

Basic Format of Public Sessions

After the meeting or church has a Full-Day Workshop and if it approves moving ahead with public sessions, then it is important to allow at least six months before holding the first public session.

This time is needed to prepare for incorporating newcomers into the life of the meeting and to advertise public sessions.

Experience has shown that shortening the six month preparation time is not helpful and creates stress.

<i>Begin with: Refreshments and informal conversation</i>	
Welcome and introduction by the host	10 minutes
First presentations: 3 speakers. 6 minutes each	20 minutes
Small Group Discussions	20 minutes
Second presentations: 3 speakers, 6 minutes each	20 minutes
Q & A	15 minutes
Introduction to meeting for worship by the host	5 minutes
Meeting for Worship	30 minutes
Final announcements	5 minutes
Total	2 hours of programming
<i>End with: Refreshments, informal conversation, and pamphlet browsing</i>	
*In the Quaker Worship session it is better for the question time to follow Meeting for Worship.	

This framework gives balance to hospitality, presentations and listening to seekers. The aim is to avoid an overload of input and to allow space for participation and interactions with the seekers.

Choose a time of day that suits your local community.

Hold these public meetings in the same place, on the same day of the week, in a repeated cycle.

From Friends General Conference's Quaker Quest Basic Information Packet for Meetings. This, and other Quaker Quest documents and information about QQ in the US and Canada, can be found by going to www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest or emailing quakerquest@fgcquaker.org.

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