

The Quaker Testimonies - “spirituality in action”

Quakers strive to bear witness or “testify” to their beliefs and values in their approach to everyday life, relationships and larger social concerns. The core Quaker “Testimonies” relate to:

PEACE - opposition to war, violence and coercion of any kind

EQUALITY - commitment to understanding, and working toward, social justice

INTEGRITY - truth and honesty in all dealings

SIMPLICITY - avoidance of excess and discernment of that which is essential

COMMUNITY/STEWARDSHIP/SERVICE - care of the earth and its people

The testimonies are viewed as representing interrelated, coherent principles for ethical/meaningful living.

These primary testimonies have grown into modern testimonies dealing with such things as race relations, the environment, the death penalty, education, stewardship and most recently, equality of treatment based upon gender orientation. At this time of conflict in the world, Friends often find strength and inspiration in our Peace Testimony.

Our understanding and application of these testimonies will continue to evolve, as they have over the past 350 years.