

***We welcome you!***

## **The Quaker Faith**

Quakers (also known as Friends) believe that **every person is known by the Divine and can know the Divine in a direct relationship.**

We draw our strength from this direct relationship, and from our relationship with each other, in order to witness to human dignity and to work for peace and justice.

During the past three centuries, consistent testimonies have emerged, which bear witness that the Spirit can be trusted to lead toward simplicity, equality, justice, nonviolence, peace, and stewardship.

We are a community of Friends (Quakers) and fellow spiritual travelers of all descriptions who hold lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people close to our hearts. All are welcome in the FLGBTQC community.

Many Quaker meetings welcome and affirm gender and sexual orientation diversity, though some Quaker meetings have not yet found clarity to do so.

*“I had never experienced anything like [Mid-Winter Gathering] before. I observed and felt how grounded in worship the meeting was and thought to myself -- ‘This is what I aspire to, being grounded in Spirit in this way. This is what I want to be when I grow up!’ So I’ve stuck around and the community has become a family to me.*

*I have developed loving and nourishing relationships and friendships here. I have grown spiritually. We’re not a perfect group by any means, but there is potential for deep, meaningful growth, joy, love, and fun here. Come and join us.”*  
- Karen

# **Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns**

**FLGBTQC**

**A Quaker Faith Community**

# What is Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns?

We are a Quaker faith community. We deeply honor, affirm, and uphold that of the Divine in all people. We seek to know that of the Divine within ourselves and others, and seek to express this Truth as it is made known to us.

It is our hope to offer an oasis to those who have been spurned because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

We are learning that **radical inclusion and radical love bring further light to Quaker testimony and life.**

We gather twice a year, at our mid-winter gathering in February and within the Summer Gathering of Friends General Conference (FGC is a North American Quaker body.) At these times we welcome newcomers, worship together, practice group decision-making guided by our discernment of Divine will, build community together, share our individual journeys, celebrate our lives, heal old wounds, and draw sustenance from the Spirit for our work and life in the world.

The following statement was made by the Central Committee of Friends General Conference (FGC) concerning orientation and gender identity:

*“Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our [gatherings and committee] work has been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.”*  
- October 2004

This pamphlet is from June 2014.

For updated pamphlets see

[flbtqc.quaker.org/resources.html](http://flbtqc.quaker.org/resources.html)

## We'd love to hear from you!

- **Visit our website** [flbtqc.quaker.org](http://flbtqc.quaker.org)
- **Join us for worship at a local meeting.** If you need help finding a local Meeting or people active in FLGBTQC, just drop us email from our website.
- We also maintain a list of Meetings that have minuted their support of same-gender couples ([flbtqc.quaker.org/marriageminutes](http://flbtqc.quaker.org/marriageminutes)). We have started compiling a list of Meetings that have minuted support of and affirmation for transgender people. ([flbtqc.quaker.org/transgenderminutes](http://flbtqc.quaker.org/transgenderminutes))
- **Sign-up on our website to receive our newsletter**, published about twice a year.
- **Join us at our two annual gatherings**, held in various locations across North America in February and July.