

# The Role of Outreach

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Outreach is about sharing our spiritual search and insights with those who want to listen. It is showing love to others, and trying to be with them through their joys and sorrows. For Quakers, outreach is not about converting people, but rather about helping them understand what we value, do, and how we seek to support each other in living out our faith. Our role is to encourage, resource and help build the confidence of ... Quakers in our corporate responsibility of speaking about our faith and the way we work and worship together.

Outreach, in the context of this piece, is the work that monthly meetings and worship groups do in reaching the non-Quaker community. Outreach can include:

1. Letting the public know of a meeting's presence: when and where it holds meeting for worship and other activities, how to find the building, and who to contact for more information. Being clear and open about how to find our meetings for worship is welcoming, in and of itself. The unspoken message is an invitational one: "You are welcome among us, and we will benefit from your presence."
2. Informing people about our Quaker beliefs and practices: our testimonies, who we welcome to meeting, how we worship and function. We may hold back on speaking about these things for fear that we will be perceived as pushy proselytizers. However, there are folks in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces, and in our communities who yearn to be welcomed into such a faith community. Sharing our Quaker testimonies and practices is a service to those in need of this kind of spiritual nurture.
3. Engaging interested members of the public in a deeper level of discussion of Quaker faith and practice.

Making our presence known in the wider community so those who might be interested in the Quaker way, can benefit your worship group or meeting. It will cut down the number of new attenders at Friends meetings who have exclaimed things like "Were you folks hard to find! I've been trying to find you for ages." Having found our own ways to the Religious Society of Friends, let's be eager to share the Quaker way with our community.

## **Connect**

Connect with FGC:

- FGC has resources to support new and existing groups
- FGC can help a group connect with other local Quaker groups
- FGC can help you get listed on QuakerFinder.org to help others find you

FGC staff and volunteers are happy to talk with you about this, or any other issue, your meeting or worship group is facing. Please contact us by emailing us or phoning 215-561-1700.

This document was downloaded from the website of Friends General Conference. Explore the many resources and opportunities we offer for Quakers, Quaker meetings, and all interested individuals. Go to [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org).

