

What do Quakers believe?

For Quakers, genuine belief cannot be secondhand. By raising up “that of God” in each person, also called the “Inner Light,” the Quaker way of life incorporates:

- the opportunity for each person to seek God’s leading, both individually and corporately in worship
- the belief that God is still revealing truth to us
- the accordance of equality and respect to all
- no need for professional clergy or other intermediary between God and the individual
- the refusal to take oaths, for there is a single standard of truth
- the commitment to live simply
- living the sacraments rather than observing them outwardly
- the conviction that peace can best be attained by striving to trust to love rather than by reacting to fear.

Quakers or Friends?

“Quaker” is the name most often used to describe the 215,000 worldwide members of the Religious Society of Friends. “Quaker” was first used as a derogatory term, but is now used interchangeably with “Friend,” derived from John 15:15: *I have called you friends; for all things I have heard from my father, I have made known unto you.*

How do I find local Quakers?

Halifax Friends Meeting

usually meets each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the library building (enter by the car port) of the Atlantic School of Theology, Francklyn Street, Halifax.

(902) 429-2904

monitored answering machine

Antigonish Worship Group

meets at different times and in different places in the Antigonish area.

(902) 863-8998

Dartmouth Worship Group

usually meets at 10:30 a.m. the second and fourth Sundays of September to June in Friends’ homes in Dartmouth.

(902) 463-3498 or (902) 461-0702

South Shore Worship Group

usually meets at 10:30 a.m. the first and third Sundays in homes in the Lunenburg area.

(902) 634-3231

info@halifax.quaker.ca

http://www.quaker.ca/halifax

P.O. Box 8091
Halifax NS B3K 5L8



Halifax Friends Meeting

*Religious Society of Friends -
Quakers*

Join us for
Meeting for Worship

All are welcome!



For our well-being
Halifax Monthly Meeting
is scent free

How do Quakers worship?

Friends find that God's presence and direction is more easily discerned in the worshipful silence of the group. This is not a solitary search, but a shared communion.

By coming together for a quiet hour without planned liturgy, sacraments, music or Bible readings, participants open themselves to follow the leadings of the spirit. Out of the silent and expectant worship, anyone may minister when truly moved.

The Meeting for Worship is the heart of the Quaker community. From this, individuals or the group may be led to active witness in the world.

Early Friends were committed to a rediscovery of "primitive Christianity" while recognising that the Spirit also moved in people who had never heard of Jesus Christ. Today, not all Quakers claim to be Christian but try to uphold the values taught by Jesus of Nazareth.

Seekers from all backgrounds are welcome to worship with us.

I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness.

George Fox, 1647

Quaker beliefs in action

As early as 1661, Quakers made a public declaration of their opposition to war. Since that time many Quakers have refused to perform military service on grounds of conscience or to have any part in the manufacture of arms. Friends were also leaders in the abolition of slavery.

The opposition to slavery and war has led to awareness of other types of oppression. In 1947, the Nobel Peace Prize was given to British and U.S. Quaker service organizations in recognition of their work for reconciliation and humanitarian efforts following World War II.

Today Canadian Friends are involved in:

- the abolition of prisons
- the support of First Nations
- establishing overseas projects which sustain gender-balanced, equitable and ecologically sound development
- carrying out quiet diplomacy, providing opportunities for off-the-record dialogue and peaceful solutions to conflict.

More information from

<http://www.cfsc.quaker.ca>

I told them I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars.

George Fox, 1651

How did Quakers begin?

George Fox was born in England in 1624. He grew up in a time of political and religious upheaval. After travelling around England to find a religious group that reflected his experience, he discovered other Seekers and gathered a group of followers, called the Valiant Sixty. These men and women travelled widely and brought the Quaker message to Europe, the Middle East and North America.

Other early leaders included Margaret Fell, who organised the Society and cared for families of those imprisoned for their Quaker witness; and William Penn, who was granted land for a debt the crown owed his father—Pennsylvania.

Friends from Nantucket settled in Barrington, Nova Scotia in 1762 to continue their whaling and fishing interests, but most left as a result of constant attacks from American privateers. Nantucket Quakers were invited to Dartmouth in 1784 to establish a whaling industry, but after a few years most left for Wales.

Modern Quakers have worshipped in Nova Scotia since the 1960s.

