



On Carrying a Concern

Episode 03: Melody Brazo

Questions for Individual or Group Reflection

- Q1. How would you describe your own experience of coming to Friends? How old were you? What attracted you and why did you stay?
- Q2. What is the “picture” of a spiritual life that you were given as child? What is it now?
- Q3. Have you ever ended up in a place you never expected with regards to your faith?
- Q4. What events and relationships have been significant to your faith life?
- Q5. Melody defines a leading as “a persistent nudge that doesn’t go away.” How do you define leading? Have you ever experienced a leading? What was your experience?
- Q5. Melody says that you can get better at listening for and discerning leadings, so that “they don’t have to come whack you on the head.” Have you had the experience of being whacked by a leading? What was it like? Do you agree that you can get better at listening for leadings? Why?
- Q6. Think of Melody’s story of her friend who suggested that she should do racial justice work. Have you ever had someone name a calling for you? What was it and what was the experience like?
- Q7. Community is important to Melody’s experience of being faithful. How about you? How has community played a role in your spiritual journey?
- Q8. Melody describes that her ministry, right now, is her work in the world and that she sometimes finds herself settling into silent prayer before a meeting. Have you found yourself turning to Friendly practices of centering prayer in settings outside of meetings? When was that and what was it like?
- Q9. What feelings and thoughts do you have about Friends’ practices of not paying people for ministry? How was it to hear Melody’s thoughts on this topic?

Additional Resources and References Mentioned in the Episode

Continuing Revelation

Some varied perspectives on how this term gets used are available at <http://jewelsofquakerism.org/survey-questions/continuing-revelation/>

Hugh Barbour's Five Tests for Discerning a True Leading

The full text of the pamphlet is available at <http://www.tractassociation.org/tracts/tests-discerning-true-leading/>

Gospel Order

Sandra Cronk's Pendle Hill pamphlet #297 *Gospel Order: A Quaker Understanding of Faithful Church Community* is great on this, as is Lloyd Lee Wilson's book *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*. Pendle Hill Publications, 1997.

Anchor Committees / Committees for the Care and Accountability of Ministry

New England Yearly Meeting has resources here: <https://neym.org/ministry-counsel/care-committees>

Callid has written about his sense of this here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1khXnYt5Sftv3ODDSxwbFTxAaHYO1Lh6k>

Bill Taber's Discussion about Prophets and the Law

Pendle Hill Pamphlet 256, *The Prophetic Stream*. The text about prophets and the law is pages 4 - 16.

Barclay's *Apology* and the Discussion of Ministry

Proposition 10, section 26 "The Work of The Special Ministry" available free on <http://www.qhpress.org/texts/barclay/apology/prop10.html>

Patricia Loring's Book

Listening Spirituality Vol. II: Corporate Spiritual Practice Along Friends. Openings Press, 1999. The passage read was from page 39.

Quaker Competency in Ministry

Samuel Bownas's *A Description of the Qualifications Necessary to a Gospel Minister* takes this up in chapter 8.

Fox's Scriptural Reference about Hireling Ministry

John 10:11-13