

The Wider Quaker Fellowship

The Wider Quaker Fellowship is an association of persons of diverse backgrounds who wish to have ties with the Religious Society of Friends without necessarily being in its membership. Born in the mind of Rufus M. Jones, Quaker mystic and teacher, it came into being in 1936. Now one of the programs of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, it has more than three thousand members in some 80 countries.

As Rufus Jones said at its inception, the Society of Friends wishes to reach out to those who have similar ideals and aspirations and who in heart and life are "friends of Friends" but wish to maintain contact with their present faith. While increasing Quaker membership is not a goal, over the years some seekers have come to use the Fellowship as a stepping stone toward joining the Society, and a number of geographically isolated Friends hold membership in order to maintain through the literature a closeness to Quakerism.

The Fellowship periodically mails to its members packets of selected literature reflecting Quaker thought, service, and spiritual search. Those who read English receive three mailings a year; those who ask for literature in Spanish receive one mailing. A letter from the clerk of the committee responsible for the Wider Quaker Fellowship introduces the materials and brings news of current concerns of Quakers to the attention of the members.

To join this Fellowship one has only to write a letter asking for association and sharing some explanation of how he or she is acquainted with the Society of Friends. There are no criteria for membership. The program is supported by the donations of members. While many members are unable to contribute financially, the generous contributions of others enable the work to continue.

The Wider Quaker Fellowship welcomes inquiries and new members.

a program of



FWCC

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