

IPCUK
**Quakers as a
self-designing
community**

Laurie Michaelis and Ed
Tyler

Ethics and principles.

- Common to Quakers and Permaculturists
- core/ fundamental

Quaker Testimony

Peace

Equality

Simplicity

Truth

Sustainability

ZONE 00

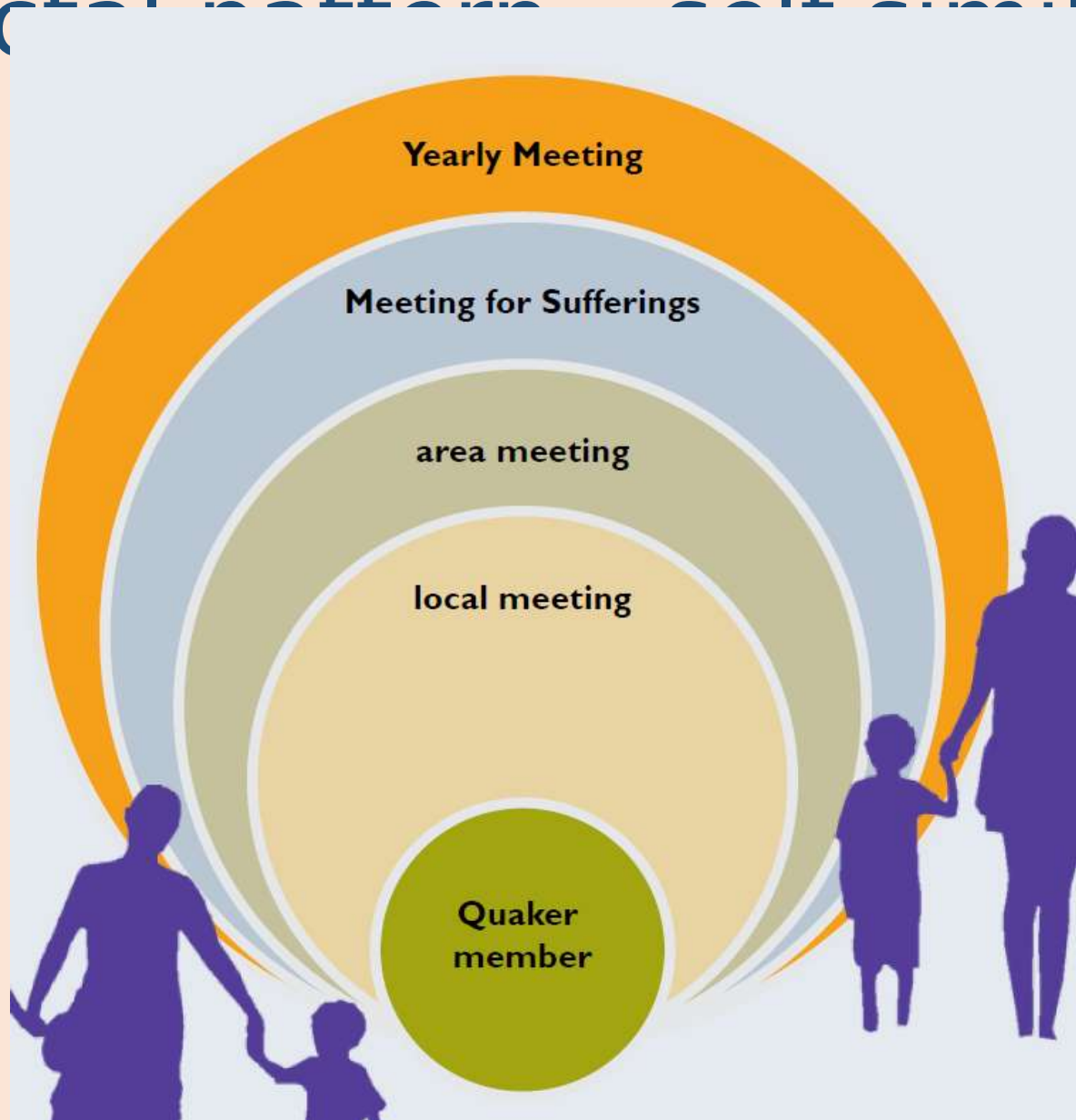
Health and spiritual wellbeing
- of the individual

QUAKERS (Britain)

listening inwardly and to each
other, open to transformation
- as a worshipping community

Structure of Quaker organisation

Fractal patterns - self-similarity



What Quakers do

1. Meeting for worship as foundation
2. 'Quaker business method' –
our decision making processes
3. Engagement in the world –
testimony

Quaker Meeting for Worship

Sitting together in stillness, listening inwardly and to each other, open to transformation

‘stand still in the Light and let it show you...’

