

**State of Society**  
**Westport Monthly Meeting of Friends**  
**1999**

*How is the Corporate Worship of our spiritual community?* Our Ministry and Counsel Committee led us in a consideration of this and other related queries. We were especially interested in encouraging the participation of our youth. The queries were distributed to all of us beforehand and were considered in a separate Meeting for Worship by our young people. A First Day Meeting for Family Worship began with an invitation for all to participate in this consideration and to be open to speaking as led. What we had anticipated as Worship Sharing became instead a moving period of Worship.

Our Corporate Worship is rich and wide, and we feel the Presence of God. There is a sense among us that our Silence has deepened. Though spoken messages seem fewer, when they do arise they feel more Spirit-led. They are helpful and give nourishment for our lives. Our young people are finding it easier to be centered when we worship as a meeting family once a month. One young Friend noted that she is learning how to worship by doing it.

We come to Worship expecting that we will be filled. To some it feels like "being in the right place," to some it feels like "coming home." It is a joy to be here. Our singular efforts to be opened and centered contribute to our corporate experience. We are grateful for the marvelous variety among us and each person's gifts. When Friends are unable to be with us, we miss their presence.

Through our Worship, we feel more and more connected to each other as a meeting family. Vocally sharing our joys and sorrows near the rise of Worship helps to deepen our ties. Trust is growing in us that, with God's help, we can sustain each other on our journeys.