

Bringing Quaker Quest Public Sessions to Your Meeting and to Your Community

Quaker Quest is a process, not merely a moment in the life of a meeting. The process begins when the meeting first starts discussing having a Full-Day Workshop and continues through the follow-up to the workshop. The follow up may be to move to the Half-Day Preparation Session and to hold public sessions, or to follow up in other ways. *Quaker Quest is much more than the public sessions: it is an experience that the whole meeting shares over many months.*

Significant steps needed for the entire QQ process:

Information Gathering

- Learn about Quaker Quest at www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest.
- Contact Quaker Quest at FGC to let them know that you are beginning the process.
- Be *inclusive and transparent* in the entire process.
 - Share information with everyone in your meeting.
 - Put an article in your meeting's newsletter.
 - Keep everyone in your meeting informed and included at every stage.
- Bring Quaker Quest to a committee, such as worship and ministry or outreach, or have a group formed specifically for planning the Full-Day Workshop.

The Full-Day Workshop

- The planning committee or group brings a request to business meeting to have a Full-Day Workshop.
 - This request is only for the workshop.
 - Approval to do the public sessions comes back to business meeting after the workshop, *if* the meeting discerns to move ahead.
 - The budget for the workshop is \$1,000 for travel reimbursement and materials. FGC does not charge a fee for the workshop. Contact FGC if it is a hardship to reimburse all of the travel expenses. We try to keep reimbursement costs as low as possible.
 - The clerk of the coordinating committee for the workshop contacts FGC to arrange to have two Quaker Quest Travel Team members co-lead the workshop.
- The meeting holds a Full-Day Workshop on a Saturday.
 - The workshop is intended to:
 - Build community.
 - Have folks get to know each other more deeply.
 - Consider what it is like to be a newcomer and how to include newcomers into the fabric of the community.
 - Share what Quaker Quest is all about.
 - Share what is involved in holding public sessions.
 - Everyone from the meeting is invited to, and hopefully will, attend.
 - The same number as attend meeting for worship should be the goal for how many attend the workshop.
 - Invite active older high school students or college students.
 - The workshop is valuable whether or not the meeting later discerns to do the public sessions.

Discern Whether to Offer Public Sessions

- After the Full-Day Workshop, see if a core group emerges to shepherd this work forward.
 - The core group should have six-to-eight folks (in a small meeting) or eight-to-twelve folks (in a mid-to-large sized meeting) who will coordinate the work but not do all of the work. Their role includes involving all of the meeting in the work.
 - They should consider how many topics to offer and when.
 - They should consider if the Spirit is moving the meeting forward to proceed with the public sessions. If so, they should bring to business meeting for approval a request for the meeting to do the public sessions.
 - This may take several months.

- Take *at least six months* after business meeting approves doing the public sessions before holding the first public session. Use this time to prepare for newcomers.
 - Consider how newcomers will be welcomed into the life of the meeting.
 - Be sure that there are several ways that newcomers will be included—small groups, potlucks, new classes, and so on.
 - Make long-term plans for nurturing new attenders into the life of the meeting.
 - Make sure that spaces inside and outside of where you meet are welcoming.
 - Go to the www.fgcquaker.org website for resources for meetings, such as “Seeking Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” and the “Inreach-Outreach Review.”
 - Plan and implement publicity. FGC has templates of flyers and posters on which meetings can enter their topics, dates, and other pertinent information.
 - Share your topics and dates with FGC so that they can go on our website.

The Half-Day Preparation Session

- Contact FGC to arrange for one Quaker Quest Travel Team member to give a *Half-Day Preparation Session* on a Saturday or Sunday about six weeks before the first public session.
 - This will help prepare the meeting for the public sessions.
 - *The preparation session is for everyone in the meeting.*
 - ❑ The session includes specific information and training for core group members, presenters, hosts, small group leaders, and hospitality-providers.
 - ❑ Be sure to invite everyone in the meeting, since everyone in the meeting is involved in one way or another!
 - The budget for the workshop is \$500 for travel reimbursement and materials. FGC does not charge a fee for the workshop. Contact FGC if it is a hardship to reimburse all of the travel expenses. We try to keep reimbursement costs as low as possible.

Hold Quaker Quest Public Sessions

- Review plans to incorporate newcomers into the life of the meeting or church.
- Implement plans for publicity.
- Arrange to give away and/or sell books and pamphlets. A good source is www.quakerbooks.org (or email quakerbooks@fgcquaker.org).
- Hold the public sessions!
 - Enjoy the experience.
 - Keep FGC informed about how it is going.
 - Reflect on what worked well, what might be revised, and how the Spirit was present.
 - Consider repeating at yearly or every other year intervals.
 - Share with FGC what difference the entire Quaker Quest process, including the public sessions, has made in the life of the meeting.

Communicate with the FGC Office

- As part of the relationship with the FGC office, which provides multiply forms of support to meetings, we ask meetings to respond to an annual impact survey and other requests for information.
- All meetings that have had a Full-Day Workshop or more are asked to participate in this way.

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.

Portions of this document are based on the Quaker Quest Network's *Quaker Quest: How to Do It* manual and are used with permission. To find out about Quaker Quest in Britain, go to www.quakerquest.org.

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