



Building Facilitation Skills Authentically

September 23-25, 2016

Friends are often called upon to facilitate retreats, conferences, and conversations, sometimes within the Quaker community and sometimes in the world beyond. The skill set required is not quite the same as the skills involved in either clerking or teaching, though the practices do have some things in common.

At this retreat, we'll explore many pieces of the work of facilitation, including the following: practical and spiritual preparation; planning the arc of the event; methods and modalities; group empowerment; co-facilitation; maintaining and responding to a sense of the group; engaging with difficult situations; and the facilitator's relationship with the elder(s).

Spiritual gifts among facilitators vary widely, and we are all most effective when we build authentically upon our strengths. For that reason, Karen, Emily, and Christopher will be explicitly articulating and demonstrating their differences in approach and encouraging those present to do the same.

The weekend will also provide opportunities to connect with Friends of varying levels of facilitation experience in order to encourage future possibilities for co-facilitation and mentorship.



Karen Reixach is an AVP facilitator who has trained other facilitators. She has also recently taken a facilitation course on dynamic governance, which provides tools for assisting groups in decision-making, and is beginning to support new facilitators in her co-housing community. She is a graduate of School of the Spirit and a member of Ithaca Monthly Meeting.

Emily Provance carries with her the lessons learned from two quite different careers—the first, high-spectacle theatrical stage management, and the second, arts-based interactive programming for public school classrooms. As a facilitator, she loves to help groups explore new possibilities through games, art, music, movement, discussion, and worship. She is a member of Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting.



Christopher Sammond has been facilitating retreats and workshops for Friends for over 25 years. Most often, he tries to accomplish two primary goals when leading a retreat: to build a rich, deep sense of community, and to help individual participants access or touch the spark of the Divine within. Christopher has worked with over 40 different elders over the years, and has served other facilitators as an elder. He is trained as a spiritual director and in spiritual formation of whole communities, and carries a concern for faithfulness.



Register by Sept. 9th: \$230 adults, \$115 ages 13-22, \$57.50 infants-12, & \$165 commuters
After September 9th: \$250/\$125
Childcare with 3 weeks notice