

Little Falls Discussion Guidelines

Group discussions are a great way for our community to become informed and make decisions on matters of interest to Friends. Although we practice our faith together in the manner of Friends, a wide range of perspectives are to be expected within our community on the issues of the times. We can all learn through listening and speaking during discussions which may at times get very lively. It is through this process that we may evolve our views and opinions as individuals and as a community.

- Each person should think about the topic and contribute to the discussion in any way that she or he feels comfortable. Every person is encouraged to participate in order to have a comprehensive and all-inclusive discussion. All should feel welcome to share their ideas and views.
- Listen to each speaker politely and consider what is said before speaking yourself.
- When speaking, be considerate of the time the group has together and be concise and to the point.
- Avoid direct replies, retorts or rebuttals - avoiding a "debating" atmosphere. It is important that discussions do not personalize issues because doing so might lead to hard feelings.
- Be patient, respectful and courteous. One person speaks at a time without interruption.
- Should consensus be obtained on issues, our community may be led to identify actions to pursue.
- As with other meetings held at Little Falls, at the end of the discussion the meeting will close with time for quiet contemplation before adjournment.

Little Falls Care and Concern Committee
August 2014