

# Quaker Quest

a spiritual path for our time

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## Quaker Quest—Core Principles\*

Quaker Quest is a form of outreach that supports Friends in clarifying and speaking convincingly of their faith experience, while simultaneously serving as a powerful form of meeting inreach. It assists a meeting in developing a stronger sense of itself, of what it has to offer seekers, and in the process strengthens the meeting community.

A Quaker Quest public session is a varied and lively program that includes: short presentations from three Quakers, a time of listening to seekers in small groups, a question period, a 30-minute meeting for worship, and hospitality.

Quaker Quest is a way of doing Quaker outreach—where success depends on broad support within a Meeting, thoughtful preparation in advance of public sessions, and the use of extensive publicity to promote the Quaker Quest sessions. Meetings wishing to embark on a Quaker Quest program commit themselves to be guided by the following **core principles**:

- Quaker Quest affirms that Quakers have a spiritual path for today that is simple, radical, and contemporary.
- Three Quaker presenters speak from their personal faith experience, as spiritual journeys convey information more powerfully than a list of Quaker facts.
- Quaker Quest encourages and supports seekers in exploring issues for themselves.

\*If the Quaker Quest name is used, the founders of Quaker Quest request that you work under the care of an experienced Quaker Quest facilitator and with their support create a program which is faithful to these core principles.

The concern to maintain the integrity of the Quaker Quest name—to use these principles and a trained facilitator—is patterned on the very successful facilitator training and certification program of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP).

*Adapted from the soon to be published Quaker Quest how-to-do-it manual.*

- A Quaker Quest session always includes the experience of Quaker worship: a brief introduction followed by a 30-minute meeting for worship.
- A time of hospitality at the beginning and end of each session is an integral part of a Quaker Quest program
- Quaker Quest includes a brief introduction to your yearly meeting's *Faith and Practice* and *Advices and Queries*.
- Session topics are chosen for their relevance to the seeker; Quaker jargon, history, and structures are avoided or touched on very briefly.
- A Quaker Quest program consists of a cycle of weekly meetings held in the same meeting house. Repetition and continuity are important.
- The program is overseen by a core team which meets to plan the meeting's Quaker Quest. Core team members attend all sessions to give continuity, provide reflection, and evaluate.
- A new Quaker Quest program is started with the support and guidance of an experienced Quaker Quest facilitator.

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For further information, including how to arrange for a Quaker Quest workshop with your meeting, contact **Elaine Crauderueff**, Advancement and Outreach Coordinator, at the FGC office (see right) or e-mail her at [quakerquest@fgcquaker.org](mailto:quakerquest@fgcquaker.org).

*Quaker Quest in the US and Canada is a project of*  
**Advancement & Outreach Committee**

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