



Call for Papers: Quaker Theological Discussion Group 2024

December 13–14, 2024

8–10am Pacific/11am–1pm Eastern/4–6pm GMT

The Quaker Theological Discussion Group (QTDG) will hold two virtual panels December 13–14, 2024 on the topic, **“Imagining Just Economies: Quaker Approaches to Divestment and the Kin-dom of God.”** We invite Friends (and anyone with interest) to offer presentations on the topics described below. Panelists will each share for 12–15 minutes from their experience and/or research, followed by a question and answer session. Panelists may be invited to share their presentations as papers in *Quaker Religious Thought* (QRT).

To contribute a presentation proposal, please submit your topic and around 250 words describing what you would be sharing about. Please send submissions, via email, to **both** QTDG co-chairs, Cherice Bock (cbock@georgefox.edu) and Christy Randazzo (danchristy.randazzo@gmail.com). Submissions are encouraged on or before **October 1, 2024**.

Quakers have often been involved in envisioning and working toward more just economic systems, often through removing their support for brands or items that are produced unjustly (such as through slave labor), and refusing to participate in social class systems that impose economic barriers (such as refusing “hat honor” in seventeenth century England). QTDG welcomes theological, biblical, or historical approaches to considering and describing what a just economy might look like and how Friends have or could participate in co-creating such a social transformation. Historical examples or more recent case studies could describe Friends’ approaches to divesting from companies, products, or investments that are unjust. Biblical interpretation around a just economy could provide context and a vision for what God’s Kin-dom would look like and how we might live it out in our meetings and communities. Theological reflections and analyses could place current concerns such as climate change, war, and unfair labor practices in conversation with Quaker values or testimonies. Theological explorations that tie in another discipline, such as economics, social science approaches, or peace studies are encouraged. While we encourage examples from recent divestment endeavors, such as removing fossil fuel investments from an individual or communal portfolio or experiences advocating boycott, divestment, and sanction of products from Israel, submissions on such topics should go beyond personal narrative reflections: we encourage submissions on such topics that dig into theological analysis, case study (or research other methodology), or other deep engagement between the cultural context and Quakerism, or moving beyond Quakerism to actively following the Spirit’s leadings. We anticipate selecting contributions that fit the following two categories:

Panel 1: Theological or biblical explorations of just economies, with Quaker connections and interpretative analyses; theories or descriptions of just economic systems from cultures past or present

Panel 2: Historical or current stories of divestment or other enactments of more just economic systems among Friends; case studies of communities experimenting with alternative economic systems

Two panels of 3–4 members each will consider these topics in December 2024, with the possibility of contributing articles to the 2025 issues of *Quaker Religious Thought*.