



Open here to learn how to apply for membership in Concord Friends Meeting.



Visit our website:

www.concordfriendsmeeting.org

Send membership correspondence to:

Ministry and Counsel Committee

Concord Friends Meeting

11 Oxbow Rd

Canterbury NH 03224

Or

MinistryandCounsel@concordfriendsmeeting.org

Have you found a spiritual home among Concord Friends?



Consider joining the Meeting

If after attending the Meeting for some time, you have found a spiritual home at Concord Friends Meeting, we invite you to apply for membership. We hope you will find the membership application process welcoming and spiritually enriching. Helping you discern whether to join the Meeting is one of the ways that the Ministry and Counsel Committee provides pastoral care for our spiritual community. This brochure supplements the guidance found in the membership section of New England Yearly Meeting *Faith & Practice* (as preliminarily approved in 2019) found at <https://neym.org/sites/default/files/Membership%202019.05.20%20PDF.pdf> (ask a member of Ministry and Counsel Committee if you need a hard copy). Please read this information before initiating the membership process. In addition, copies of *Faith & Practice* are available in the Meeting library or at <https://neym.org/faith-practice/1985>. We recommend that you look over *Faith & Practice* for a general understanding of Friends in New England.

Membership Application Letter

You begin the membership process by directing a letter to the Ministry and Counsel Committee. This can be mailed to Ministry and Counsel Committee, Concord Friends Meeting, 11 Oxbow Rd, Canterbury NH 03224, or you may email your letter to the Committee at MinistryAndCounsel@concordfriendsmeeting.org. Some applicants find it helpful to include a description of their spiritual journeys or to articulate specific reasons for seeking membership. But others find it difficult to commit such things to writing. Do not let concern over finding the right words stop you from applying. Your letter does not have to be a work of art. It will be sufficient if your letter states your intent to seek membership. We will explore your reasons with you in the clearness process.

Clearness Committee

When Ministry and Counsel receives your letter, it will appoint a Clearness Committee to meet with you. The Committee does not sit in judgment over you. The Clearness Committee is designed to help you discern whether you are clear about becoming a member. The Committee may pose queries such as:

Tell us about your spiritual journey. What draws you closer to the Divine? What has been your experience with Quaker worship?

How do you feel drawn to participate in the life of the Meeting?



Do you understand that Quakers are not perfect? Are you comfortable being a part of a spiritual community growing together as it seeks to discern and be obedient to the Divine will?

The Clearness Committee will listen deeply as you share from the heart.

Recommendation to Business Meeting

When you and your Clearness Committee feel clear about the rightness of your membership, the Clearness Committee will report to the full Ministry and Counsel Committee. Ministry and Counsel ensures that the clearness process was carried out in good order. Then Ministry and Counsel Committee will seek the Meeting's approval of your membership at the next monthly meeting for business.

Membership of Children

You may request associate membership for your minor children as part of your membership process or separately.

If you are a Member of another Friends Meeting

If you are a member of another Meeting, you may transfer your membership to Concord Meeting. You initiate the transfer by contacting your Meeting to request a certificate of transfer to Concord Monthly Meeting. To avoid confusion, be sure to include the address where your Meeting can send the certificate of transfer:

MinistryAndCounsel@concordfriendsmeeting.org
or Ministry and Counsel Committee, Concord Friends Meeting, 11 Oxbow Rd, Canterbury NH 03224.

When your certificate of transfer is received, Ministry and Counsel Committee will form a clearness committee to visit with you before bringing your transfer request to monthly meeting for business. This will enable the Meeting to get to know you and to welcome you.