

Activity to Do with Your Meeting: Transforming Quaker Welcoming Poster

www.FGCquaker.org/QuakerWelcoming

The Transforming Quaker Welcoming poster offers examples of conversation starters that can either alienate or welcome newcomers. It can be a fruitful prompt for a discussion in your meeting about assumptions.

Facilitation Tips:

Print out a few copies of the poster

Allow time for people to read through the examples listed on the poster.

Questions for discussion:

Can anyone here relate to being the newcomer in any of these categories in the handout?

What was it like to be put in a box by the Friend or person meeting you?

What questions did they ask/assumptions did they make?

What questions would have been more inviting/welcoming?

How do you like to be approached in spaces where you are a newcomer?

What is the difference between curiosity and seeking connection?

Small Group Brainstorming

Point out that well-intentioned questions that make assumptions about a person based on surface level observations can shut down a conversation. Instead, *how can we find ways to invite visitors to share in ways that are comfortable to them?*

What kinds of conversation starters can we use to build connection without making assumptions?

Break into pairs or small groups and ask each group to brainstorm 3 examples of conversation starters and 3 examples of questions that are more likely to shut conversation down.

If answers are not forthcoming, offer some examples: What brings you here? How was worship for you this morning? I don't believe we've met, my name is ...

Share with the larger group.