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Howard R. Macy

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QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

Reviews of C. Wess Daniel's *A Convergent Model of Renewal*

Review and Response to C.Wess Daniels' *A Convergent Model of Renewal: Reading The Convergent Model Through A Roman Catholic Case Study* 5

Jill Peterfeso

Remixing The Post-Civil Rights Era: Responding to Daniels' *A Convergent Model of Renewal* 14

Daniel White Hodge

A Convergent Model of Renewal: Response to Quaker Theological Discussion Group 24

C. Wess Daniels

Additional Essays

A Quaker Approach to Interreligious Dialogue: Michael Birkel's *Qur'an in Conversation* 39

Julie Meadows

Review of Brian Drayton and William P. Taber, Jr. *A Language for the Inward Landscape: Spiritual Wisdom from the Quaker Movement*. (Philadelphia: Tract Association of Friends, 2015) . . . 45

Michael Birkel

Cumulative No. 126

May 2016

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Sponsored by the Quaker Theological Discussion Group

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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've worked with this issue, I've enjoyed having the various essays stretch my mind by introducing new approaches to conversation and learning. The first essays reflect on Wess Daniels' recent book, *A Convergent Model of Renewal: Remixing the Quaker Tradition in a Participatory Culture*. It explores how to be informed by tradition while engaging the culture, ever changing, in which we live. It also proposes creative ways forward which invite thoughtful participation that is from the ground up rather than the top down. I'm finding this both interesting and challenging to my not-very-hip-hop mind. I suspect that you will, too.

Julie Meadows' response to Michael Birkel's book *Qu'ran in Conversation* was presented at a Quaker Studies section at the American Academy of Religion last November. Her interaction with Birkel's conversations with Muslim religious leaders and academics about how they read the Qu'ran helped me think about how we read and listen to other traditions with integrity.

Michael Birkel himself helps us find yet another approach to learning by introducing the new book *A Language for the Inner Landscape: Spiritual Wisdom from the Quaker Movement*. Growing out of the ministry of William P. Taber, Jr. and Brian Dayton, who was often Taber's companion in public ministry, this book offers insights from the historical practice and language of Friends that may open new paths to contemporary readers. I'm glad the Tract Association of Friends has made this available.

The next meetings of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group will be in San Antonio, Texas on November 18, 2016. More details as available will be included in our next issue of QRT and at our website. We invite all who are interested to join us.

Also, remember that all of the issues of QRT (except the most recent ones) are available to search, read, download, etc. at <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/qrt>. We are thrilled at how much traffic we see here and are grateful that the work of QTDG and QRT over the years continues to bear fruit.

— Howard R. Macy
Editor

