until when the next nominating cycle starts in March to discuss committee options with newcomers
- Have the committees have **more open** attendance, so that people can check out what they're doing
- Have Nominating Committee share information on what committees and officer positions the Meeting has
- Invite people in by inviting them to make a difference in the world (one view of Quakerism)
- When asking a newcomer about committee participation, ask about their gifts and how much time/energy they have to serve (Nominating does do this already)
- Make the space more welcoming through deep listening - deep listening is where the power is
- Get to know people, get to know their gifts and desires, don't make assumptions about what those might be
- Have the greeter work to intuit the state of mind of the new person coming in the door and adjust accordingly, provide the Information Packet
- Add information about our committees in the Information Packets

Off-topic but on the question of how we get people to come try us out:

- Hand out those cards Bob E. has provided

*3.) What practical changes in OCMM can we make NOW so that newcomers feel more welcomed? The emphasis was placed on people who have already shown up at Meeting, not on getting people to come try us out.*

- Have greeters / everyone paying attention to the attitude and body language of newcomers just arriving at our meetinghouse
- Ask open-ended questions such as, “What brings you to the meetinghouse?”
- What could we do for Zoomie newcomers to introduce them to meeting for worship?
  - Have a gateway page that they see before they come into the Zoom meeting, or put a brief explanation in the chat box at the beginning. (Note that if you put something in the chat box and the person comes after that, they won't see the text, so you'll need to put the explanation in the chat box more than once.)
  - How could we provide Zoomie newcomers with the equivalent of an Information Packet? How could we get their email address?
- For people who come 2 or 3 times and don't come back, reach out and ask how they are. (Is there a way to do an anonymous questionnaire or some other sort of feedback mechanism to learn why people don't return?)
- Obtain newcomers' contact information and follow up (Welcoming Committee already does this)
- Give out information (tips) on how to **be** in worship, so they can feel comfortable more quickly (the Information Packet that Welcoming provides is helpful in this regard)
- Invite newcomers to come to meetings for learning, movies, and other OCMM events beyond serving on committees
- Hold a short meeting for worship at another time for newcomers to try us out

Off-topic but on the question of how we get people to come try us out:

- Advertise to reach people beyond Quaker circles - otherwise how would they know about us?

Off-topic from our Zoomies, perhaps for the Tech Committee

- Zoomies can't see the people in the room well enough during such discussions. Perhaps the Roomies could state their name every time before they speak?
- Zoomies can't tell when the Meeting Room is muted. They would like to know because they might converse differently among themselves when it's muted.