**Readings on Quakerism: Where to Start**

LEYM’s Advancement & Outreach Committee encourages meetings and worship groups to have a variety of reading materials available to attenders and members. This can consist of a formal library or a crate of books that can be carried around. Making copies of the QuakerBooks and Pendle Hill catalogs available is also good.

FGC’s Advancement & Outreach Committee has published a list of books that can serve as an introduction to Quakerism (http://www.fgcquaker.org/ao/basic-library.html). The following suggestions are based on that list. These are staples for a Quaker library for meetings or individual Friends.

**Basic for about $25**

The most basic general information about Quakers, their faith and practices can be found in the following 5 pamphlets from Pendle Hill (cost $4.00 each plus shipping) along with a copy of *Faith and Practice*. (Note: LEYM does not have its own F&P, but uses Philadelphia’s F&P as a guide. I personally also recommend Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s F&P.)


Morley, Barry. *Beyond Consensus, Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*. PHP 307, 1993. Three essential components in discovering a sense of the meeting; release, long focus, and transition to light, which are nurtured by worship.

Taber, William. *Four Doors to Meeting for Worship*. PHP 306, 1992. Describes four doors as thresholds into the heart of worship as communion with the invisible but eternal stream of reality in which is the living and eternal Christ.


*Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice*. A useful combination of description and quotations about the faith of Friends and their practices. $7.

*Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*. 1988. $13.50. In addition to the usual sections of a Faith & Practice, it offers a set of appendices with useful suggestions for clearness committees, clerks, marriage under the care of the meeting, and sample letters for such things as traveling minutes. The section on practices and procedures is also helpful, as BYM’s organization is similar to LEYM’s.

**For an additional $50:**

Brinton, Howard, with historical update and notes by Margaret Hope Bacon. *Friends for 350 Years*. Pendle Hill, 2002, 348 pp. paperback $16. A classic overview of the basic Quaker understandings and practices updated to include the 50 years since its first publication.


Pym, Jim. *Listening to the Light: How to Bring Quaker Simplicity and Integrity into Our Lives*. Rider Books, 1999. 192 pp. Paperback $15.95. Somewhat longer and more expensive than the Gillman introduction, this is a great introduction to the beliefs of Friends and what that says for their practices. Includes advices and queries, a bibliography and other resources.

Steere, Douglas. *Introduction from Quaker Spirituality.* Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1988. 56 pp. Paperbound $3.95. A good description of many aspects of Quakerism as it was and is presently lived. Bibliography. The full volume; Quaker Spirituality: Selected Writings, published by Paulist Press, reprinted 1996, 334 pp paperback. $22.95; contains extensive selections from the writings of George Fox, John Woolman, Caroline Stephens, Rufus Jones and Thomas Kelly, and is good for libraries which don’t have these Journals and writings.

**Other basics to add as space and funds permit**

**Quaker Classics:**
- *Journal of George Fox,* John L. Nickalls, editor
- *Barclay’s Apology in Modern English,* Dean Freiday, editor.

**Quaker History:**

**Other References:**

All of these can be ordered from QuakerBooks of FGC, 1-800-966-4556 or www.quakerbooks.org, which also offers many other good resources.

LEYM Advancement & Outreach Committee

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