# **Meeting for Learning series:**

# **Building back better**

# **MEETING 3 PLAN**

# **How can we put our faith into action?**

*A note on how to use these meeting plans:*

This plan is written for session facilitator(s) rather than for the whole group.

Facilitators are the people hosting and running the meeting. They do not need any expertise on the content. They will also take part in all meeting activities where possible.

This plan is intended as a guide to help you run useful sessions. If parts of the plan are not relevant to your group, then feel free to discard or change them! Do whatever works best for your group.

## Agenda outline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Activity** | **Time**  **(in minutes)** |
| Introduction | 1. Welcome and introduction | 10 |
| 1. Check-ins and reflections or worship sharing | 20 |
| Deeper exploration | 1. For the Quaker testimony/ies you feel called to act on, who is working on this already or has worked on it in the past? | 15 |
| 1. What do you see as your role (as an individual/ group/ Quaker community) in this work? | 20 |
| 1. What are your strengths & assets? How can you use these to support this work? | 15 |
| Closing | 1. Closing | 10 |

Total time: 90 minutes

**Timings**

We have suggested 90 minutes to be accessible to those who would like to run the group on Zoom. If you are meeting on Zoom, make sure to take a 5-10 minute break around halfway through the agenda.

If you are able to spend longer and would like to extend the meeting to e.g. 2 hours, we suggest adding 10 minutes to each of the activities: ‘For the Quaker testimony/ies you have chosen to focus on, who is working on this already or has worked on it in the past?’, ‘What do you see as your role…in this work?’ and ‘What are your strengths & assets? How can you use these to support this work?’.

## Materials needed if meeting online

* Take a look at our [Technology crib sheet](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FfB6hcHiRaXm3T_G56v1N9vrZbc7-VtKvf6QfjiRKao/edit?usp=sharing) for links to helpful guidance on running meetings online on Zoom.

## Materials needed if meeting in person

* Tea, coffee / refreshments (if you decide you want them)
* Flip chart paper (or large sheets of paper)
* Flip chart (or felt tip) pens
* Post-it notes

## Session plan

1. **Welcome and introduction (10 minutes)**

*If meeting in person you may want to offer people tea and coffee as they arrive. Make sure everyone has a comfortable place to sit. Chairs should be arranged in a single circle.*

Welcome everyone, and thank all those involved in organising the Meeting for Learning series. If there is anyone new in the room (who wasn’t at the first or second meetings), suggest that everyone in the room goes round the circle and introduces themselves briefly (saying their name).

Once this is done, outline the agenda for today (see agenda outline above). Explain that the aim of the session is to have a chance to discuss how we can put our faith into action.Mention that the plan for the meeting assumes that people will have completed the preparatory materials for this meeting before attending.

If there is anyone new in the room (who wasn’t at the first or second meetings), emphasise again that no prior knowledge is necessary and that you want everyone to feel welcome, even if they don’t have experience of engaging with discussions like this.

1. **Check-ins and reflections or worship sharing (20 minutes)**

Ask everyone to go round the circle and feedback briefly on how they found the homework from the second meeting and/or the preparatory materials for this meeting. On Zoom, this could work by asking each person to pass on to someone else in the group after they have spoken. *In person, this could go round the circle.*

You may wish to ask everyone to limit their feedback to 1 or 2 minutes each (see facilitation tips at the end of the plan for meeting one).

Alternatively, you could opt for a period of worship sharing to reflect on the materials instead. You can use this [short guide to worship sharing](https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/worship-sharing-guidelines-fgcquaker) if helpful.

1. **For the Quaker testimony/ies you feel called to act on, who is working on this already or has worked on it in the past? (15 minutes)**

Now ask everyone to take some time for individual reflection. Invite them to cast their minds back to the previous meeting when they thought about which Quaker testimonies they are most drawn to*.*

Give everyone 5 minutes to take a pen and paper and to write down 1-2 testimonies they feel called to act on. Underneath each testimony, ask them to list any people or groups they know that are working on the testimony or related concerns.

Then bring everyone back together to map out the testimonies and concerns people have identified. On Zoom, you can use post-it slides from the Technology crib sheet above to map this out (see the Training for Change slides linked to in that document). *In person, you can use a flip chart sheet with post-it notes.*

Ask people to call out testimonies and concerns they identified. Collect these on your slide *(or flip chart sheet)*. Once all the testimonies and concerns are captured, see if you can identify which you might group together. Ask the group to help you with this but don’t spend too long on it, just a couple of minutes.

