

**Third Haven Friends Meeting**  
**Session 1: Introduction to Quakerism**  
**September 22, 2019**

**Topic:** Introduction to Seeking, Quaker practices, overview of the course

**Topical Outline**

Introduction: What is the purpose of this course?  
Resources and the course outline  
Who are we? The Religious Society of Friends in Brief  
Seeking the truth--questions in the absence of dogma  
Guides: Faith and Practice  
Queries, Advices and Excerpts  
Community: Staying on track and connected  
Silence  
Purpose and practice  
Inner and Inward Light

**Preparation**

Book Chapters

*The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery* (2013) by Rex Ambler

Chapter 1: Finding the Truth

Chapter 2: Looking for God

*Letters to a Fellow Seeker* (2012) by Steve Chase

Letter 1: My Journey to the Quaker Movement

Letter 2: Are Quakers Christians?

QuakerSpeak Video Series --*The Quaker Basics: Videos for Newcomers*

[Why Quakers Don't Take Communion](#) (4 minutes)

What do Quakers Believe? (19 minutes)

[9 Core Quaker Beliefs](#) (6 minutes)

Quaker Glossary of Common Terms (8 minutes)

Brief Readings (Brochures)

"The Essence of Quaker Faith and Practice at Third Haven Friends Meeting" (THFM)

"Friends and Worship" (Douglas Steere) [www.fgcquaker.org/discover/further-reading](http://www.fgcquaker.org/discover/further-reading)

"Third Haven Friends Meeting Advice on Worship and Ministry" (THFM)

**Session Queries**

1. How do Quakers seek truth? What does 'truth' mean to us?
2. How do practices and concepts like silence and the Inner Light help us to seek?

3. How do Quakers think about God? Jesus? Christianity?
4. What can I expect in a Quaker meeting? in a Quaker community of faith?

### **Glossary Terms**

Faith and Practice

Light

Light Within, Inner Light, Inward Light  
meeting

Meeting

Queries

Silence, silent worship

That of God

Programmed, Unprogrammed

### **Additional Resources** (for further reading or study)

*Celebrating the Quaker Way* (2010) by Ben Pink Dandelion Kindle edition

[PYM: Quaker Manual of Style and Glossary](#)

Downingtown Friends Meeting [Quaker Glossary](#)

Friends General Conference [FAQs about Quakers](#)

Friends General Conference [Further Reading](#)

Earlham [A Quaker Glossary](#)

*Touched by God in a Quaker Meeting (Pendle Hill Pamphlets #338)* by Ken Carroll

Additional QuakerSpeak Videos:

What attracts Newcomers to Quaker Meeting (8 minutes)

Frequently Asked Questions (9 minutes)

**Session 2: Faith**  
**September 29, 2019**

**Topic:** Faith, common practices and ideas, meeting for worship

**Topical Outline**

Faithfulness in everyday life  
Diversity and common thought among Friends  
Practice, traditions and etiquette of Meeting for Worship  
    Silence and expectant waiting  
    Vocal testimony  
    THFM: Shaking hands, after thoughts, news of Friends, announcements  
Vocabulary  
Worship Sharing  
Carrying faithfulness outward

**Preparation**

Book Chapters:

*The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery* (2013) by Rex Ambler

    Chapter 3: Meeting Others

*Letters to a Fellow Seeker* (2012) by Steve Chase

    Letter 2: Are Quakers Christians?

    Letter 3 Silent Worship and the Inward Teacher

*PYM Faith and Practice*, Chapter 1

QuakerSpeak Video Series

When to speak in Quaker worship <https://quakerspeak.com/when-to-speak-in-quaker-worship/>

What do Quakers believe? <https://quakerspeak.com/what-do-quakers-believe/>

What do Quakers do in silent worship? <https://quakerspeak.com/what-quakers-do-silent-worship/>

Is Quaker worship meditation? <https://quakerspeak.com/quaker-worship-meditation/>

How many Quakers are there in the world (and where are they)?

<https://quakerspeak.com/how-many-quakers-are-there-in-world/>

**Session Queries:**

1. What do you do to deepen your experience of Meeting for Worship?
2. How do you feel about speaking in Meeting?
3. What Quaker texts have touched you the most? Why?

