

Discussion Guide

for select articles in

Western Friend



Some general approaches to group discussions:

- Choose a text no longer than three pages. Bring enough copies for everyone to share.
- Begin and end with a moment of worship.
- Begin by asking one volunteer to read the whole text aloud. (Having one reader helps people focus on the meaning better than multiple readers.)
- Perhaps simply conduct worship-sharing about the text.
- Perhaps ask people to begin by discussing the text in pairs or triads.
- Perhaps ask different small groups to begin by discussing different sections of the text.
- End by asking everyone to share reflections with the whole group: Which ideas raised earlier were especially surprising or meaningful?

Friends of Color Epistle

by the Epistle Committee

What specific points of tension among Friends are mentioned in this epistle?

What is the bottom-line “ask” in this epistle to Quaker meetings?

How do the effects of “exclusive groups” differ if they have “privileged” versus “oppressed” identities?

Open the Channel

by Anna Fritz

What aspects of the author’s job does she NOT want to do? What aspects does she find satisfying?

How does the author’s “avalanche of demands” differ from the “clear and commanding” voice of Spirit?

If “Friends Everywhere” wrestled with social media, how might that change the Society of Friends?

Making Peace a Reality

by Diane Randall

Briefly summarize the history of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) of 2001.

What are some especially dangerous implications of the AUMF?

What unique role can Friends play going forward in repealing the AUMF and similar laws?

That of God in Research

by Timothy Clark

What are some innovations and discoveries that the author describes achieving through his work?

What different aspects of Quaker practice supported the author’s work as a social worker versus a researcher?

How do scientists and Friends, at their best, stay open to changing circumstances and new Light?

Black. Christian. Anarchist.

by Zae Asa Illo

How does the author show that Friends of Color “disrupt the social order” of U.S. Friends’ meetings?

What impacts on Friends’ faith and practice result from Friends’ desire for “social respectability”?

What commitments and practices would a meeting need to put into place to be racially inclusive?

Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends

by the Epistle Committee

What are the three core commitments that define the identity of the new SCYMF?

How does the body of this epistle support the conclusion that “the best church is a quilt”?

How do you think most Friends in your meeting would react to liberal *programmed* Friends’ worship?