



The  
Religious  
Society of  
Friends

*The Quakers*

# How Many View Quakers



## A Children's Game

“Quaker's Meeting has begun.  
No more laughing, no more fun.  
If you dare to crack a smile,  
I will kick you one-half mile”





# Milwaukee Friends | Meeting



# A Brief Quaker History

## The Religious Society of Friends

- Founded in 1650's England by George Fox and Margaret Fell
- 50,000 Quakers in England by 1660's
- Many faced arrest & persecution
- Came to North America mid 1600's
- Faced persecution here - 4 were executed
- William Penn – a Quaker – founded Pennsylvania in 1681
- Thousands of Quakers migrated to PA - the "Quaker State"
- Nearly 400,000 Quakers across the world today



# A Splintering of Friends



\* There are Programmed & Unprogrammed Conservative Quaker meetings

# Quakers Today



**Universalist Liberal** – Not limited to Christian or Western belief



**Christ-Centered Liberal** – Life & teaching of Jesus is central but not essential



**Conservative**  
Faith in Jesus is essential

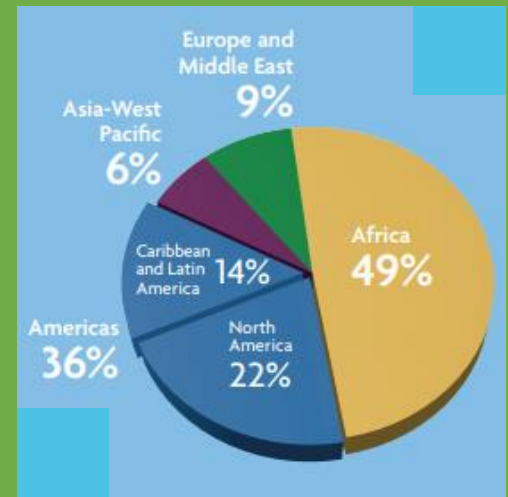


**Evangelical** Similar to most main-line Protestant services

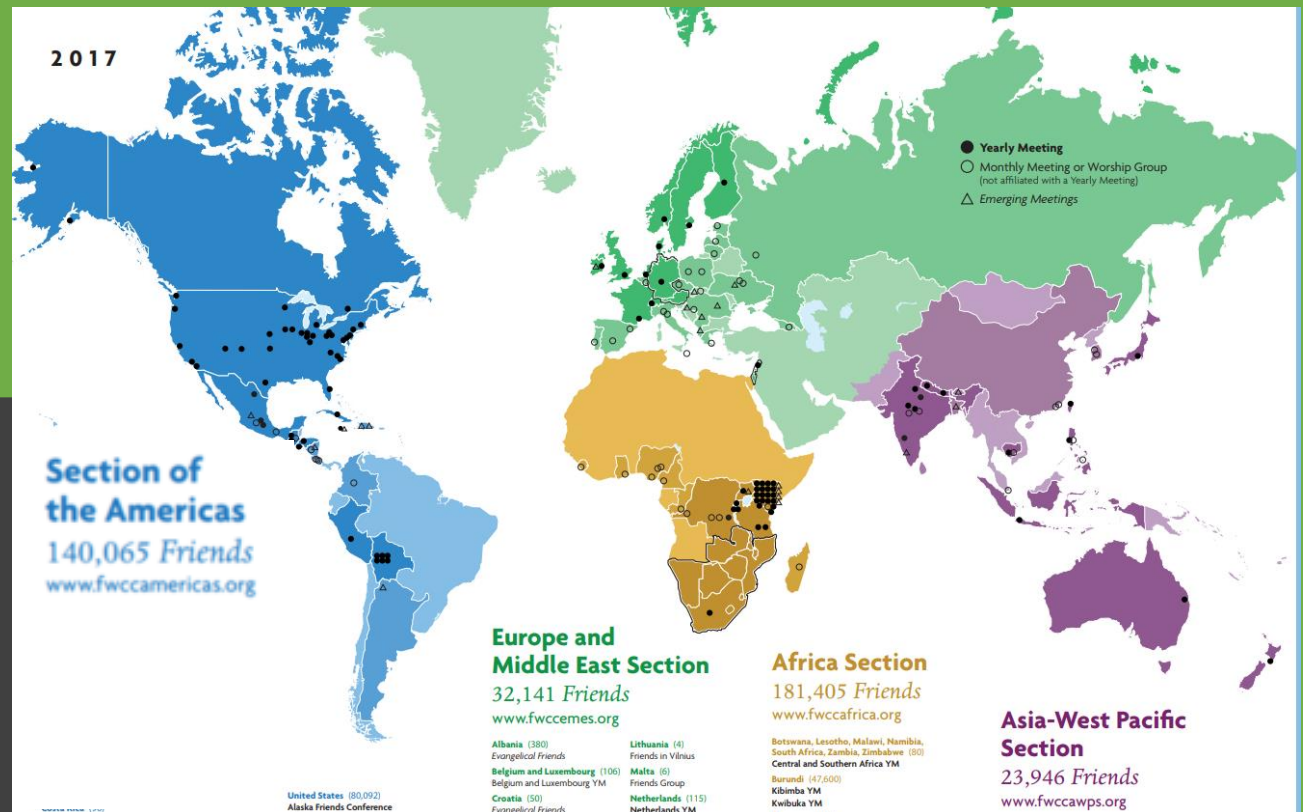


**Fundamentalists** – Bible is the primary authority. Pastor is primary decision maker

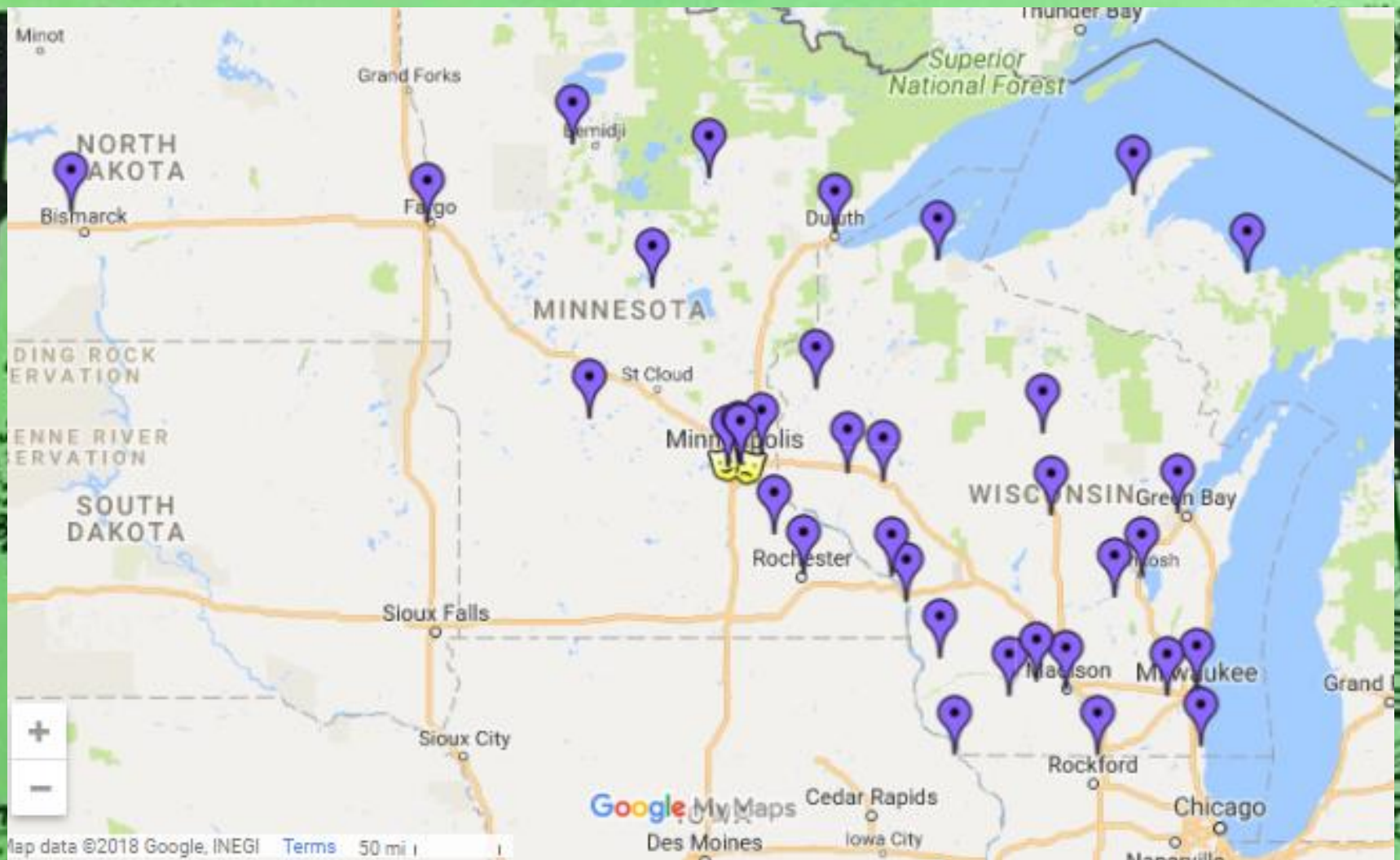
# 377,557



## Quakers Across the World







# Northern Yearly Meeting



What Do  
Quakers  
Believe?



