

STRENGTHS, version 5, PJ

Quaker faith

1. Quaker manner of worship: silent, openness to seeking within a spiritual community
2. Quakerism, a powerful, spiritual practice
3. Quaker faith a good fit to modern religious sensibilities
4. common hunger to experience the Divine; the people are the strength of the Meeting, all of us who are drawn to worship together at an agreed upon time and place, all of us who seek to more fully experience our Source and each other's presence.
5. A Meeting that incorporates both a Christian Quaker religious perspective and a universalist Quaker one, and has two forms of Quaker worship, has a wide appeal, including Christians who want lower and simpler church, people currently without a specific religious identity or commitment and those who are looking for somewhere that meets, lives and articulates their sense of the holy and of right.

Quaker witness

1. Quaker witness about peace, justice, equality; commitment to non-violence
2. Quaker values
3. everyone has a voice
4. Quaker writings and speaking
5. Examples of lives lived well
6. diversity of caring activities done by individuals in the Meeting that nurtures the lives of many outside the Meeting,
7. we support progressive organizations and peace work

This Quaker community and its characteristics

1. strong growing community
2. variety of social involvements of MFM people in community, richness and knowledge
3. supportive, silent community
4. Quakerly
5. inclusiveness
6. a number of members have great laughs
7. creativity - willingness to look outside the box
8. we are kind and functional
9. extreme tolerance for various views
10. place to tell our stories
11. kinship

Pastoral care

1. pastoral care strong when it happens - in some cases very strong - sometimes brilliant care; we have a sense how to do
2. smallness - we can know and be known
3. presence of people who are comfort and support (generally and today)

Spiritual development

1. encouragement for finding one's voice for spiritual development, for recognizing wisdom in oneself and in others
2. gives voice and space to introverts
3. adult program / 10:15 education
4. strong personalities - people are themselves - speak their minds; challenge us
5. growth-producing
6. committee work as a way of service and knowing each other better

Quaker business procedure

1. deliberateness in working through issues, powerful decision-making, sense of the Meeting,
2. unique? Spiritual consensus
3. the way we get things accomplished / unity

We are old and new

1. long history; We have strength because of the history of the Meeting.
2. elders
3. new life in meeting, vibrancy
4. a trend to more youth and young adult involvement; newcomers many of whom are much younger than the average attender and member
5. kids
6. Elders who are still youthful in their thinking and examples of how to age with a growing spiritual life; useful models to the next generation
7. very welcoming to newcomers
8. unprogrammed meeting may be especially attracting visitors and new attenders

MFM resources

1. strong commitments to MFM, core committed to getting things done, dedicated first day school teachers
2. longevity and compassion (DOM); Meeting well-tended to by experienced staff, and,
3. very strong Clerk of Meeting, clerk of M&C, and NYM rep
4. website - responsive, interactive; Facebook
5. sources of personal inspiration - learning stimulus
6. strong educators in many senses and speakers - people grounded, speak with conviction
7. two forms of worship / two meetings for worship; unprogrammed and semi-programmed worship
8. offers regular time and place to worship together, "re-grounds..life"
9. the space and the meetinghouse
 - the building serves our need well, functional, sturdy, well-cared for space
 - we own the building
 - sharing with Mayim Rabim