

### **The "Ask me about Quakerism" game**

#### **The scene –**

You have set up a table covered with Quaker literature on the sidewalk in front of a library, school or BART station. Above the table is a sign saying "Ask me about Quakerism". You sit down behind the table and wait for people to ask you questions. (No way can this be considered proselytization!)

#### **Preparation -**

- 1) Place questions on folded slips of paper in a bowl. The file contains 65 questions - some easy, some hard for anyone to answer.
- 2) Place role assignment slips in another bowl. There is one "Answerer", three Questioners and enough "Listener" slips for everyone else (but no more) in the bowl. Optionally, you can add more Questioners to make the Answerer's job harder.
- 3) Optionally, place question topics in another bowl. This makes the job of the Questioners harder - they have to think of a question to fit the topic.

#### **Play the game –**

Pass the bowl with assignment slips around and everybody takes one. The Answerer goes to sit at the table (or the center of the circle, if no table). Take the bowl of questions to each Questioner, or take both pre-written questions and topics and let them choose one from either bowl. The Questioners ask their questions in order (#1, #2, ...) and the Answerer answers as fast as he/she can. Saying "I don't know" is allowed if followed by a plan to find the answer.

#### **Conclusion –**

Collect the role slips and mix them back in their bowl. Collect question slips but do not mix them back in the bowl until all rounds have been played. Start the next round by passing the role bowl around again. In a small group, you may draw "Answerer" more than once. Continue until the point has been thoroughly demonstrated.

[Done first as an interest group at Fall, 2011, CPQM, with about 10 participants. Four actually were new to Quakerism and came to ask their own questions; if they drew the "Answerer" card, they were excused]

-Eric E. Sabelman

**QUESTIONER #1**

**QUESTIONER #2**

**QUESTIONER #3**

**LISTENER**

**ANSWERER**

**QUESTION:** **Simplicity**

**QUESTION:** **Simplicity**

**QUESTION:** **Integrity**

**QUESTION:** **Integrity**

**QUESTION:** **Unity**

**QUESTION:** **Unity**

**QUESTION:** **Peace**

**QUESTION:** **Peace**

**QUESTION:** **Community**

**QUESTION:** **Community**

**QUESTION:** **Equality**

**QUESTION:** **Equality**

**QUESTION:** **Christianity**

**QUESTION:** **Christianity**

**QUESTION:** **Universalism**

**QUESTION:** **Universalism**

**QUESTION:** **Mysticism**

**QUESTION:** **Mysticism**

**Do Quakers read the Bible?**

**Do Quakers believe the Bible?**

**Are Quakers Christian?**

**Do Quakers believe in God?**

**How are all Quakers alike?**

**How many kinds of Quakers are there?**

**How do Quakers worship?**

**Do Quakers practice baptism?**

**What do Quakers teach their children?**

**Have Quakers ever gone to war?**

**How do Quakers raise money?**

**Are there any black Quakers?**

**Are there any gay Quakers?**

**How do Quakers get married?**

**Can Quakers marry “outside the faith”?**

**Do Quakers practice consensus?**

**If war is not the answer, what is?**

**What does a Quaker do if someone attacks him?**

**Without a creed, how do you know if you are a good Quaker?**

**Do Quakers still say “thee” and “thou”?**

**Do Quakers pray?**

**Who does a non-theist Quaker pray to?**

**How do I find a Quaker meeting?**

**Are there rules to follow in Quaker worship?**

**How do you know when to speak in a silent meeting?**

**Are there Quaker preachers?**

**Was Richard Nixon really a Quaker?**

**Was Herbert Hoover really a Quaker?**

**Was Bayard Rustin really a Quaker?**

**Who was Howard Brinton?**

**Who was George Fox?**

**Who was John Woolman?**

**How did William Penn get Pennsylvania?**

**What does AFSC do?**

**Have you been arrested at a protest?**

**Do Quakers practice abortion?**

**What holidays do Quakers celebrate?**

**What is a really hard question for Quakers to answer?**

**Who runs a Quaker meeting?**

**How did Quakers get to California?**

**How many Quakers are there in California?**

**If Quakerism is so good, why aren't there more Quakers?**

**How do you get to be a Quaker?**

**How do Quakers decide what to do?**

**Why do Quakers have a lobby in Sacramento?**

**Are Quakers celibate like the Shakers?**

**Are Quakers against technology?**

**Are Quakers environmentalists?**

**Are Quakers all politically liberal?**

**Is there such a thing as a just war?**

**How do Quakers deal with terrorists?**

**Do Quakers support Palestine or Israel?**

**Do Quakers sing or shout in Meeting if the Spirit moves them?**

**How do you know if the Spirit moves you in worship?**

**Why do Quakers worship in silence?**

**Why do Quakers worship as a group, instead of alone?**

**Are Quakers automatically exempt from the draft?**

**When do Quakers practice civil disobedience?**

**Do Quakers have funerals?**

**Are there any rich Quakers?**

**Are there any poor Quakers?**

**Do Quakers tell lies?**

**Do Quakers serve on juries?**

**Are Quakers opposed to capitalism?**

**Can you be a Quaker and a Buddhist?**