

Being Friends Together

Reading *Quaker faith & practice* > Autumn/Winter 2015/16 > Chapter 5: Other Quaker Groupings & Chapter 6: Yearly Meeting > Q151 Group session

Session 5 Other Quaker Groupings & Yearly Meeting Chapters 5 & 6, *Quaker faith & practice*

Group session

90/120 minutes

90-minute* session: do Activity 1, then choose one activity from 2A, B and C

120 minute* session: do Activity 1, then choose two activities from 2A, B and C

**note: some activities are longer than others, leading to a slightly longer overall session*

Before the session it may be helpful to remind yourself of the guidance on working with groups available in the Ways of Working area of *Being Friends Together*. Check that anyone with particular needs in your group is able to access any handouts, or has a version that is accessible for them.

Resources:

- Copies of *Quaker faith & practice* (5th Edition) for reference - also available online at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk>
- Instructions sheet and cards (prepared in advance from Activity Sheet 1) x one set per small group Activity 2A
- Copy map enlarged from Activity Sheet 2 (or use your own large UK map) x one per small group Activity 2A
- Activity Sheet 3 for the quiz host Activity 2B
- Paper and pens Activities 2B and 2C
- *Quaker faith & practice* – at least one copy per small group Activity 2C
- Research topic slips (cut up from Activity Sheet 4) – a different one per small group Activity 2C

Welcome and worship

5 minutes

Session introduction

5 minutes

Focus for this session: Chapter 5 of *Quaker faith & practice*, which looks at the origins and purposes of regional Quaker groupings and general meetings, and Chapter 6, which covers the history, purposes, functions and constitution of Britain Yearly Meeting.

<http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk>



Being Friends Together is a joint project of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre (Registered Charity Number: 313816) and Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (Registered charity number: 1127633).



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Activity 1: It spoke to my condition

30 minutes

Group sharing go-round using creative listening

In creative listening mode, take it in turns in a go-round of the group *either* to:

- read aloud all or part of an extract from Chapter 5 or 6 that spoke to your condition or resonated with you in some way when you read these chapters in preparation for the session - sharing for no more than two minutes about why it spoke to you
or
- share briefly about a significant experience of attending Yearly Meeting or a Quaker grouping mentioned in Chapter 5

Allow a brief pause between each contribution. A facilitator may need to indicate to participants when they have had two minutes so that everyone gets a chance to speak.

Activity 2A: Mapping Quaker groupings

30 minutes

Card based response activity in small groups

This activity is best done in small groups of no more than six people. Give each group an instruction sheet and a set of cards prepared in advance from Activity Sheet 1, together with a map enlarged from Activity Sheet 2 (or use your own large UK map).

In groups of four to six people, do an activity matching statements taken from *Qf&p* Chapter 5 with specific Quaker groupings, as marked on a map of the UK. 15

1. Shuffle the cards and deal them out.
2. Take it in turns to read one of your cards aloud and place it on the map where you think it should go, making a pile of cards for each of the five Quaker groupings (some statements could apply to more than one grouping).
3. Repeat the process until you run out of cards.
4. Check any statements you were unsure about by looking at Chapter 5.

15

Stay in your small groups and share anything you notice, for example:

- anything surprising or new to you
- ways that the statements on the cards reflect Quaker values, and not just administrative arrangements

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Activity 2B: A Quiz - Yearly Meeting's history and purpose 30 minutes

Reading/listening + quiz in teams of two or three

A facilitator or volunteer will need to act as quiz host, using Activity Sheet 3 for the questions and answers. Teams will need paper and pen to note down answers.

Read aloud *Qf&p* 6.02, 6.03 and 6.09. Either the facilitator(s) could read them out, or they could be read by one or more volunteers. 5

In teams of two or three people, take part in a quiz about Yearly Meeting's history, purposes and functions. Let Friends know that they can either answer from their own knowledge or make guesses. (Guessing answers together can be fun – not many Friends are likely to know them all – but teams could have copies of *Qf&p* for looking up answers during the quiz if you prefer.) Answers from *Qf&p* sections 6.01 to 6.07 will be given at the end. 25

For fun, you might like to work out which team got the most answers right at the end of the quiz!

Activity 2C: Researching how Yearly Meeting works 30-40 minutes

Reading/listening + research in threes + whole group plenary

Friends will need paper and pens for note-taking, and copies of 'Quaker faith & practice' for reference. Give each group of three a research topic slip (prepared in advance from Activity Sheet 4).

Read aloud *Qf&p* 6.08 and 6.11. Either the facilitator(s) could read them out, or they could be read by one or more volunteers. 5

In threes, research aspects of how yearly meeting works, in particular through its various committees. Give each group a research topic slip and ask them to find out about their topic, and to be prepared to tell the rest of the group three to six key facts about it afterwards. 10

Each small group presents their key facts to the rest of the group. If there is time, you could invite comments and discussion about Friends' experience or impressions of how Yearly Meeting works in practice, and how this expresses Quaker values. 15-25

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Whole group plenary

10 minutes

A brief opportunity to reflect in the whole group on your responses to any of the activities. Use worship sharing or creative listening mode, depending on your group dynamic and preference.

Notices about next session/practicalities, etc.

5 minutes

Concluding worship

5 minutes



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