



## Call for Papers:

### Quaker Theological Discussion Group 2022

Hybrid business meeting November 18, 2022, 5–6pm MST  
December 2–3, 2022, 8–10am Pacific/11am–1pm Eastern/4–6pm GMT

The Quaker Theological Discussion Group (QTDG) will hold two virtual panels December 2–3, 2022. A hybrid business meeting will also take place on November 18, 2022, in person in Denver, CO in connection with American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature (AAR/SBL) gatherings, and virtually via Zoom. (See the QTDG [website](#) for the registration link when it becomes available.)

We invite Friends (and others interested in the following calls for papers) to offer presentations on the topic described below. Panelists will share for 15 minutes from their experience and/or research and a question and answer session. Panelists may be invited to share their presentations as papers in *Quaker Religious Thought* (QRT).

To contribute to this panel, please submit your topic and around 250 words describing what you would be sharing about. Submissions can be sent via email to QTDG co-chairs, Cherice Bock ([cbock@georgefox.edu](mailto:cbock@georgefox.edu)) and Christy Randazzo ([danchristy.randazzo@gmail.com](mailto:danchristy.randazzo@gmail.com)).

#### Panel 1 (Friday, December 2, 2022) – Quakers, Space, and Sense of Place

This is an invited panel, so we do not need paper proposals at this time, but we encourage you to attend!

#### Panel 2: (Saturday, December 3, 2022) – “Unnamed Rules”: Exploring Quaker Power Dynamics

Continuing some of the themes developed regarding Friends’ interactions with external systems and socio-political structures in the panel on Decolonizing the Quaker Peace Testimony (January 2022 panel, *QRT* Fall 2022 issue), this panel seeks to consider internal systems and structures among Friends at the interpersonal, meeting, and organizational level. The Religious Society of Friends attempts to be equitable and non-hierarchical in its worship format, leadership structure, and decision-making process. When Friends listen to the Spirit and discern faithful action, Quaker process can welcome prophetic voices. Books of Discipline and Faith and Practice documents attempt to put in words how Friends make decisions, choose people to fill Spirit-led roles, and what to do if trust is broken within the community.

Quaker process is not always clear or equitable, however, to those not already in positions of power and influence. Unnamed influences and unspoken rules operate simultaneously with discernment, from cultural norms to group dynamics. These include but are not limited to unconscious bias regarding identity, class, or education level. Power can also be not as readily available to Friends who differ from what is considered neurotypical, those with mental health concerns, and people with disabilities. Within a meeting, power dynamics may stem from families or cliques with a long financial or leadership role. Pastoral meetings may experience power struggles between staff and clerks, and unprogrammed meetings may be challenged to accept anyone’s leadership. Friends meetings may have developed a culture of the meeting, of the way “we” do things, that is not visible to new people and can make it difficult to accept new ideas or to move away from harmful practices.

We welcome presentations on “unnamed rules” noticed or experienced among Friends. This can include examples from Quaker history of working on these shortcomings in Friends polity. What examples exist of Quakers doing well at naming previously unnamed power dynamics or making Quaker process more equitable? How might Friends begin exploring the “unnamed rules” by which they are operating in order to live out our peace testimony (and other testimonies) within our community?