

Role description for Elder.

Role title: **Regional Meeting Member of Ministry and Care Committee (Elder)**

Member of the Society

Approved by NSWRM on 7.10.17

Overview and purpose of role

The core responsibility of elders is to nurture the spiritual life of the meeting.

Responsibilities list

- Elders are not responsible for doing all tasks, but for seeing that they are done.
- Lead all Friends in nourishing the spiritual life of their meeting, and to hold each meeting in a spirit of gathered worship. Uphold the meeting in prayer.
- Uphold the RM clerk and other Friends in meetings for worship for business.
- Support members of the RM to deepen their spiritual lives. Encourage participation in meetings for worship, meetings for worship for business, Yearly Meetings, and other opportunities to learn and share Quaker spirituality and practice. Elders may choose to provide as well as promote workshops and other learning opportunities.
- Ensure that all meetings for worship are conducted in accordance with Friends' practice, including meetings for marriage, commitment, funerals, and memorial meetings.
- Foster helpful vocal ministry.
- Facilitate the RM's testing of leadings through clearness and/or threshing meetings.
- Provide support, guidance and accountability for those who undertake concerns supported by the Regional Meeting.
- Liaise closely with LM elders, overseers, ministry and care committees.
- Ensure that Young Friends and Junior Young Friends are supported and spiritually nurtured. Liaise with Safe Quaker Community and Child Protection Friends.
- Ensure that isolated Friends and worshipping groups are spiritually nurtured, through telephone calls or other means as appropriate and useful.
- Support Friends seeking the resolution of conflict, as requested.
- Work closely with the RM Clerk and RM Overseers to ensure that Friends throughout the RM have opportunities for spiritual growth and connection. If led to do so, travel to other meetings within the RM to support them.
- Attend to any task as requested by the RM meeting for worship for business.
- Minutes of meetings are normally confidential, although redacted minutes may be circulated for information and transparency.
- Records should be given to the RM Archivist annually or as agreed.

Resources

- *AYM Handbook of practice and procedure.*
- *Advices and queries.*
- *this we can say.*
- *BYM Quaker faith and practice, especially section 12.12.*
- *AYM Safe Quaker Community Policy.*
- Z. Gross, *With a tender hand: a resource book for eldership and oversight* (2015)
- J. Routledge, *Living eldership: a journey of discovery* (2014)

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M.M. Larrabee, *Spirit-led eldering: integral to our faith and practice* (PHP 392) (2007)