**Glossary terms (in table, next page)**

Advices	Afterthoughts
“Come with heart and minds prepared for worship”	Convincement
Concern	Discernment
Creaturely	Gathered or covered meeting
Facing bench	Grounding for meeting
Holding in the Light	Inward Light
Openings	Queries
Sense of the meeting	Sitting in meeting
Unity	Vocal ministry
Way opening	Way forward

**Additional Resources and Readings**

QuakerSpeak Videos

- Glossary of common quaker terms
- Frequently asked questions about Quaker meeting for worship
- How to deepen Quaker meeting for worship
- How to have a Quaker clearness committee
- How to listen for a leading
- Quaker spiritual disciplines
- The Quaker practice of discernment
- What is the difference between “programmed and “unprogrammed” worship?
- Becoming convinced
- Quakers and the still small voice
- Why Quaker worship shouldn’t be limited to Sunday morning
- The difference between Quaker worship and other Christian services
- Quaker meeting for worship, part 1, 2 and 3

*Letters to a Fellow Seeker* (2012) by Steve Chase, Letter 3 Silent worship and the Inward teacher

*Holding one another in the Light* (Pendle Hill Pamphlet #382) by Marcelle Martin

*Listening spirituality, Volume 1* by Patricial Loring

*Burning Oneness biding everything (PHP #332)* by Bruce Birchard

*Four doors to meeting for worship (PHP#306)* by Bill Taber

*Living from the center: Mindfulness meditation (PHP #407)* by Valerie Brown

**Session 3: Testimonies**

**October 6, 2018**

**Topic:** The history of our testimonies, the meanings of each one, and how the testimonies affect our lives

**Topical Outline**

History and origins of the testimonies

Simplicity

Peace

Integrity

Community

Equality

Stewardship

**Preparation**

Book Chapters

*The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery* (2013) by Rex Ambler, Chapter 6 Bearing Witness

*Letters to a Fellow Seeker* (2012) by Steve Chase, Letter 5 Quaker Faith and Social Action

*PYM Faith and Practice*

Friends Witness in the World, p. 27-33

Query 6: Nurturing our Community: Stewardship of Resources p. 209

Query 7: Grounding for Transformed Lives: Peace and Alternatives to Violence p. 210

Query 8: Grounding for Transformed Lives: Integrity and Simplicity p. 210-11

Query 9: Grounding for Transformed Lives: Equality and Justice, 211-12

Brief Readings (Brochures or Websites)

“Quaker Testimonies” (2011) by American Friends Service Committee (AFSC.org/testimonies)

Introducing PYM Quakers: Quaker Testimonies (<https://www.pym.org/introducing-pym-quakers/quaker-testimonies/>)

PYM- Quaker Peace Testimony by Mary Lou Leavitt

(<https://www.pym.org/publications/pamphlets/quaker-peace-testimony/>)

QuakerSpeak Video Series

Why I don't wear a tie in court <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8Szc3vSfCg> (6 minutes)  
Why are Quakers pacifists? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qm56GeaBazY> (6 minutes)  
How Quakers can help end mass incarceration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV-a5dN5q78> (7 minutes)

### Session Queries

1. What is a testimony? What do the testimonies mean in our lives?
2. How do faith and the testimonies depend upon each other?
3. What does it mean to live simply?
4. What are important aspects of the peace testimony?
5. How does a Quaker show integrity in their actions?
6. What does the "testimony of community" mean? How does this differ from the other testimonies?
7. Can the meaning of equality be expressed simply?
8. What is the meaning of stewardship in contemporary life?

### Glossary Terms

Testimonies  
Beliefs  
Oath-taking  
Simplicity  
Peace Testimony  
Nonviolence  
Integrity  
Community  
Equality  
Stewardship  
Social Justice

### Additional Resources (for further reading or study)

The future of Quaker advocacy <http://quakerspeak.com/fcni-future-of-quaker-advocacy/>  
How Quakers can transform the world <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDBva-1UFY8>

## Session 4: Meeting Community October 20, 2019

**Topic:** Meeting Community

### Topical Outline

Our Meeting Community

- What is the underlying basis for the ways we are organized and the way we conduct ourselves. How do we speak to one another? How do we conduct business?
- What is the Clerks role, the committee responsibilities, our responsibilities as members?
- How do we care for one another?
- How do we discern and decide issues? Discuss both Individual discernment and Meeting discernment.

