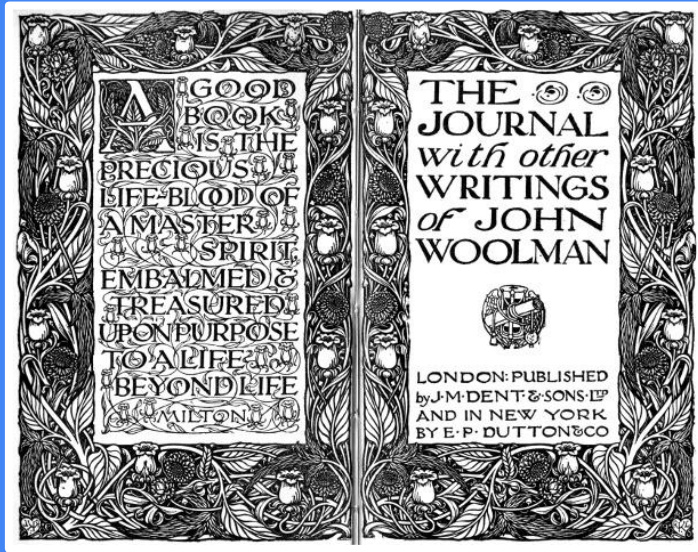


# Quaker Deep Canvassing: Bridging the Divide



PLEASE NOTE: This workshop will be recorded and shared on [quakercall.org](https://quakercall.org)



## Your Workshop Hosts



**Margaret Lew**, 15th Street Meeting,  
NY, NY



**Benjamin Lay's Cave**

**Todd Drake**, Brooklyn Meeting  
& Pennington Friends House



Silent Worship



# Land Acknowledgment

Wherever we are in the United States, we reside on the unceded, ancestral homeland of Native American First Peoples. Contact with Europeans ultimately led to their forced displacement and genocide. We ask every one of our communities to acknowledge and honor the First Peoples and their nations, past, present and future, through our words and actions.”

*If you know the name of the Native American Tribe who originally cared for the land you reside on now, please list it in the chat. Please take a silent moment to read the chat.*



# AGENDA

**Welcoming - 5 minutes**

**Share you meeting's name or your location**

**Greetings** from Sam, Introduction of Todd and Margaret, update on Urgent Call and Silent Worship

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Review Goal for tonight,Agenda, and Community Expectations**

## **PART 1: 35 minutes total**

**What is Quaker Deep Canvassing and Why are we doing it? - 5 minutes**

Share our video showing an example of a deep canvassing exchange. 5 minutes

What we are doing as a group now. 5 minutes

Share Margaret's script and role play - 5 minutes

**Breakdown of components of a Deep Canvassing Exchange - 5 minutes**

**Example Script -read by Margaret - 5 minutes**

Questions - 5 minutes

## **PART 2: Practice Discussions - 50 minutes total**

**First Break Out Group Challenge - Share stories of when politics has divided you from people you love. 15 min**

Regather and reflect on stories and what was discussed 10 min

**Second Break Out Group Challenge - Practice conversation with a pretend loved one. 15 min**

Regather and reflect on these practice discussions 10 min

**Next Steps? - Resources and How to reach us- 5 minutes**

**Silent Closing**





A photograph showing a group of diverse people in a meeting room. In the foreground, a young woman with curly hair is looking towards the center. Next to her is an older woman with short white hair. In the center, a young woman with dark hair is smiling and talking to an older man with glasses. In the background, another woman is sitting and looking towards the group. The room has large windows and modern decor.

# Community Expectations

**Use I perspective**

**Step Up - Step Back. Our goal is everyone sharing.**

**Listen and learn as well as share and be heard**

**Keep the Quaker spirit of worship throughout.**



# PART 1: What is Quaker Deep Canvassing?



Quaker Deep Canvassing blends the proven success of Deep Canvassing techniques with the Quaker practices of seeking to understand, recognizing the light within all, and committing to seeing what love can do in the world.