‘take heed to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts, trust them as the leadings of God whose light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life’

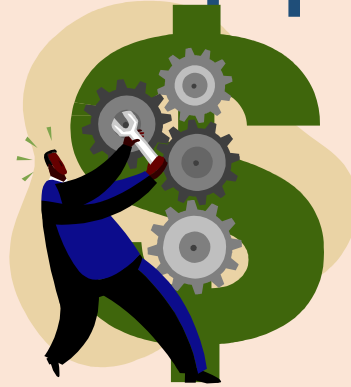
‘think it possible that you might be mistaken’

Quaker Meeting for Worship

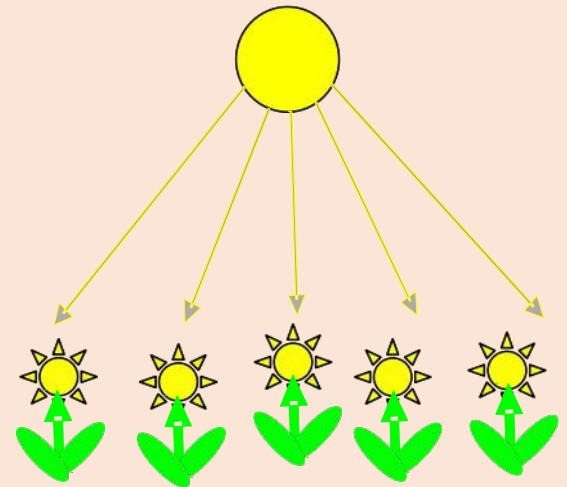
- Nobody leads, anyone may speak – perhaps up to half a dozen in most 1-hour meetings
- ‘Answer that of God in every one’
 - reach for the meaning deep within others’ words
 - respecting others’ journeys
 - having a sense of all conditions
- Sometimes a meeting reaches a profound sense of unity, being ‘gathered’.

How change happens

Machine metaphor: power and control; government decides; regulation and planning



Ecosystem metaphor: innovation in technology & behaviour; competition & survival of fittest; gov't sets framework



Community metaphor: working with dialogue, feelings, motivation, culture & narratives; “we are the change”; individual and collective responsibility for the problem and the solution



Quaker business method.

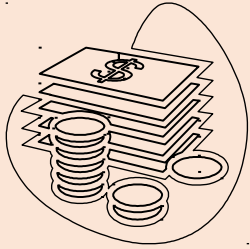
‘A meeting for worship that agrees a minute = a way forward.

1. Seeking unity

- not debating or trying to win, but looking for a way forward together
- ready to set aside our own positions as the ‘sense of the meeting’ emerges

2. Engaged in the world

- testimonies
- patterns and examples



The Spirit of the Age

Core values:
Individualism

££££

Compete & succeed

Violence as solution

Expediency

Many names....

Hydra (Adam

Curle);

The Domination

System (Walter

Wink)

Narratives:

I want!.... I need!

Compete & succeed

Now!!

Treat yourself: you
deserve it

Scroungers.... they
deserve it

Who's to blame?

Reinforced through:

Newspapers, TV

Film, Soap operas

Advertising &
marketing

Infrastructure &
technology

Service provision

Friends & family

Education

Religion

Government policy

From principles to practice

- Working with conflict – from Transition Groups to the UN climate negotiations
- Building community
- Supporting social change

Quaker action on climate change

- Changing lives (mentioned by 80% of QiY Mtgs): less flying, driving, meat & dairy, home energy, waste
- Greening meeting houses (75%)
- Talking about climate change (60% of QiY Meetings)
- Engaging wider community (30%)
- Involved in Transition, FoE, CACC
- Disinvesting in fossil fuels
- Policy briefings and engagement – national and international

Some lessons

- Delicate balance of staying true to principles and letting go – nothing matters, everything matters
- Patience and trust
- Results come from unexpected places, in unexpected ways

Challenges -

- Listen to each other and learn from one another
- Learn to trust each other, persevere
- Communities of place and communities of interest
- Science versus Spirit
- Scaling up – international level
- Clarity about what you want to achieve

Collaboration

- Quaker Local Meetings/Transition Groups
- Identify common goals
- Joint campaigning eg divestment from fossil fuels