

# Doing Outreach Well (and having FUN with it!)

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**There are many seekers who want to learn of the spiritual path that is the Quaker way.**

Visitors are looking to meet real-life Quakers and to learn whether the Quaker way is a good fit for their lives *today*.

Meetings that do outreach with the main goal of building numbers may be disappointed. Meetings whose goals are to **nurture** those who are already there, to become more **welcoming** to newcomers, and to **invite** others to share the Quaker journey – they will find outreach to be a rewarding experience.

Let your meeting's outreach be motivated by the truth that the Quaker way has something to offer to the world and we want to share that gift.

The challenges, work, and fun of preparing for outreach and welcoming newcomers involves the whole meeting and can bring a meeting closer together.

## **Characteristics of successful outreach:**

- ✓ Successful outreach shares your meeting's story and your own personal faith experiences – **What does it mean to be Quaker today**, in your local community, in your meeting, in your lives? Spiritual journeys convey information more powerfully than a list of Quaker facts. Visitors come to Quaker meetings because they're on a spiritual journey – speak to their hearts.
- ✓ Successful outreach explores a **range of topics** of relevance in the world, not just Quaker history. Possible topics include peace, justice, silent worship and contemplative prayer, environmental issues, parenting with integrity, discerning spiritual gifts, Spirit-led decision making, or any other issue of importance in your meeting or local community.
- ✓ Successful outreach requires **creative publicity** and **intentional preparation**.
- ✓ Successful outreach gives newcomers time to speak of their experience, to engage in **dialogue with Quakers**, and to be heard. Offering hospitality (food & drinks) creates opportunities for conversations and questions.
- ✓ Successful outreach shows that the Quaker way is a **grounded faith tradition**.

