

Quakerism 101
Unit D Worship and Ministry (Ministry and Council
January 24, 2010

Reading

John Punshon, *Encounter with Silence*, pp. 22-28, 58-85, 74-91

Thomas Kelly, *The Gathered Meeting*

(Brinton, Chapters 4-5, if you have time)

Background on Readings

John Punshon, formerly an attorney, politician and Quaker Tutor at Woodbrooke, a Friends study center in Birmingham, England, now teaches Quakerism at Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, IN. *Encounter with Silence*, is both autobiographical and reflective on the Quaker tradition of worship.

Thomas Kelly (1893 – 1941), professor at several colleges, including Earlham and Haverford, was revered as a teacher and speaker. He is best known for *A Testament of Devotion*.

Reflections

Please reflect on the following questions as you read and once you have read the reading.

Describe your personal experience in a recent meeting for worship. Was it positive?
What was negative?

How would you describe what you “do” in Meeting for Worship to a visitor?

Have you ever been in a “Gathered” Meeting for Worship? What was the Meeting like?
How would you describe such an experience of worship to someone who has never experienced it?

Are there things Friends can do to bring about a “Gathered” Meeting?

Do you pray? Are there ways that personal, private, prayer can enrich the Quaker community and its ministers. How do you respond?

Do you see yourself as a minister? It is said that Friends abolished the laity, and we are all ministers. How do you respond?

Name several different forms of “ministry “ among Friends. Describe a time when you ministered, or were ministered to, in a positive way.