# That of God in Everyone

- There is “That of God” in Everyone
- The Devine\* Speaks To and Through Each Person
- The Spirit Leads In Big Ways and in Small
- No Need for an Intermediary

*(\* Quakers use many words to describe the Devine, including God, the Light Within, Christ, Spirit, Seed, or Inward Teacher)*



# A Sacramental Life

- Our Relationship with the Devine is Experiential
- The Inward Journey Leads to Outward Action
- The Whole of a Person's Life is Sacramental

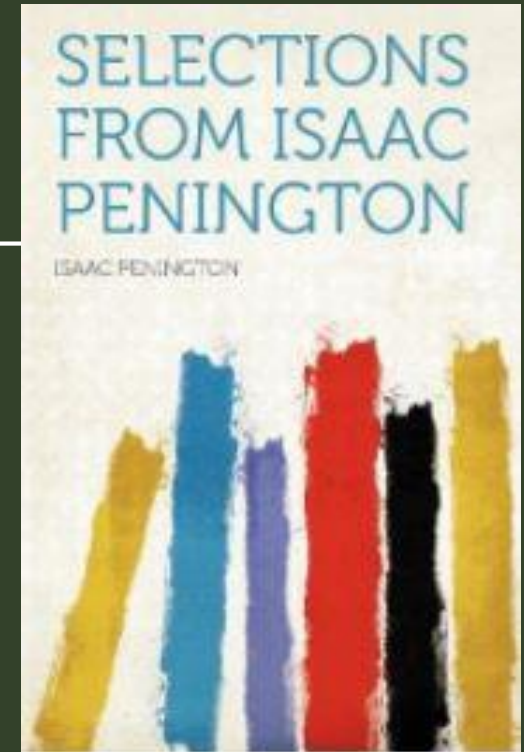
# Surrender

---

“Give over thine own willing; Give over thine own running; Give over thine own desire to know or be anything.

Sink down to the seed God sows in thee and let that grow in thee, and be in thee, and breathe in thee, and act in thee.

And thou shalt find – by sweet experience- that God knows that, God loves that and God owns that, and will lead to thy life’s inheritance according to its portion.”





# Discernment

Quakers are Encouraged to Act on the Guidance of Their Inward Teacher

Discern if That “Still Small Voice” is Spirit or Ego

- Way Opening
- Clearness Committee



# Clearness Committee

- Trust & Learn From Silence
- Attend to Your Own Inner Teacher
- Speak Your Truth with Respect for the Truth of Others
- Be Fully Present
- Respond with Honest, Open Questions
- No “fixing, saving, advising or correcting”



Everyone is a  
Minister

- In Unprogrammed Meetings There Are No Pastors
- Everyone is Called to Minister to Each Other - Both Physically & Spiritually
- Requires a Strong Sense of Ownership & Community



# MFM Committees





# Testimonies

(Core Values)

- Simplicity
- Peace
- Integrity
- Community
- Equality
- Sustainability

# Social Justice

If the Devine is in Everyone Then Every Life is Sacred  
and All People are Equal

## Historical Work for Justice

- Abolition
- Underground Railroad
- Tax Resistance
- Conscientious Objection
- Prison Reform
- Environmental Sustainability

Staunch Anti-Violence and Anti-War Efforts





# How Do Quakers Worship?



# Religious Foundations

- No Creed or Dogma
- No Sacraments
- No Religious Holidays

## Marriage

- Clearness Process
- No Officiant
- Couple Vow to Each Other
- All Present Sign Certificate

## Funeral

- Celebration of Life
- Testimony About the Deceased
- Plain Headstone or Cremation

## Bible

- Written by Humans Guided by the Spirit
- Not the Final Word of God
- Continuing Revelation



# Meeting For Worship (Unprogrammed)

Sit in Expectant Silence  
in Communion with  
the Spirit & All Who  
Are Present

Sometimes Friends  
Feel Called to Speak

## A Typical Sunday

- 9:00 – Bible Study
- 9:15 – Group Singing
- 10:15 – Silent Worship
- 11:15 – Joys & Sorrows
- 11:30 – Announcements
- 11:40 – Fellowship
- Noon – Religious Ed



# Meeting For Business

## Meeting for Worship With Attention to Business

- All are Welcome
- No Voting – No Consensus
- Discern the “Sense of the Meeting”
- How Are We Being Called in These Decisions

## Meeting Reminders

- Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- Be brief – do not “run beyond your Guide”

# MKE Friends Meeting Values



- We seek that of God in everyone
- We meet in stillness, waiting for the inspiration of the spirit
- We open to new light from wherever it may come
- We seek simplicity, equality, integrity, justice, and peace in our lives and in our service to others
- We cherish our unity and respect our diversity
- We seek to live in the spirit which takes away occasion for war





# One Quaker's Journey

# My Journey



- Raised Italian Catholic
- Strong Ethic of Social Justice
- Voice of Social Justice for the Catholic Archdiocese
- Active Member of a Small Inner City Catholic Parish
- Father Mirrored Quaker Values
- Best Friend Married a Quaker Author
- Two Nieces Attend K-12 Quaker School
- Pursued Quaker Readings
- Daily Contemplative Prayer Practice
- This & Thee

Mike Soika  
414.520.0912  
msoika@learning-communities.net  
www.imua-grace.com