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Front Matter -- Quaker Religious Thought, no. 125

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QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

Cumulative Number 125

October 2015

Sponsored by the Quaker Theological Discussion Group

Websites: New: <http://qtdg.wordpress.com>

Old: <http://theo-discuss.quaker.org>

The purpose of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group is to explore the meaning and implications of our Quaker faith and religious experience through discussion and publication. This search for unity in the claim of truth upon us concerns both the content and application of our faith.

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

As I edited the essays in this issue, I wondered how stretching it must have been to hear them presented orally at last November's meeting of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group. These papers are so rich and challenging that it's good we print them. I like it for those let-me-read-that-again moments.

The first set of essays reflects a lively conversation around David Johns' recent book, *Quakering Theology: Essays on Worship, Tradition, and Christian Faith*. The fruit of years of teaching theology, the book explores how being Quaker may shape theological method and not simply argue for distinctive ideas.

The second set of essays explores mystical experience and influences in two historic Quaker giants, James Nayler and John Woolman. The papers by Carole Spencer and Jon Kershner and the response by Michael Birkel helpfully push back the boundaries of what we've known.

Vigorous conversations about religious language and feminism have been going on for several decades now, usually with many angles of view. Two long-time members of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group and advisors to the work of *Quaker Religious Thought* have offered essays on this topic for this issue. Ruth Pitman reflects on and challenges some of the new orthodoxies, wondering what may be gained and lost. Susan Jeffers' complementary essay stimulates our thinking with unexpected paths drawing on the Friends heritage.

The next meeting of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group will be November 20, 2015, in Atlanta, just prior to the national meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature. Participants will gather Friday, November 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis, Room L 402. Panelists will review C. Wess Daniel's recent book, *A Convergent Model of Renewal: Remixing the Quaker Tradition in a Participatory Culture*. All interested Friends and others are invited to participate.

We regret that we have to announce small increases in the subscription rates for *Quaker Religious Thought*. We've had the current rates for more than five years, and we've tried to keep the costs down by not paying editors, business managers, paparazzi, or QRT warehouse staff. We've also avoided ads, yellow journalism, and lurid photos. In spite of all that, production and postage costs have

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increased. So we'll have to ask a bit more to continue providing this informative, thought-provoking journal. Effective January, 2016, the subscription rates for QRT will be:

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— *Howard R. Macy*
Editor