

DEFINITIONS:

community >noun (pl. communities)

- 1 a group of people living together in one place.
- 2 (the community) the people of an area or country considered collectively; society.
- 3 a group of people with a common religion, race, or profession: the scientific community.
- 4 the holding of certain attitudes and interests in common.
- 5 a group of interdependent plants or animals growing or living together or occupying a specified habitat.

community >adjective

- 1 of the community as a whole: the "public welfare"; "community interests"
- 2 belonging to and maintained by and for the local community; "community parks"
- 3 done by or owned equally by two or more; a community effort"

-ORIGIN Old French comunete, from Latin communis 'common'.

communal >adjective

- 1 belonging to a community

Blue River Quarterly Meeting

of Illinois Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends

September 23-25, 2005
DuBois Center, DuBois IL

Building Community Among Friends

*Historically, Recent Experiences,
Dreams for the Future*

Panel Presentation:

David Finke, Columbia MM

Nancy Duncan, St. Louis MM

Neil Mesner, Clear Creek MM

Peter Lasersohn, Urbanna-Champaign MM

These are hard times. The world we live in seems to be a particularly volatile place.

Ideally, our Meetings should be communities where we can find strength and spiritual succor, especially in times of need.

As we gather let us consider:

How have Quaker communities functioned in the past.

What has been our experience of community among Friends?

What are our hopes and expectations of finding community among Friends in the future, for ourselves and for our children.

Queries for the Hopes & Dreams session on Sunday morning:

What can we do to build community?

How would ideal community function?

What does a healthy community look like?

What does a thriving community feel like?

What does Membership in the Society of Friends mean? How is it important?

What about Membership for children?

Who is included in "the community"?