

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Quaker Quest—what is it?

Quaker Quest is a dynamic new form of outreach to seekers—used across the Quaker spectrum—that encourages Friends to clarify and speak of their faith experience. It strongly affirms that Friends have a spiritual path for today that is simple, radical, and contemporary. It is a process that begins with a Full-Day Workshop and frequently leads to a series of public sessions.

Quaker Quest is also a transformative form of inreach for a meeting or church. Through the process, the community is invited to consider what it is like to be a newcomer and to develop ways to integrate newcomers into the life of the meeting. The community is also asked to consider what forms of spiritual hospitality are already in place and what they might want to change or add.

My meeting just decided that we would like to offer Quaker Quest public sessions next month. Is there a speedy way to get started?

Unfortunately, the answer is “no.” First, the meeting needs to have a Full-Day Workshop, then approve having the public sessions, then take at least six months to prepare for those sessions. The public sessions also involve a significant publicity effort, which takes several months to develop; and preparing the speakers and the hosts of each session takes time. In addition, the meeting needs to consider ways to prepare, welcome, and incorporate seekers into the meeting—and to implement these preparations (for example, by holding classes for new attenders). The document *Steps to Bring Quaker Quest to Your Meeting and to Your Community* outlines the process for doing Quaker Quest.

The preparation time you allow and the care you take will contribute greatly to the success of your Quaker Quest program and to the depth of inward growth in your meeting.

How is Quaker Quest different from evangelism?

The Quaker Quest process is an integrated approach to inreach and outreach that includes—but is not limited to—inviting the public to public sessions. The meeting or church is asked to consider what it is like to be new and to find ways to incorporate newcomers into the life of the community. These are valuable in themselves, regardless of whether a meeting discerns to do the public sessions.

And, Quaker Quest is an invitation for people to find out who we are and to consider if the Quaker way is the journey that they are looking for.

Success is defined by the positive energy that the Quaker Quest experience brings to the meeting, by the way current participants feel included in the life of the community, by the experiences of transformation that occur throughout the process, by the increased exposure that the meeting or church has in the local community, by having seekers come to the public sessions, and by having newcomers attend worship.

How do I arrange for a Quaker Quest Full-Day Workshop for my meeting or church?

Contact FGC at www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest/fdwform. We ask that discernment about holding public sessions be made at some point after the Full-Day Workshop, so that everyone in the community will know what the public sessions are all about.

We ask that meetings reimburse transportation costs of the two Quaker Quest Travel Team members, and for materials, postage, and handling. If this is a hardship, the meeting should contact FGC Quaker Quest staff, who will try to ensure that finances are not an obstacle for your meeting. For more information, go to www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest.

- For general information and more FAQs go to www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest

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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