

## “Qualities of Quaker Leadership”

**Bruce Birchard**  
Presenter

### *Summary of Event*

The Piedmont Friends Fellowship Fall Retreat was held at New Garden Meeting on November 6, 2011. Bruce Birchard presented a program on “Qualities of Quaker Leadership” There was a morning session and a shorter afternoon session following a served lunch. The format was lecture interspersed with small group interactions and followed by questions and discussion with the whole group. 32 Friends were in attendance representing 7 meetings.

Bruce Birchard's lecture covered the following points:

### 10 (plus one) Qualities of (successful) Quaker Leadership

1. **Grounded in the Spirit.** Centered. Involves self in a regular spiritual practice. Committed to the Religious Society of Friends. Good balance in personal life. Not workaholic.
2. **Servant – Leader.** Desires to serve, then finds he/she can lead. Service/leadership is ministry.
3. **Clear Thinker.** Intelligent and wise. Able to synthesize. Good self-knowledge (knows weaknesses & strengths.) Committed to and facile with Quaker clerk style of management.
4. **Good Listener and Learner.** Asks thoughtful questions and consults continuously.
5. **Goal Oriented.** Knows what the goals and checks with others to confirm. Organizes steps toward goal attainment.
6. **Flexible and Adaptable.** Open to change and correction. Admits mistakes.
7. **Energetic and Positive.** Affirming.
8. **Excellent Communicator...**(repeatedly!) Written, Oral, Social Media. Hones and changes message. Communicates the Big Picture and the context.
9. **Accepts Conflict when necessary.** Has a spiritual balance. Be able to “sit in the fire.”
10. **Delegates and Nurture Leadership.** Mentors. Is comfortable with others' ways of doing things. Affirming of others.
11. **Builds Trust.** Focus on and ability to build trust is an absolute key. (Leaders earn trust.)