



Spiritual preparation for Yearly Meeting 2016

Introduction

Yearly Meeting 2016 will be held over the late May Bank Holiday weekend at Friends House, London, 27–30 May.

Yearly Meeting is when Quakers in Britain come together to worship, make decisions and spend time as a community. In 2016 we will continue to look at how we live out our faith in the world, starting with hearing our stories. We will look at how we recognise and respond to the promptings of the Spirit to act in the world, and at how we know and use our gifts.

Even if you can't be with us in person, shared spiritual preparation creates the foundations upon which Yearly Meeting in session can build. This document includes two activities that we hope will help you explore this year's topics, both individually and within your meetings.



You may want to run the sessions overleaf as worship-sharing in a whole group; as a creative response to the questions (drawing, collage, journalling, drama or mime); or discuss the questions in pairs or small groups before reconvening and sharing. The Quaker Life resource 'Being Quaker, Doing Quaker' may be useful for choosing your approach.

Spiritual preparation activities

Activity 1: Celebrating our stories of how we live out our faith in the world

Begin the session with worship.

Introduce the topic by reading this query aloud:

Do you talk to Friends in your meeting and beyond about how they are living out their faith in the world? Have you shared your own story with others? Could you make space for such conversations and think about recording how concerns have led to actions? Can you recognise the support that can come in small ways?

Consider the questions:

1. How easy is it for you to tell the story of your spiritual journey?
2. What hinders us in talking of things eternal?
3. How can these stories be shared to take our meeting forward?

End the session with worship.

Activity 2: Pushed by the Spirit

Begin the session with worship.

Consider the questions:

1. Can you remember a time when you felt you were spoken to in a meeting for worship?
2. What was it that helped you to be open and to recognise the nudging of the Spirit?
3. How could you share your leadings and understanding?
4. Was the prompting of the Spirit building on a talent you were already aware of, or by following the prompting did a new gift emerge?

End the session with worship.



Suggested reading

- 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 & 12–21
- Yearly Meeting 2015, minute 36: 'Call for Equality'
- *Quaker faith & practice* 19.48

Suggested reading can be found online at www.quaker.org.uk/ym.



For more information contact ym@quaker.org.uk or call 020 7663 1040. Follow Yearly Meeting on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bymevent and on Twitter at #YM2016.

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