



If none of the guidelines applies but you have faithfully waited and you still feel strongly led to speak, do it, even if it is two minutes after Meeting closed and the kids are at the door wanting in and what you have to say is not short.

If this happens to you more than once in a lifetime, give your head a shake and wait.



Guidelines compiled by Margaret Slavin (Peterborough Monthly Meeting) based on conversations, observations, and reflections from two years of travelling around Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in Canada during 2004-2006.

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Discerning vocal ministry

The intent of all speaking is to bring into the life, and to walk in, and to possess the same, and to live in and enjoy it, and to feel God's presence.

- George Fox, 1657

**Is this thing on my mind
ministry?**

**It is from the Spirit or is it
just my ego?**

**Should I get up and
speak?**

How do I know?

Discerning vocal
ministry is something we
all have to do during
silent worship. Here are
some guidelines to help
with your discernment:

1. Is this message likely to be helpful to those present? Wait.

2. Is it likely to seem like advice to one person present? Wait.

3. Has it been at least five minutes since the last person spoke? If not, wait.

4. Does it feel scary to speak? This may be ministry.

5. Are we within five minutes from the end of Meeting? If we are, wait.

6. Is it short? Wait for it to shorten.

7. Are you going to make a complete statement? A fragment may be ministry.

8. Are you answering what someone else has said? Wait. If you are picking up on a theme but speaking from experience, this may be ministry.

9. Are you about to define some word? Wait.

10. Are you speaking from your heart or your head? Sort it out.

11. Are you refuting something someone else has said? Keep on waiting.

12. Have there been twenty minutes of silence in this hour? If not, wait.

13. Is your heart beating fast? Good clue it may be ministry.

14. Is this coming to you as something fresh and not-thought-through? It may be ministry.

15. If it feels comfortable, you may just be trying to help out. Wait.

16. Might you look foolish if you say this? Another good clue it may be ministry.

17. Did you speak last week? If yes, wait. Trust that if the Spirit is trying to speak through you, he/she/it will keep on coming back.