It is NOT evangelizing, political, persuading, or argumentative.

It is NOT focused on immediate political goals but long term preservation of community, democracy, and peace.

Other goals of QDC include learning from others, modeling civil discourse, and encouraging others to use love to find common ground, not middle ground. We seek to be a part of a growing coalition across parties that preserves democracy and prevents a civil war.

**In a way, we are working to stitch back together what has been torn apart.**



“ If we cannot talk with  
one another, how will we  
ever solve the problems  
you care about? “

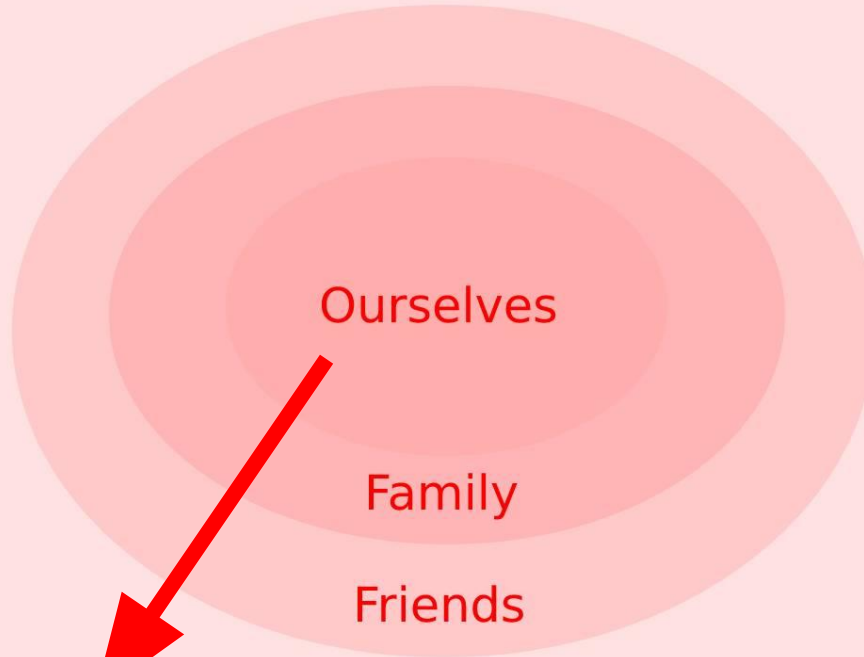
- Ann K. ( QDC volunteer )





# We can practice Quaker Deep Canvassing at many levels.

Start  
Where  
You  
Can!



Do  
What  
You  
Can!

Push past  
your comfort  
zone.

Fellow Travelers  
(door to door)



# What we are building on: Deep Canvassing ( 5 min )



# Reflection on this video

[Go back to ZOOM Community](#)

( 5 Min )

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of a light blue square with rounded corners, partially overlapping a white square.



# What is our group doing now



End slides and go back to zoom community

( 10 minutes)

# Margaret's Quaker Deep Canvassing Script

Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm a volunteer working with a few other Quakers talking with people in the neighborhood

We are deeply worried that political polarization/divisions is/are tearing our country apart.

Does this worry you? [or, 'what's your take on what's going on right now? Does it worry you too?]

*[discussion]*

Okay, I have a question for you -

Do you feel you can talk with others who have different political views - especially - friends and family?

*[discussion]*

How hard or likely is it these days for you to have a conversation with someone you disagree with politically....

On a scale from -

**What's the right answer for you?**

Why is that the right answer for you?

*Wait for response.*

*Listen to what they have to say.*

*[Share a personal story - my story about my sister Bonnie -*

*A struggling story.... or.... someone you love or really care about...]*

What about you? Is there someone in your life .... your family....

*[Ask questions about what they have said to be sure you understand what they have said and to show that you are understanding them.*

*Pick something that you can give a positive response to, something you have in common.]*

From our stories I hear how much we both deeply love and care for these friends/ family members. How can we dig under our political disagreements and have searching and honest conversations with them?

