

Annual Session Workshops

Thursday, August 1st, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- T1. Renewing the Quaker Testimony of Justice in the 21st Century **[HYBRID]**
- T2. Addressing Topics of Concern to Local Ministry Committees
- T3. Writing Workshop for All Ages
- T4. Healing Our Wounded Lands
- T5. Right Relationship
- T6. Quakers and Voting Rights: What You Can Do
- T7. Forging a Spiritual Discipline of Anti-Racism
- T8. Monthly Meeting Clerk Connection
- T9. Introduction to Quaker Theology
- T10. Responding to Differences in Our Meetings

Friday, August 2nd, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- F1. Friends Testimony of Equality and Retrospective Justice **[HYBRID]**
- F2. In what ways are Our Anti-racist Queries Transforming your Worship Community?

- F3. Quaker Counter-Culture During McCarthyism, 1947-1962
- F4. Resources for Befriend the End of Life
- F5. Embracing Eco-Sorrows: Strength, Solace, and Our Voice
- F6. Right Sharing
- F7. The Magic of Faith and Play
- F8. Ecumenical Decade of Repentance: Rise up for a just and flourishing planet
- F9. Queer Theology and Quakerism Workshop
- F10. Activism for Peace and Justice Across Generations: Walking Together on Different Paths
- F11. A Farm Tour: Friends Meeting School Farm

Saturday, August 3rd, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

- S1. Rising Up and Practicing the Life of the Spirit
- S2. The Spiritual Practice of Grief & Loss
- S3. Conversations with the Other: Speaking with those other political views
- S4. Seeking Peace in Your Community
- S5. The Gift of Common Ground: Nurture social justice by letting land speak
- S6. Vocal Ministry: Our communal encounter with Spirit
- S7. Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational
- S8. Lowering Racial Barriers **[HYBRID]**
- S9. Sacrifice Zones and Environmental Justice: What can Quakers do? **[HYBRID]**
- S10. Reproductive Justice: Abortion and Quaker values **[HYBRID]**

[HYBRID] Indicates hybrid workshops that will include both an in-person and online option.

T1. Renewing the Quaker Testimony of Justice in the 21st Century **[HYBRID]**

This workshop will examine how Justice is becoming the preeminent Quaker core value in the 21st Century. We will look at Justice as a Testimony for Quakers since the 1650s and also envision how Friends are renewing and expanding this vital Testimony in the present and in the coming decades.

Jim Fussell (Langley Hill) is a student at Earlham School of Religion and a member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice Committee. He has led workshops at BYM and FGC and recently taught Quaker History and New Testament at Friends Theological College - Kaimosi in western Kenya.

T2. BYM M&PC: Addressing topics of concern to local ministry committees

A discussion of common themes that arise in this year's State of Meeting reports that will be read by the committee this spring. Topics may include theist and non-theist Quakers, building community in our meetings and listening to spirit in Meetings for Business.

Greg Robb and Eileen Stanzione, Eileen (Patapsco) and Greg (FMW) have been in the leadership of BYM's Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee for the last few years.

T3. Writing Workshop for all Ages (Hesitant Writers Encouraged!)

Let your life speak through the written word! Modeled off the workshops that helped Belize Friends produce our book about Belize, this is a workshop for writers of all ages! We will generate an expansive, safe environment in which to create a draft of a short story, poem, or essay.

Nikki Holland of Belize Friends Church, West Richmond Friends Meeting, and (newly) Friends Meeting of Washington received the 2021 Tom Mullen Writing as Ministry Fellowship and has delighted in writing numerous articles and essays, as well as two book manuscripts (so far).

T4. Healing our Wounded Lands

Our lands, especially farms, have suffered from agricultural misuse and neglect, resulting in soil degradation and erosion, which have prevented the soils from producing to full potential. In the long term poor soils will affect our food supply, leading to world hunger. Agriculturists and farmers have found ways to mend the abuses of the past in order to fill the basic need of food.