Structure of our Meeting

- Committees and responsibilities
- How we care for one another
- Clearness Committees
- Discernment and Unity in Meeting process

### Session Queries

1. How do we treat, speak with, care for one another?
2. What is the structure of our organization?
3. How is Meeting for Business a Meeting for Worship?
4. How is “sense of the meeting” different from consensus?
5. What role do our committees play?
6. What is a leading? Have you had a leading so strong that you could not refuse? What helped or hindered? How might you explore or use Clearness Committees?
7. Where is God or the Light in all of this?

### Preparation

Book Chapters and Pamphlet

Barry Morley, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging the Sense of the Meeting*. PHP 307

Rex Ambler, *The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery*, 2013.

Chapters 3 Meeting Others, Chapter 4, Making Decisions, Chapter 5, Living Faithfully  
Steve Chase, *Letters to a Fellow Seeker*, 2012.

Letter 4, Ministering One to Another

QuakerSpeak Video Series –

<http://quakerspeak.com/why-quakers-value-process-over-outcome/>

<http://quakerspeak.com/quaker-decision-making-consensus/>

<http://quakerspeak.com/how-to-have-a-clearness-committee>

### Glossary Terms

Clearness committee	Clerk
Closing meeting	Continuing revelation
Discernment	Eldering
Elders	Gathered meeting
Good order	Gospel Order
Lay down	Leading
Minding the Light	Minute
Monthly Meeting	Proceed as way opens
Quarterly Meeting	Recording clerk
Sense of the Meeting	Standing aside
State of the Meeting	Unity
Un-programmed Meeting	Yearly Meeting

### **Additional Readings**

#### *PYM Faith and Practice*

Faith Reflected and Practiced in Daily Life p. 14-39

Faith Reflected in Our Organization p. 44-79

Query 4: Nurturing Our Community: Care for the Meeting

Query 5: Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education in Home and Meeting

Query 6: Nurturing Our Community: Stewardship of Resources

### **Additional Resources** (for further reading or study)

Rex Ambler, *Light to Live By*, Quaker Books, 2007.

Valerie Brown, *Coming to Light, Cultivating Spiritual Discernment through the Quaker Clearness Committee*. PHP 446

Thomas Gates, *Members One of Another; The Dynamics of Membership in Quaker Meeting*. PHP 371

Thomas Kelly, *Testament of Devotion*; Chapter: The Blessed Community. 1941.

Parker Palmer, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward and Undivided Life*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2009.

Patricia Loring, *Listening Spirituality Volume 1: Personal Spiritual Practices Among Friends*; Openings Press, 2009.

Patricia Loring, *Listening Spirituality Volume 2: Corporate Spiritual Practice Among Friends*; Openings Press, 2005.

Mathilda Navias, *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches*, Friends Publishing Corporation.



2012.

**Session 5: Witness and Action**  
**October 27, 2019**

**Topic:** How spirituality makes activism more effective. “Let your life speak” -Friends’ Beliefs and Action.  
“Communicate the truth and help relieve suffering.” -Ambler

**Topical Outline**

- Background: Quaker choices are “an outward expression of an inward spiritual experience”
- Changing things: moving from feeling to understanding, to faith, to action
- Quaker commitment to education: youth, young adults, mature adults
- How spirituality makes activism more effective
- Opportunities:
  - Friends Committee on National Legislation
  - American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
  - Testimonies and Concerns Committee and Local Activism

**Preparation**

Book Chapters

*The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery* (2013) by Rex Ambler, Chapter 7 Changing Things  
*Letters to a Fellow Seeker* (2012) by Steve Chase, Letter 5, Letter 6

PYM Resources

Quaker Testimonies, PYM (<https://www.pym.org/introducing-pym-quakers/quaker-testimonies/>): Read each testimony, including the links at the right of the page for 4 of the 6 Testimonies

