The mystery of sex continues to be greater than our capacity to comprehend it...[I]ts mystery relate(s) to the mystery of God’s relationship to us.


Quakers consider sexuality to be a gift. Like the gift of spirituality that we have also been given, it is intended to be developed and progressively understood as each of us proceeds through our life’s journey. Considering one without the other may mean that we do not fully grow in our understanding of the role of either in our lives.

Friends regard personal and corporate discernment about sexual behavior, as well as discernment regarding attitudes about matters of sexuality and gender identity, to be a reflection of the Testimonies (pages xx-xx). Sexual relations, like all human relations, should be marked by honesty, integrity, and mutual respect. We are called to interact with each other in ways that recognize that all of us are equally beloved by God. ILYM and its meetings and worship groups strive to offer environments that are welcoming and affirming for all those who choose to attend.

Our cultural understanding of sexuality and gender identity is evolving quickly at present, perhaps more quickly than at any previous time in recorded history. This fact is reflected in changing views on matters such as sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, same-sex relationships, and polyamory, among many others. Friends’ perspectives regarding these matters can be expected to continue to evolve in the foreseeable future, and related issues will continue to emerge. Individual Friends may find that their sense of their own gender identity and sexuality has changed over time, and this may lead them to express themselves in new ways.

In matters concerning sexuality and gender identity, as in all matters, Friends are called to acknowledge the importance of seeking divine guidance. While such discernment can be difficult and complex, Friends are reminded that we are called to act always in ways that embody Love.

**Queries:**

1) Is my sexual behavior consistent with Friends testimonies on honesty and integrity?

2) How does my sexual behavior reflect Friends’ belief that all of life is sacred?

3) How spiritually open is our meeting to sharing and hearing the diversity of experiences and viewpoints of its members and attenders on matters of sexuality and gender identity and expression? Is our meeting committed to a unity that is deeper than this diversity?