Ben Friton is the director of The Reed Center, where the vision is to heal wounded lands while providing for the well-being of human and wildlife communities connected to that land.

T5. Right Relationship

In this experiential workshop we'll explore histories of harm and power dynamics on a personal level, with an eye towards what "making things right" can look like. On this foundation we'll then explore what this might look like on a societal level.

Nathan Kleban (Iowa City) works for Right Sharing of World Resources and is an avid Alternatives to Violence Project facilitator.

T6. Quakers and Voting Rights: What You Can Do

We'll talk about the current state of voting rights in the United States, including on-the-ground issues and consequential voting rights litigation. Then we'll talk about some of the basic mechanics of citizen participation in supporting voting rights and how Friends can become involved at the local and state levels.

Megan Gall (Charleston) has a Ph.D. in political science and over 15 years' experience working on voting rights policy and Voting Rights Act litigation.

T7. Forging a Spiritual Discipline of Anti-Racism

Join us as we consider and share our experiences of antiracism as a spiritual practice. What do we understand to be a spiritual practice? What does Quaker historical and current experience teach us about putting core beliefs into action? What impediments arise - in oneself, in one's meeting - to living out in the world the truths written on our hearts, that there is that of God in each of us? How can each of us start where we are and grow in faithfulness to this conviction? Racism and Othering are often at the core of that which shuts out the Light, and cultivating a practice of uncovering and shedding racism can help us individually and as a community of Friends.

Barbara Bezdek (Homewood) and Beth Haw (Richmond). Beth is a longtime Virginia Quaker who, with a small group, regularly holds a lemonade stand at the local farmers' market and engages people under the banner, Let's Talk about Why Black Lives Matter. Barbara is a long-time member of Homewood in Baltimore. She has served on Homewood's 'change groups,' presented workshops on racial awareness for white Quakers, co-led reflective reading circles on Caste, The Sum of Us, White Fragility, Healing Resistance, and taught Kingian nonviolence approaches to conflict and change. Beth and Barbara have

been thinking and talking together about how antiracism manifests as a spiritual discipline in their lives as individuals and as Quakers.

T8. Monthly Meeting Clerk Connection

Monthly Meeting clerks/assistant clerks will engage in worship-sharing & conversation around the following queries: What are your greatest joys in clerking? Your greatest challenges? How are we guided by the Spirit? What does it mean to be a servant leader? How do we foster the Meeting's work for peace and justice?

Sarah Bur (Homewood), Betsy Tobin (Frederick) & Meg Meyer (Stony Run). Sarah has been a Quaker for her entire adult life and currently serves as monthly meeting clerk for her meeting. Meg was surprised to find that Clerking her monthly meeting was WAY harder than clerking Interim Meeting, harder than being the recording clerk -- but very rewarding, as well. Betsy has been part of Frederick Friends Meeting and Baltimore Yearly Meeting since 1995. She is currently Clerk of her monthly meeting and has served as co-clerk of various committees with her monthly meeting and the yearly meeting.

T9. Introduction to Quaker Theology

Quakerism has a rich and distinct theological tradition - yet many of us feel unsure of what Quakers believe beyond the SPICES. In this session, we will explore the core aspects of historic Quaker theology - and how those beliefs are expressed, and sometimes differ, across the worldwide body of Friends today. This session welcomes Friends from across the spectrum of beliefs (and non-belief!) and will invite participants to explore how their own theologies shape and support their work for justice in the world.

Sarah Gillooly (Adelphi) spent their career working in social justice public policy before becoming a midlife Quaker seminarian. Sarah currently serves as the General Secretary of BYM.

T10. Responding to Differences in Our Meetings

Differences aren't necessarily bad. We need to learn from them and deal with them creatively. This workshop will focus on role plays of types of differences in Meeting and how to respond in helpful ways, drawing on Quaker spiritual practices, and in this way, letting our lives speak.