American Friends Service Committee <https://www.afsc.org/mission-vision-and-values>

QuakerSpeak Video Series

How Spirituality Makes Activism More Effective

<https://quakerspeak.com/spirituality-makes-activism-more-effective/>

7 Millenials Share How A Year of Service Changed Their Lives

<https://quakerspeak.com/quaker-voluntary-service/>

How a Small Group of Quaker Activists Took on PNC Bank and Won <https://quakerspeak.com/how-a-small-group-of-quaker-activists-took-on-pnc-bank-and-won/>

Pick one other video on Quaker activism and watch. There are videos on Peace, Immigration, Incarceration, Racism, Politics, Sustainability, etc.

### **Session Queries**

1. How do Quakers let their lives speak?
2. How do they see the role of social action in their spiritual life?
3. How do Quaker beliefs inform Quaker activism?
4. How do the Testimonies manifest in our day to day lives?
5. What are the local concerns in which we are involved? How can I be involved locally?

### **Glossary Terms**

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)  
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)  
Friends Journal  
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)  
Peace Education and Community Effort (P.E.A.C.E.)  
Pendle Hill  
Quakerspeak  
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)  
Quaker Voluntary Year of Service  
Talbot Association of Clergy and Laity (TACL)  
Testimonies and Concerns Committee

### **Additional Resources (for further reading or study)**

*How We Win: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning* (2018) by George Lakey

From *Friends Journal* (September 1, 2019)

“A Quaker School’s Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse” by Ed Hansen

“Slavery in the Quaker World” by Katharine Gerbner

**Session 6: History**  
**November 3, 2019**

**Topic: A Very Brief History of the Religious Society of Friends and Third Haven Friends Meeting**

**Topical Outline:**

1. Formation and change of the Religious Society of Friends
  - Beginnings, 1652 – 1690, persecution and expansion
  - Consolidation and withdrawal, 1690 – 1800
  - Schism and reform, circa 1800 – 1900
  - Reconciliation circa 1900 – 1955
  - Unity and diversity, 1995 – present
  
2. George Fox
  - Beginnings
  - Revelation and preaching
  - Formation of the Religious Society of Friends
  
3. John Woolman
  - Early years
  - Revelation
  - Travels
  - Anti-slavery action
  
4. Third Haven Friends Meeting
  - Early years
  - 1684 meetinghouse
  - Ebb and flow of the Meeting

**Preparation:**

- *Faith and Practice*, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 2018, “Historical Background,” pp 80-95
- *Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches*, Mathilda Navias, 2012, Chapter 1, “A Brief History of Quaker Process and Organization,” pp 1-15
- *The Quakers: A Very Short History*, Pink Dandelion, 2008, Chapter 2, “The history of Quakerism,” pp 19-36

**Session Queries**

1. How does the formation and change of Quakerism continue to affect us today?

2. What are the foundational concepts from which the Religious Society of Friends grew?
3. What is important to know about the background of Third Haven Friends Meeting?

### **Additional Readings and Resources**

- *Truth of the Heart: An Anthology of George Fox, 1624-1691*, collated, edited and annotated by Rex Ambler, 2001, "Making Sense of George Fox," pp 176-200
- *Three Hundred Years and More of Third Haven Quakerism*, Kenneth L. Carroll, 1984
- *The Journal of George Fox*, George Fox, John W Nickalls, ed., 1995
- *First Among Friends: George Fox and the Creation of Quakerism*, H Larry Ingle, 1994
- *Truth of the Heart: An Anthology of George Fox, 1624-1691*, collated, edited and annotated by Rex Ambler, 2001
- *The Journal and Major Essays of John Woolman*, John Woolman, Phillips P Moulton, ed., 1971
- *Barclay's Apology in Modern English*, Thomas Barclay, Dean Freiday, ed., 1967
- *Quaker Spirituality: Selected Writings*, Douglas V Steere, ed., 1984
- *Quakerism on the Eastern Shore*, Kenneth Carroll, 1970

QuakerSpeak Videos: All the following videos are located at this link:

<https://quakerspeak.com/history/>

How Quakerism began  
Equality even in death  
Most Quaker Bible verses  
The history of plain speech  
How Quakers got their name