Notes from Adult Education session on the new NPYM Faith and Practice section on Prayer.

We read through the section, then began to answer the queries on prayer. However, Friends’ concerns about this section overcame the worship-sharing format and we began a discussion on the section itself.

These notes will not include everything that was said.

First paragraph:
Friends did not feel that this paragraph is descriptive of NPYM Friends at this time. They were troubled by the inclusion of *Lectio Divina*, etc., without explanation. The examples are all Christian. Could there be something from an eastern tradition? Several Friends had strong objections to the pronoun “Him” used in reference to “God.” They felt that the word “God” would have been sufficient.

Last line of first section (just before Quotations):
A Friend felt that “waiting for a computer to start” is technically incorrect. Another Friend felt that the examples in this sentence give levity, but may also give a wrong impression of NPYM Friends.

Quotations:
The quotes are all western/all Christian. Should there be others – Eastern traditions? Sufi? Friends wanted more balance.

The only quote by a woman has a comment that could be construed as negative to Muslims.

Advices:
Friends were not happy with the phrase “keeping low.”
There was a conversation about humility vs. feeling unworthy.

Other comments:
The section does not mention letting go of ego in prayer.

Patricia Loring’s books include bibliographies with each section. Friends thought this might be useful for F&P.

Should speaking in meeting be acknowledged as a kind of prayer?

Should this section acknowledge corporate prayer? Or should this section be titled “personal prayer?”

We use prayer as a way to open our hearts to each other.

Prayer is a way to get us out in the world.