Bob Rhudy (Patapsco) and Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring). Bob served as interim general secretary of BYM during 2015-2016, is president/executive director of Senior Mediation and Decision-Making, Inc. 2007-present. For over 40 years, Joan has practiced and guided others in using conflict creatively, opening ways for healing relationships and deepening our Quaker community.

F1. Friends Testimony of Equality and Retrospective Justice [HYBRID]

Friends treasure our Testimony of Equality, yet we live in a world shaped by structures that promote and protect inequality, poverty for some, privilege for others. Let's consider ways that we as Friends and Meetings can share our material resources, skills, and networks to promote justice, equity, and equality.

Marcy Seitel (Adelphi) & Phil Caroom (Annapolis) are members of the Reparations Action Working Group.

F2. In what ways are Our Anti-racist Queries Transforming your Worship Community?

In this workshop, Friends will share how our anti-racist queries are being practiced in their Meetings, Worship Communities, and committees. What decisions, discussions and discernments were impacted by considering these queries? Have these queries helped to create a more inclusive and belonging community?

Michael Wallace (Bethesda) serves as the clerk of the Growing Diverse Leadership Committee as well as co-clerk for the Bethesda Friends Meeting's Change Group.

F3. Quaker Counter-Culture during McCarthyism, 1947-1962

The 1950s were a decade of incredible pressure to conform, yet in BYM and elsewhere many Friends were resisting conscription and war taxes, refusing to swear loyalty oaths, as well as challenging racial segregation, and weapons of mass destruction. This workshop will examine Quakers doing this and WHY!

Jim Fussell (Langley Hill) is a student at Earlham School of Religion and a member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice Committee. He has led workshops at BYM and FGC and recently taught Quaker History and New Testament at Friends Theological College - Kaimosi in western Kenya.

F4. Resources for Befriending the End of Life

A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life is an invitation to readers to let our later years and final days be a living testimony of our values. Do you want to talk about these difficult topics, but don't know how to start? Are you afraid of what lies ahead of you, or wonder if there is a Quakerly way to live through your aging and dying? This workshop will introduce our book's resources through real stories of how Friends have let their lives speak when facing similar issues, explain complex medical and legal terms, and offer practical help to you and your meeting. We show examples of various personal and meetings' activities, and encourage you to find ways these resources fit your meeting's needs.

Patti Nesbitt (Sandy Spring), Kristin Zimet & Lisa Allen (Midlothian). Patti is a retired palliative care nurse and co-author of "A Tender Time." Kristin has experience as a caregiver and hospice volunteer and is a gifted writer who co-authored "A Tender Time." Lisa is an estate lawyer who has experience as a caregiver and cancer center volunteer.

F5. Embracing Eco-Sorrow: Strength, Solace and Our Voice

As awareness and acceptance of the realities of climate change have grown, so has the experience of deeper climate-related grief, loss and other emotions. Seeking truth through our loves and connections, we will sensitively explore some contexts related to eco-sorrow and some tools for expression, sharing, finding strength, solace and our voice.

Barb Adams (Richmond) has trained in the work of Joanna Macy and others generating Hope, Resilience and Solace in these very challenging times of great change. She is the BYM representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

F6. Right Sharing

An experiential workshop based on the John Woolman quote, "May we look upon our treasures, and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions, or not."

Nathan Kleban (Iowa City) works for Right Sharing of World Resources and is an avid Alternatives to Violence Project facilitator.

F7. The Magic of Faith and Play

This workshop will look at hands-on first day lessons that are inviting, interactive, and ready to implement upon available training. We expect to have a sample lesson of this approach that energizes our kids to go out and serve justice.

Nancy Moore Goren (Stony Run), an experienced teacher, is very familiar with the materials and has good experience using them.