Once you have grouped all the testimonies and concerns shared, invite everyone to list people or groups they know of that are working on these. This way you can crowdsource inspiration for each person and the testimonies and concerns they are choosing to focus on.

If the group needs inspiration, you can suggest members of the Build Back Better coalition (found on their website here: <https://www.buildbackbetteruk.org/about-us>) or draw on Quaker bodies listed below:

* Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN)
* Quaker Socialist Society
* Northern Friends Peace Board
* Quaker Roots
* Quaker Social Action
* Quaker Art Network
* Quakers in Criminal Justice
* Quaker Congo Partnership UK
* Peace Education network

You can also take a look at the longer list of Quaker groups on the Quakers in Britain website here: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-groups>.

1. **What do you see as your role (as an individual/ group/ Quaker community) in this work?  (20 minutes)**

Now put everyone into groups of 3-4. On Zoom, this can be via a new set of breakout rooms. *In person, ask people to join up with their neighbours to form small groups.*

Invite everyone to cast their minds back to the preparatory material Deepa Iyer’s ecosystem mapping tool. You can give a very quick potted summary of this if you think it would be helpful.

Explain to people that they will have 20 minutes in their groups to use the tool to talk about the roles each person plays to make the world a better place. They can start with individual roles and then move on to any roles they occupy in groups, e.g. in the meeting. Finally, invite the groups to talk about what role the Quaker community more broadly might play in building a better world.

You can offer to help keep timings via announcements. On Zoom, this uses the ‘broadcast message’ function to breakout rooms. *In person, you can make the announcements vocally*. Let everyone know when they are halfway through their time (i.e. 10 minutes) and then 2 minutes before the activity ends so they can draw their discussion to a close.

1. **What are your strengths & assets? How can you use these to support this work? (15 minutes)**

Bring everyone back together for a final whole group exercise. On Zoom, you can use a post-it slide from the Technology crib sheet above to map this out (see the Training for Change slides linked to in that document). *In person, you can use a flip chart sheet with post-it notes.*

Encourage people to call out strengths and assets, both individually and collectively as a meeting. Explain that people can use some of the thinking they have been doing in the previous exercise to help identify these. For example, if you see your role as being one of weaving connections and you are tapped into lots of different groups, one strength or asset you can bring to the meeting is your connections and ability to weave links.

If you think it might be helpful to offer the group some prompts, you can use any of the following categories and questions:

* **Energy** – Do you have time on your hands, existing projects/initiatives, or unfulfilled ideas?
* **Assets** – Think creatively about your financial resources, meeting house, garden, reputation etc.
* **Skills** – Who do you have in your meeting? What skills do you have? What collective knowledge and organisational culture can we bring as Quakers?
* **Relationships** – What relationships do you have in your local community? Amongst other faith groups and likeminded organisations? How can you use these?

After 10 minutes, invite everyone to take some time for individual reflection again. Ask everyone to us the strengths and assets identified and apply these to the testimonies and concerns they are called to act on. Encourage everyone to think about:

* how to approach organisations to find out their needs, and how such an approach might be received; and
* any barriers to sharing assets and how these might be overcome.

1. **Closing (10 minutes)**

Thank everyone for coming.

Remind everyone to take a look at the homework from this final meeting and to share feedback on how they have found the Meeting for Learning series with you. We would also love if you could email your feedback as a facilitator to [rebeccaw@quaker.org.uk](mailto:rebeccaw@quaker.org.uk). The feedback form is at the bottom of the facilitator guide titled ‘How to set up the Meeting for Learning series’.

Arrange to meet again shortly to explore whether anyone wants to work alongside each other to build a better world. The homework for the final meeting will give provide some food for thought about how this could work. Alternatively, if there was a lot of agreement in the final session about shared priorities, you might like to look at the Meeting for Discernment session plan that Quakers in Britain developed for the [New Economy Reading Groups](https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/climate-economic-justice/new-economy/new-economy-reading-groups) and adapt it.

**Please note**: We do not suggest using the Meeting for Discernment session plan if everyone had different leadings. There are other ways to create a supportive environment for putting our faith into action where this is the case. One idea for this is highlighted in the handout for the final meeting in [this Our Stories blog](https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/our-stories/making-a-difference-an-approach-by-some-friends-in-bolton) written by two members of Bolton Local Meeting about their ‘Making a difference’ group.

*Optional:* go round the circle and ask each person to say one thing they would like to do next as a result of attending the Meeting for Learning series.

*Optional:* Closing reading. Read something related to social change that inspires you.

Closing silence / worship.