

E&O's winter semester courses begin in February! The course offered will be "Introduction to Quakers and Friends' Ways."

**The first registration deadline is February 3rd** — at which time the online course administration team will begin to determine when the course will run.

*Late registrants can sometimes be accommodated — so don't hesitate to contact us — but priority goes to those who register by the deadline!*

## Introduction to Quakers and Friends' Ways

How did Quaker faith come to be based on direct experience rather than authority? How can a Quaker community nurture how we live, work, worship, and make decisions? *Introduction to Quakers and Friends' Ways* is a *free online course* that explores the origin of Quaker testimonies, such as the traditional peace testimony and testimony of equality, in Canadian Friends' history and beyond. It also invites participants to deepen their understanding of the role of Monthly Meetings in Quaker life.

Topics include:

- Experiencing the Spirit;
- Early Friends in Canada and the world;
- Quaker decision-making;
- Living the Spiritual community.



New attenders as well as experienced Friends will find opportunities to grow in this course, which meets online once per week for 6 weeks starting in late-April/early May.

[Register for the Introduction to Quaker and Friends' Ways course](#)

## When do these courses run?

## *Introduction to Quaker and Friends' Ways*

February-March 2019 (day and time determined through registration process):

\*Saturdays\* 10:00am Pacific/11:00am Mountain/noon Central/1:00pm Eastern/ 2:00pm Atlantic/2:30pm Newfoundland-Labrador

**OR:**

\*Sundays\* 12:30pm Pacific/1:30pm Mountain/2:30pm Central/3:30pm Eastern/4:30pm Atlantic/5:00pm Newfoundland-Labrador

*Registrants will assist Education and Outreach Committee with determining the exact dates and times that these courses will run by completing the [online registration form](#).*

## **How do the courses work?**

A short reading will be provided before each session. The weekly online sessions will use video or audio conference, depending on the technology available to those who sign up, and will include worship, exercises, reflections on readings, and opportunities to apply the learning to our own lives. You can see examples of previous course materials here:

[Introduction to Quakers and Friends Ways Learning Resource](#)  
[Quaker Faith and Practice Learning Resource](#)

The courses are offered by Canadian Yearly Meeting's [Education and Outreach Committee](#). You can contact the organizing committee for more information.

## **Courses are Free of Charge**

However, we warmly welcome any donations you are able to give, to support future courses and other work of Canadian Yearly Meeting. You can [donate online, by mail, or by phone](#).

## **Facilitators**

Arwen Brenneman, an experienced facilitator from Vancouver Monthly Meeting, will lead one course. Previous participants have said:

- “Arwen did a helpful, insightful, sensitive job!”
- “She was attentive to the needs of the group and individuals and very respectful of differences in opinions and experiences.”
- “Arwen was awesome. Her experience and values/approach were a perfect fit.”

# What are people saying about Canadian Yearly Meeting's online courses?

## They enhance spiritual connection

- “The big Ah-Ha’s for me were around understanding what waiting in the Light means for me, and what that sense of being connected to God means for me.”
- “Reading *Faith & Practice* was inspiring and it reminded me of the inspiration and insights it contains. I enjoyed the discussions and sharing of the course participants.”
- “Very meaningful — I've still got sooooo much to learn.”

## They deepen understanding

- “The specific topics we focused on were things that I'd somehow not understood very well even as I found Meeting for Worship sustaining. I think I understand better now.”
- The course “was very meaningful to me. I have been circling the Quakers for a few years now and it helped me decide that it’s right for me.”
- “As someone who is new to Quakerism, I found the outline very informative. I appreciated the conversation with others, as it prompted a wider perspective of the topic under discussion and also allowed me to see some of the variety of the Quaker culture beyond the Meeting I have been attending. My Meeting was interested in my experience of the course.”
- “It provided the information on Quaker ways it was presumably designed to, and also provided opportunities to interact with participants in Quaker ways. Both functions are of good intellectual, emotional and spiritual value in my quest to learn.”

## They connect community

- "The real thing that made this course meaningful was the connection I made with other Friends."
- "I greatly enjoyed meeting other Friends from across the country. I liked hearing people's personal stories and perspectives."
- “I had an opportunity to communicate with Friends I did not know, and that was worthwhile.”
- "I greatly appreciated hearing from other Quakers about their experiences, struggles, joys, and questions. Their contributions led me to reflect on my own journey and the dynamics of my particular meeting. I also now feel like I have a stronger knowledge base

in Quaker practice and history, and can more easily explain some Quaker concepts to curious friends and family."

## **Contact Us with Questions or for More Info**

For more information, contact the organizing team at [onlinecourse@quaker.ca](mailto:onlinecourse@quaker.ca). We look forward to meeting you!