

## **FAQ for Quaker House Residential Community**

**Accepted at QHC meeting on 5/04/16 and subsequently updated**

Thank you for applying to join the Quaker House Residential Community (QHRC)! Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about living at Quaker House.

### **1. What are the rooms like?**

Most rooms are 14' x 14' or larger except for one residential space on the second floor, which consists of two small rooms together. All rooms have hardwood floors and are heated by hot water radiators. There is no air conditioning.

### **2. How much is the room contribution?**

As of September 2017, the contribution for second floor rooms is \$410 – \$420 per month. The contribution for the third floor rooms is \$450 for the smaller one and \$490 for the larger one. The monthly contributions are generally increased a small amount each year in September. The room contribution includes all utilities and internet.

### **3. Is there a lease?**

No. A relationship of trust between the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting and the residents is assumed. We generally ask for a 1-year commitment. If you plan to move, we ask for a 2-month notice. (For a resident host, we ask for a 4-month notice.)

### **4. What is the relationship between Quaker House and the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting?**

While there is no expectation that all residents are Quakers, the Quaker House Residential Community is based on Quaker principles. The QHRC is an experiment in cooperative living for those seeking to embrace diversity, live simply, and honor one another by seeking unity in decision-making.

Meeting appoints the Quaker House Committee (QHC) to oversee and nurture the residential community. The Meeting worker manages the building and collects room contributions. The resident host is the communication bridge between residents and the QHC, though all residents are welcome to participate in QHC meetings. Occasional potlucks or meetings are planned to build connections between members of the QHC and QHRC.

### **5. What are the residents' responsibilities?**

Residents are responsible for house chores, with a high level of attention to the first floor of Quaker House and clearing snow from the exterior walkways. There is a complete list in the resident handbook.

Quakers and many others use spaces in our facility. Residents are expected to provide a welcoming presence to all groups using the Meetinghouse and the first floor of Quaker House. Quakers are the biggest users of the property, especially on Sunday mornings. There

may also be weekday meetings as well as occasional weddings and memorial services. The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, housed in the small building behind Quaker House, will be using the first-floor bathroom and kitchen on a daily basis.

Residents are expected to engage fully in the life of the residential community. This includes participation in regularly scheduled QHRC meetings, as well as extra meetings as necessary for things like interviewing new residents, or for processing conflict that may arise in the community. These meetings are conducted using Quaker process, attempting to value each person's perspective while seeking the unity of the group.

Residents are expected to participate in shared QHRC meals, both in preparation and attendance.

### **6. How much time do resident responsibilities take?**

About six to eight hours per week.

### **7. What are the policies on smoking and on drug and alcohol use?**

All of the Friends Center space is smoke-free and free of illegal drugs. The use of alcohol is not allowed by groups renting the space. Drinking among residents at Quaker House is not prohibited but discretion is encouraged and moderation is expected.

### **8. Are pets allowed?**

No.

### **9. Is parking available?**

Bicycles can be stored in the bike shed, or may be locked to an outdoor bike rack. Car parking is available behind the house, though it is not reserved. If the lot is full, then residents must find a temporary space on the side streets.

### **10. What is the application process?**

An applicant initiates the process by submitting an application, preferably online, at <http://goo.gl/forms/EsCsQ2grnW>. Alternatively, the application may be obtained in Word format by emailing the resident host at *qhrc.contact@gmail.com*.

The applicant may be invited to meet informally with residents once or twice to begin to get to know one another. If both parties remain interested, the applicant is invited to a meeting for clearness. All members of QHRC, two members of QHC, and the applicant meet to consider the application fully. This is a time for everyone to ask questions of one another, to share additional information, and to seek clarity together about whether or not this is a good match. More than one meeting may be needed. When all questions have been answered, the applicant is excused so that the rest of the group can seek clarity. Someone will then contact the applicant, generally within a day.