*[If you're able to have a fairly good conversation, go back to the scale question:]*

Now that we've been talking, going back to that rating question - of how hard or likely it is to have conversations with someone close to you who you disagree with politically?

**Is \_\_\_\_\_ still the right answer for you?**

Why is that the right answer now? *[if different]*

*[Closer]*

My big question is, can we pull back together as a country? How do we do that?

*If they say no:* What concerns you the most?

*[If they would like tips on how to have these types of tough conversations] -*

Try to go underneath arguments, facts and opinions to feelings - for example things and people you love and hope the very best for... Your kids etc

What would you say are the toughest specific issues between you?

And hang in there! Don't let the crazy divisions in the country right now tear our family and friendships apart!

**THANK YOU FOR TALKING WITH ME!**

**Was there anything useful or interesting or helpful about this conversation for you?**

**If you were in my shoes, would you ask different questions?**

[Optional - I also do a lot of political canvassing - are you aware of the election coming up in November? Are you registered to vote?]



# Components of Quaker Deep Canvassing

1. **Identify yourself.** Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_ I am volunteer Quaker and we are talking with people today because we are deeply worried about the political polarization.
2. **Ask a question.** Does this worry you too? Discuss. Can use rating question.
3. **Share your story.** about a relationship that has been affected by polarization
4. **Ask if they have a similar story.** Listen, let them know you hear them, respond
5. **Draw out deeper sharing** around issue and deeper listening. Can we pull back together as a country? What helps in these type discussions? NO DEBATING!
6. **Conclude with an ask.** Would you call that person and try to reconnect?
7. **Evaluate.** Five days from now what do you think you will remember from our conversation?

**Hint: Photograph this page to use later in small groups.**



Keep it relational, personal, focused on feelings, rather than opinions, facts, and arguments.

Remember our goals of finding shared ground, stressing civil conversations, and modelling love.

# Part 2: Practice Discussions

## 1st Small Group

In small groups, share a story of a relationship in your life that has been weakened or ended over politics. Be vulnerable. Does not have to have a happy ending. (15 minutes) **<Todd write in chat.**

We will return and discuss as a whole group. ( 10 minutes)

End sharing of slides and go to back to zoom community



# 2nd Small Group

In small groups, practice two 5 minute conversations. In each, one person is a stranger and the other is initiating a Quaker Deep Canvas conversation (15 minutes) Discuss at end of second conversation. **<Todd write in chat.**

We will return and discuss as a whole group. ( 10 minutes)

# Next Steps:

Let's list some possible next steps:

1. Practice
2. Reconnect
3. Build alliance
4. Practice listening
5. Be patient
6. Broaden conversations and stay away from hot topics
7. It takes one to one, listen.
8. Remember that this project has a specific intent.
9. Find partners to practice

Think about what you are able to do.

If you would like to do some Deep Canvassing on your own, or if you would like to put together a group, let us know and we can help you with pursuing the next practical steps.

To turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives.

– John Woolman

# Resources - We will email these to you.

**Journal of John Woolman**

**<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/37311/37311-h/37311-h.htm>**

**Todd's Example Quaker Deep Canvassing <https://youtu.be/wvljMlbHpqI>**

**Interested in training with *Changing The Conversation?***

**<https://ctc4progress.org/>**

**CTC Deep Canvassing: <https://www.ctctogether.org/about-deep-canvassing>**

**Longer Video to LGBT Deep Canvassing:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xN6O5LTaGyg&t=15s>**

**Braver Angels website: <https://braverangels.org/>**

***Book: The Quaking of America, Menakem***

***Book: What Unites Us, Dan Rather***





# Questions? Need Help?

Margaret Lew: [margaretlew60@gmail.com](mailto:margaretlew60@gmail.com)

Todd Drake: [outreach@penington.org](mailto:outreach@penington.org)

# Conclusion:

In 5 days, what will you remember from this workshop?

**SILENT CLOSING**

