2015 Summer Research Seminar

The 2015 Summer Research Seminar will be held in Berkeley, California. The Seminar will run from August 3rd through the 7th.

Each morning will begin with a time of silent centering worship after the manner of Friends, followed by the presentation of two research projects on which participants are working. Each presentation includes a time for questions, clarification, and discussion, followed by a time of collaborative discernment conducted as a “meeting for worship for sharing,” also known as “Quaker Dialogue.”

The afternoons are open for participants to work on their research projects or meet with others for additional collaborative discussion and discernment.

Evening meals are prepared and shared communally providing further time for exchange and engagement. We keep the costs to attend the seminar as low as possible. Housing is provide by local Friends. We ask those who are able to contribute $100 for rental fees. Each participant will also contribute to the cost and preparation of our evening meals.

Quaker Institute
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Meeting for Worship at 2012 Summer Research Seminar: Laura Holliday, Jim Grant, Phil Emmi, and Leonard Joy

Summer Research Seminar
August 3 - 7, 2015
Berkeley, California

* Do you have a research project you would like to develop in a Quaker context?

* Would you value the opportunity to share and learn in a setting of collaborative Quaker discernment?

* Do you have a concern for public policy that will help ensure a healthy and sustainable future for human communities and Earth’s commonwealth of life?

You are invited!

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Quaker Institute
for the future

Mission

The mission of the Quaker Institute of the Future is to advance a global future of inclusion, social and economic justice, and ecological well being through participatory research and discernment.

Charlie Blanchard and Gray Cox, Co-Clerks
Keith Helmuth, Secretary
Elaine Emmi, Treasurer
<quakerinstitute.org>

Shelley Tanenbaum, Charlie Blanchard, and Elizabeth Saria cooking in 2013 at Heartwood Co-Housing near Durango, Colorado
Research in the Manner of Friends

Summer Research Seminar

QIF’s Summer Research Seminar (SRS) is held yearly to encourage spirit-led research using Quaker methods of discernment and reflection. Friends speak of their core spiritual exercise as a “meeting for worship.” The SRS can be thought of as a “meeting for worship for the conduct of research.”

As individuals share their research projects in a Quaker process of collective inquiry and collaborative discernment, research projects may arrive at a configuration of knowledge and understanding that would not have occurred had they remained simply individual efforts.

Summer Research Seminars have been held regularly since 2005. The QIF website <quakerinstitute.org> has a report from each Seminar. Some topics that have been considered include:

• Ethical behavior in corporations
• Public participation in biotech policy
• Values maturation and human development
• Writings of African-American Quakers
• Farm policy, community life, and trade
• Environmental regulation and eco-footprint
• Explorations in the ethics of robotics
• Resource overdraft and economic growth
• Quaker process in non-Quaker settings
• Natural capital and deep ecology dialogue
• Quakerism’s relationship to beauty
• Property and the commons
• Friends Earthcare testimony
• Monetary system reform
• Impact of agricultural biotechnology
• Religious traditions and a moral economy
• Climate change, food security, and violence
• Quaker epistemology
• Developing our energy future

(above) Dinner at the 2013 Summer Research Seminar at Heartwood Co-housing, Durango, Colorado.