

Who are the Quakers?

Officially known as The Religious Society of Friends, Quakers seek to experience Spirit directly, within ourselves, in our relationships with others, and in the world around us. We believe that there are many paths to the truth.

Quaker testimonies

Some of our spiritual insights, which we call our testimonies, spring from deep experience and have been reaffirmed by successive generations of Quakers. These testimonies are community, simplicity, integrity, peace, equality and sustainability.

Living our values

Friends value actions that reflect our ideals. As a result, Quakers in Aotearoa and many other countries are active in movements for peace, prison reform, economic, racial and gender equality, environmental sustainability and climate justice.

Quakers are committed to Constitutional reform, upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and to building a just partnership between Pakeha and Maori people.

Find out more:

www.quakers.nz

Quakers Aotearoa
NEW ZEALAND
Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

**ARE YOU ALREADY A
QUAKER?**

Do you believe...

- All people are equal
- War, poverty and bigotry are wrong
- All people can connect to Spirit directly
- People should “live their values” and create a more just society?

Do you...

- Find silent contemplation helpful
- Want to join a community where all voices are heard and valued?

Well, maybe you are!



What do we believe?

Our focus is on our experience, rather than written statements of belief. Our sense of community does not depend on professing identical beliefs, but from worshipping, sharing and working together.

What do we do?

In our Meeting for Worship, we gather in silence to wait together for inner guidance. Each person present contributes to the "gathered meeting", a feeling of unity when it seems no words are needed. Sometimes the silence is broken by "ministry", a spoken contribution, usually brief and unprepared, when someone feels prompted to share an insight with the rest of the group. The speaker finds words to express their thoughts, not to define what others should think. Ministry often leads others to speak but, in a Quaker meeting, we allow time for what has been said to settle in our hearts and minds before speaking ourselves.



Activities for families, children, and young friends

Many Meetings have special activities designed for children and teens to attend while parents go to Meeting for Worship. There are also national gatherings for young people including camps for Junior Young Friends (13-16 year olds), a family-friendly Summer Gathering which happens over New Year's each year,

and family events at the Whanganui Friends Settlement. Young Friends (YFs) are Quakers aged 16 to 30. YF gatherings take place around Easter in different regions each year. We have an email list, and a Facebook page called Young Friends NZ / Aotearoa. If you would like to be on the email list, please contact us on:

yf.comms@quaker.org.nz

Quaker Settlement

An intentional community based on Quaker values is situated in Whanganui, New Zealand. Here Quakers have put their passion for social justice and ecological sustainability into action, forming the Quaker Settlement, a living and educational community in Whanganui. Learn more here:

www.quakersettlement.co.nz

