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# CORPORATE DISCERNMENT IN MEETING FOR BUSINESS

David & Nancy Haines

January 17-19, 2014

An offering in the series  
**CRACKED OPEN:**  
GOING DEEPER INTO THE  
WHY, WHAT AND HOW OF  
OUR QUAKER PRACTICE

JOINTLY OFFERED BY

NEW ENGLAND  
YEARLY MEETING  
MINISTRY & COUNSEL

QUAKER STUDIES  
PROGRAM

WOOLMAN HILL  
RETREAT CENTER

WOOLMAN HILL  
Quaker Retreat Center

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107 Keets Road  
Deerfield MA 01342  
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*The spiritual disciplines of corporate discernment are grounded in the faith that we can perceive and affirm God's guidance for the gathered community. Our experience of worship undergirds our understanding of reaching unity in the Spirit, a sense of the meeting that sometimes comes as an unexpected blessing when we have labored hard to discern our way. As we listen to each other and seek together for Divine guidance, we can affirm the unity that enables us to respond faithfully.*

*"Corporate Discernment in Meetings for Business,"  
New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice revision*

Quakers have developed unique ways of worship, decision-making, discernment, and community-building. The meeting for business is a time and place for all members to share in caring for the total life of the meeting. All of the participants are leaders, seeking together the guidance of the divine. The clerk of the meeting or the committee convenor is a servant of the group. Our primary purpose is not to "make decisions," but to find the truth of our particular community of faith.

Meeting for business is most effective when everyone takes responsibility for leadership. This workshop will be an opportunity for Friends to explore together how all members can help the meeting faithfully consider the business before them in a centered and worshipful manner, whether in monthly meeting for business or in doing the work of the committees.

*Nancy and David Haines are members of Wellesley (MA) Monthly Meeting. Each has served as clerk of Wellesley Meeting and has clerked various monthly meeting and yearly meeting committees. For three years, while serving as clerk of the New England Yearly Meeting Permanent Board, Nancy was co-leader of the yearly meeting's annual workshop on clerking skills. David served as clerk of NEYM's Archive Committee for more than ten years, so he knows the importance of careful recording. He also brings a special concern for eldering and nurturing gifts of leadership and ministry. Together, they clerked the FGC Gathering Committee for the 2012 Gathering in Rhode Island.*



**WOOLMAN HILL Quaker Retreat Center**  
107 Keets Road Deerfield MA 01342 + 413-774-3431  
www.woolmanhill.org + info@woolmanhill.org

**COST & REGISTRATION**

The standard rate for this retreat is \$190 (with a sliding scale of \$160-\$220). The fee includes program, lodging and food. Commuter rate is \$130. Please ask if you need additional scholarship funds. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required to hold a space for a program. If you need to cancel, the deposit can be applied toward a future workshop.

**ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE**

Plan to arrive after 5pm Friday evening, in time for dinner at 6:30. The workshop will end by 2pm on Sunday. We are centrally located in western Massachusetts, close to both I-91 and Route 2. For those arriving by car, we will send directions after you register. Please let us know if you'd be interested in carpooling. The nearest Amtrak train station is in Amherst. Vermont Transit and Peter Pan bus lines stop in Greenfield. Please contact us in advance to arrange a ride from these stations.

**ROOM & BOARD**

Our 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse has hand-hewn beams and wide pine floors, with simple dorm-style lodging. The meetinghouse and the first floor of the main building are wheelchair accessible. We serve nourishing, primarily vegetarian, home-cooked meals and always offer a vegetarian option. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. Part of the community building at each retreat includes the joyful sharing of meal chores and clean-up.

**WHAT TO BRING**

Please bring your own toiletries, towels, and bedding (sleeping bag or sheets and blankets or comforter). Pillows are provided. Be sure to bring seasonally appropriate clothes and comfortable indoor and outdoor footwear. You might also like to bring a flashlight, journal, musical instrument... Please do NOT bring pets or candles. We have public internet access and limited cell phone reception. We encourage guests to consider whether cell phone or computer use will detract from their experience of being fully present, here and now.

To register for this program, please fill out the information below and send it to us with a \$50 deposit made payable to Woolman Hill. The balance is due at the beginning of the workshop. For more details about our programs and facilities, please visit our website ([www.woolmanhill.org](http://www.woolmanhill.org)) or use the above contact information.

CORPORATE DISCERNMENT, January 17-19, 2014	
NAME:	
E-MAIL:	PHONE:
ADDRESS:	
MONTHLY MEETING (if applicable):	
Enclosed is \$_____. I plan to pay a total of \$_____ on the sliding scale of \$160-\$220 (\$190 standard rate).	
DIETARY, HOUSING, OR OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS:	