F8. Ecumenical Decade of Repentance: Rise Up for a Just and Flourishing Planet

Decrying the climate emergency as an ethical, moral, and spiritual crisis, manifested in a fixation on profit, the World Council of Churches declared an Ecumenical Decade of repentance and action for a just and flourishing planet. Learn how Friends can accelerate efforts to protect God's creation and promote just and sustainable communities.

Kallen Benson (Annapolis) is a university student who represents Friends General Conference as a founding member of the World Council of Churches' Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

F9. Queer Theology & Quakerism

Participants will learn about the history and core concepts of queer theology and explore how these ideas can shape the future of Quakerism. We will engage the work of major queer theologians, including Linn Marie Tonstad, Patrick Cheng, and Marcella Althaus-Reid.

Jim Webner (Stony Run) holds an M.Div. from Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University with concentrations in Christian History, Christian Theology & Ethics, and Biblical Interpretation.

F10. Activism for peace/justice across Generations: Walking together on different paths

As we face multiple crises - genocidal war in Palestine, escalating climate change, increasing authoritarianism, rollbacks of civil rights -- what can Friends say . . . and do? This workshop invites activists confronting injustice and violence from perspectives of different generations and life experiences to explore how to learn from and support each other.

Jonathon Gross & Leslie Sussan (Bethesda). Leslie was a founding member of the Gray Panthers - an intergenerational coalition for social justice - in the 1970s and continues to be active in peace efforts, especially in opposing nuclear weapons. Jonathan is a student of nonviolent social change and an active member of IfNotNow and several other grassroots movements dedicated to peace, justice, and equality in Israel-Palestine.

F11. A Farm Tour - Friends Meeting School Farm

Len McGinnis raises vegetables and poultry on the farm at Friends Meeting School, where he engages students with nature, teaches about sustainable agriculture, and supports healthy lunches and a local food bank. As a Black farmer in a very diverse school, he is sensitive to issues of discrimination and injustice. Len integrates valuable on-farm agriculture experiences with the students' academic studies, showing them the generosity of nature in a curriculum that they will take into their adult lives. The precious gifts of environmental health and food are in the lesson plan each day. We'll tour the farm and the school which supports this effort.

Deborah Haines (Alexandria), Len MCGinnis, Chris Kimberly. Len McGinnis is a farmer and teacher who has been at Friends Meeting School since 2016, where he developed and manages the school farm. Chris Kimberly is a Quaker educator with a BA in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton, who has been Head of School at Friends Meeting School since 2020.

S1. Rising up and practicing the life of the Spirit

In 2023, BYM revised the introduction to the life of the spirit in our Faith and Practice. How to speak of these powerful lived practices? Biblically: the in-breaking of the peaceable kingdom/reign of God? The SPICES values? A single value: justice? Presentations from Faith & Practice Committee, sharing from participants, discussion.

Jim Fussell (Langley Hill) & Ann Riggs (Annapolis) serve on the yearly meeting's Faith and Practice committee.

S2. The spiritual practice of Grief and Loss

Dealing with the world, be it on a global or personal level, means dealing with loss. This workshop is for anyone who is grappling with loss--of a loved one, a pet, a relationship, a job, an opportunity or a set of beliefs.

Debby Churchman (FMW) & Kathy Powell (FMW) are long-term Friends. Debby lost her youngest son in 2021; Kathy has professionally helped numerous people experiencing loss.

S3. Conversations with the Other: Speaking with Those with Other Political Views

This is a workshop on communicating with those with whom we vigorously disagree on political and other issues. They can't really believe that, can they? But they can and do. Presenting them with the "facts" in verbal "gotcha" is rarely helpful and often detrimental in moving forward. To have a democracy we have to learn (and relearn) to work together, which we can only do if we can communicate. Practice at questioning, listening and getting past believing our view is the only view.

JE McNeil (FMW), an attorney with a master's degree in Conflict Transformation who has spent decades working with military members and others with whom she disagreed, has led this workshop often for people throughout the political spectrum.

