**Description of a Threshing Session**

**A threshing session helps prepare a meeting for decision-making. When a leading or proposed action is unclear, the threshing session moves the meeting towards clarity and a greater understanding of the issue. It provides an opportunity for participants to state a variety of different and sometimes controversial opinions openly for the record. However, to actively seek to persuade or convince others is not a part of the threshing process.**

**Participants should speak plainly and truthfully. They should explore options deeply and thoughtfully by stating positions, expressing points of view, sharing information, or noting questions that should later be formally addressed.**

**No decision will be made at the threshing session. A minute is presented at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business when the Meeting is ready to decide about the issue.**

**Role of the Facilitator**

1. **Make a clear statement about the purpose of the threshing session**
2. **Create a safe space for participants to speak and share their views**
3. **Make sure that every person has an opportunity to speak**
4. **Encourage speakers to express their views positions clearly and truthfully.**
5. **Share reminders that persuasion and convincement do not contribute to positive outcomes and that to reply to statements made by others is inappropriate.**
6. **Listen carefully to determine what positions are stated. Seek to determine where differences among positions lie and to understand the distance between them.**
7. **Work with the Ad-Hoc Threshing Prep Group and its recorder to develop a minute or other appropriate next steps to advance the Meeting’s work**