

# PROGRAM PLANNING

## Worship Sharing Coordinator

Worship sharing has been customarily scheduled for 45 minute time slot, Thursday through Saturday. Not everyone in attendance will go to worship sharing but it is a significant event for many. For the past few years, only four or five groups (with five to six participants) have met for worship sharing.

- Draw up a list of queries (along with the Program Planning Group), either one set of queries to be drawn from each day or a set of queries for each day. These should incorporate the theme of Annual Sessions and can be used flexibly as focus for the worship sharing. Be careful not to have too many queries or too complicated and wordy queries.
- Draw up a list of facilitators for each group. The facilitators are invited in advance and as early as possible so as to allow for those who decline. When necessary, a facilitator may be invited “on the spot.” It is recommended that there be a range of experience represented with novices being introduced.
- Send the queries to the Administrative Coordinator by the beginning of March for inclusion in the registration form.
- Inform the Administrative Coordinator (by the last week of May) of the number of groups planned and the name of the facilitator of each group. The Administrative Coordinator assigns the locations and prepares the signup sheets for worship sharing groups.
- If desired to have queries printed on handouts print to distribute to attenders, inform the Administrative Coordinator by the last week of May to print up copies.
- If items are to be printed, send the queries to the facilitators before Annual Sessions along with the worship sharing definition and ground rules (current text follows below). It is advisable to have a brief orientation for facilitators when they arrive at Annual Sessions. Emphasis should be placed on the confidentiality of sharing. See guidelines below.
- Send thank you notes to all the worship sharing facilitators after Annual Sessions.

## **WORSHIP SHARING**

Worship sharing can be defined as practices in active listening and sharing at a deep spiritual level. There is sharing of each person's experiences around a given topic or group of pertinent questions with the goal of deepening our search for ultimate realities in life, and relating these to the topics and concerns being discussed. It is a sharing of experiences coming out of worship, not a cross-discussion or question-and-answer session. Each person speaks only once until everyone has had a chance to speak. No one monopolizes the group.

## **SUGGESTED WORSHIP SHARING GUIDELINES**

1. The leader provides a seed for meditation usually in the form of queries.
2. After a period of centering down, participants respond out of the silence.
3. Allow some time, a minute or two, after someone has spoken before you speak.
4. No one speaks a second time before everyone has spoken once.
5. No one speaks four times before everyone has spoken twice.
6. The leader lets the group know when the time is almost up.
7. The leader ends worship sharing with at least a brief period of silence.