

Core Principles

The British founders of Quaker Quest honed and refined the program for over five years and found the best practices for doing this program. They asked Friends General Conference (FGC) to carry forward Quaker Quest in the United States and Canada. At FGC, our experience bears out the learnings of the British Quakers.

Quaker Quest is not the only way to do outreach, but if you do Quaker Quest, the British founders ask *that all of the core principles be followed if a meeting or church calls their public sessions Quaker Quest*. The core principles are:

- Affirm that Quakers have a spiritual path for today that is simple, radical, and contemporary.
- Use the support and guidance of an experienced Quaker Quest Travel Team member to start a new Quaker Quest program in a meeting.
- Adhere to the lively and varied format for QQ public sessions.
- Recruit three Quaker presenters for each topic. They will speak briefly from their personal faith experience. Spiritual journeys convey information more powerfully than a list of Quaker facts.
 - Guidelines for these presentations are located on pp. 10 and 11.
- Allow time during the public sessions for seekers to explore the topics for themselves.
- Include an experience of Quaker worship (a brief introduction followed by thirty minutes of worship).
 - The worship will use the same format that the meeting or church uses on Sunday mornings.
 - If worship is normally unprogrammed, then the thirty minutes will be unprogrammed.
 - If worship is normally semi-programmed, then the thirty minutes will be an abbreviated version of that.
 - If worship is normally programmed, then the thirty minutes will be an abbreviated version of some or all parts of the service.
- Offer hospitality before and after each public session—about thirty minutes of refreshments, browsing of literature, and conversation.
- Include an introduction to your yearly meeting's faith and practice. This shows that, while we value the individual's journey, as indicated by the three presenters, the Quaker way is a grounded faith tradition.
 - To locate Faith and Practices online go to: <http://www.quakerinfo.org/quakerism/fandplinks.html>
- Choose topics for the public sessions based on their relevance to seekers in your community. Avoid Quaker jargon, history, and structures, or touch on them briefly.
- Public sessions consist of a cycle of weekly meetings, held at the same time each week, at the same place where the meeting is located. Repetition and continuity are important to the process. The topics (usually three or four) are repeated once, to make a complete cycle of six to eight weeks.
- A core group is responsible for implementing the program. Core group members worship and work together, attend all of the public sessions to give continuity to the program, include the rest of the meeting in the process, and reflect and evaluate at the end of the public sessions.

If the Quaker Quest name is used, the founders of Quaker Quest and FGC request that you work under the care of an experienced Quaker Quest Travel Team member, and with their support, create a program that is faithful to these core principles. Using these principles and a trained team member is essential in order to maintain the integrity of the Quaker Quest name. This pattern of using trained facilitators is the same model used by the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP).

FGC has a team of trained Quaker Quest Travel Team members who co-lead Quaker Quest workshops. FGC staff and Quaker Quest Travel Team members are available to support meetings in the Quaker Quest process.

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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