S4. Seeking Peace in Your Community

The Executive Director of Quaker House will suggest strategies that local meetings can use to advance the Peace Testimony through a variety of outreach projects that can be adapted for the needs and interests of the meeting.

Wayne Finegar (Sandy Spring/Fayetteville) is the Executive Director of Quaker House, the 55-year-old peace project based in Fayetteville, NC.

S5. The Gift of Common Ground: Nurture Social Justice by Letting Land Speak

Individual action - "Let your life speak" is powerful, but rapid social justice requires the catalyzing, energizing and restorative power of common ground: safe space to gather in community, share, ground, and find peace. How have Friends historically nurtured social action by letting our land speak? How are we called today?

Kimberly Benton & Debbi Sudduth. Kimberly Benson (Annapolis) is the general manager of Friends Wilderness Center. Debbi Sudduth (Goose Creek) is co-chair of the Friends Wilderness Center Board of Directors.

S6. Vocal Ministry: Our Communal Encounters with Spirit

Part of advancement and outreach is living our lives and sharing our truth in such a way that people enter the doors of our Meetinghouses. And another part of advancement and outreach is making sure our Meetings are vital, welcoming, and transformative communities that people want to join. This workshop will be a space to talk about our experiences of spirit-led vocal ministry and how we can nurture, expect, and anticipate vocal ministry that will deepen our experiences of the divine and help grow our Meetings.

Jim Citro (Patapsco) has years of experience with discerning Spirit in groups as a Retreat Leader, small group leader and coordinator.

S7. Becoming Intentionally Intergenerational

Most monthly meetings have asked themselves how they can attract younger people and families with children. We'll take a look at small and manageable ways to meet the needs of younger folks by bringing the generations together and building a stronger and more vibrant community for all.

Meghan Goldman (Goose Creek) is a Mom, engineer, and playworker.

S8. Connecting Local Meetings: Lowering Racial Barriers [HYBRID]

Many BYM local Meetings have small groups (sometimes called "Change Groups") addressing racial justice and lowering racial barriers in their Meetings. Friends doing this work will share with each other what they have been doing, what they plan to do, and the challenges they face.

David Etheridge (FMW) and Pierce Hammond (Bethesda). David is Clerk of the Working Group on Racism. Peirce is a member of the Working Group on Racism and the Ministry and Worship Committee.

S9. Sacrifice Zones and Environmental Justice: What Can Quakers Do? [HYBRID]

Through film resources, discussion with a panel of impacted community members in the BYM region, and an interactive map, we will explore environmental injustice - when polluting/toxic projects place an inequitable burden on marginalized communities, damaging the environment, health and heritage, and rob citizens of their civil and human rights.

Barb Adams (Richmond) & Carl Benson (Annapolis). Barb is BYM representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, works for the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter and has allied with and advocated for people and communities facing destructive projects throughout Virginia for over 10 years. Carl is the conservation manager at Friends Wilderness Center and works for the Nature Conservancy.

S10. Reproductive Justice: Abortion & Quaker Values

The U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade has led to great uncertainty. The BYM Peace & Social Concerns Reproductive Justice Working Group invites Friends to consider evolving medical issues, racial justice, emerging law, and Quaker values. We expect a lively discussion.

Katherine Cole, MD (Adelphi), Taylor Stanton, Catherine Nnoka (FMW), Victor Thuronyi (Adelphi). Katherine, co-clerk of the Reproductive Justice Working Group, is a retired Family Physician who provided care for patients of all ages in Northern Virginia from 1988 until 2009. Taylor Stanton M.D., who grew up in Herndon Friends Meeting and now attends a Michigan meeting, is a board-certified Obstetrician/Gynecologist with a subspecialty in Complex Family Planning. She works in Detroit providing comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion care. Catherine, born and raised in Nigeria, has been on a journey with Friends through New York Yearly Meeting, Westtown School and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She has a lifelong commitment to women's rights, including reproductive justice. Victor, raised Catholic, is a lawyer who writes about abortion and public policy.