

Some Common Quaker Terms and Abbreviations

Welcome to Atlanta Friends Meeting! Here are some common Quaker terms, abbreviations, and links to additional resources for newcomers.

- Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) is an **unprogrammed** Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, meaning that it is a Quaker congregation without paid clergy or prepared ministry of any kind.
- In **Meeting for Worship**, we wait together silently in faith that the Divine spirit may visit us at any time.
- At the end of Meeting for Worship, a person may ask to “**Hold someone in the Light,**” which is a kind of prayer, or direction of love and concern.
- Atlanta Friends Meeting is a **Monthly Meeting**, a term used to describe a Friends congregation that has **Meeting for Business** once a month. In Meeting for Business, decisions are made through listening to each other and Spirit and finding ways to come to unity without voting.
- The **Clerk of Meeting** serves an administrative and spiritual leadership function and clerks/facilitates Meeting for Business.
- **First Day School** is religious education for children and teens, similar to “Sunday School.” The name follows the Quaker tradition of using “first, second, third, etc.” for names of the days of the week.

See more Quaker terms on a [printed glossary of Quaker terms](#) from Quaker.Org

Abbreviations:

- **FGC: Friends General Conference** is the larger organization that Atlanta Friends Meeting is affiliated with in our branch of Quakerism. FGC is an association primarily composed of unprogrammed yearly and monthly meetings. It offers an annual national gathering including workshops, speakers, worship, and fellowship.
- **SAYMA: Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association** is the **Yearly Meeting** for Monthly Meetings and associated worship groups in our geographic region. SAYMA holds Meeting for Business sessions at an annual gathering. Monthly Meetings also send representatives to SAYMA Representative Meetings during the year.
- **SAYF: Southern Appalachian Young Friends** is a regional Quaker youth group that holds retreats during the year at different Meetings as well as at the yearly SAYMA gathering.
- **QVS: Quaker Voluntary Service** is a year-long Fellowship program for young adults in which Quaker Voluntary Service Fellows are matched with service and change organizations. The Atlanta QVS house is under the spiritual care of the Atlanta Friends Meeting.
- **FCNL: Friends Committee on National Legislation** is a national, nonpartisan Quaker organization that lobbies Congress for peace, justice, and environmental stewardship.
- **AFSC: American Friends Service Committee** is a Quaker organization devoted to service, development, and peace programs throughout the world. AFSC’s work is based on the belief in the worth of every person, and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.
- **SPICES:** is sometimes used as a shorthand for remembering Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship

Videos related to Quaker terms and beliefs:

- [Glossary of Common Quaker Terms](#) (QuakerSpeak video with diverse individuals explaining terms)
- [9 core Quaker beliefs](#) (QuakerSpeak video with Arthur Larrabee)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About Quaker Meeting for Worship](#) (QuakerSpeak video)