

Outreach Activity: Quaker? Maybe!

Members of the QuakerQuest Travel Team who visit meetings across the U.S. and Canada often hear Friends express the desire to connect with people in their communities who are “Quakers, but don’t know it yet.”

This activity is designed to get Friends thinking about outreach, characteristics of people who might find a spiritual home in your meeting but haven’t found it yet, and ways to connect those people with your meeting and the Quaker Way.

Plan for this activity to take 45-60 minutes

Materials: paper, pens, art supplies

Divide into groups of 4. Settle into a brief worship, taking a moment to think of a hypothetical or real person in your local community who “is Quaker, but doesn’t know it yet.”

Note for facilitators: Encourage groups to consider many types of diversity as they think about who in the community might be Quaker and where Maybe-Quakers might be found. Our meetings are enriched by diversity across race and ethnicity, age, social class, sexual orientation, political affiliation, disability, and other differences.

Discuss: What does this mean, to be “Quaker, but not know it”? How do we know someone might be a Maybe-Quaker?

What message would you like to share with this person about the Quaker Way? What message would you like to share about our meeting?

How do we get this message out to the Maybe-Quakers? Where would be the best places in our community to share this message?

Discuss with your group and then, as an individual, take 15 minutes to create a publicity poster, poem, radio jingle, outreach event plan, billboard, press release, banner, social media strategy, or piece of artwork that shares this message in a creative way.

Share with the wider group.

Conclude: We’ve heard some great ideas! What does this tell us about what’s next for our meeting and outreach? Who here wants to get started in making an outreach plan based on some of the ideas we’ve heard?