PYM Religious Education Conversation Circle

FALL PLANNING: CONNECTION & NEW DIRECTIONS

August 24 & 25, 2020
Stay Tethered

Plan Flexibly

Nurture Spiritual Community

WHY

- Plan Flexibly
- Stay Tethered
- Nurture Spiritual Community
How can we center connection to families in our planning?

Care packages mailed or dropped off — materials for online lessons that can also be done at home

Calls and check-ins, “porch visits,” sending notes and birthday cards

Clear communication about program, space to be offline and still connected, invitation to worship

Visiting the meeting house or space — tying prayers to fence, adding to a prayer flag hanging outside, chalk messages on the parking lot,

Hosting one all-ages activity a month — worship, but also fellowship and fun. Should not all fall to the RE committee, but is an opportunity to collaborate across meeting committees.
WHY do you offer programs for children/youth? What is at the center, and will hold, no matter how you’re executing our plans?

Survey parents for their comfort levels with in-person, online, hybrid.


Consider planning 2 weeks of program, inviting families to worship 1 week, and participating in the “Giant Children’s Meeting” on the 4th Sunday morning.

Parable of the Sower — Some seed will fall in places you do not expect, and may never know what “grows.” Have trust that what you’re putting out is reaching where needed.
WWW.PYM.ORG/RELIGIOUS-EDUCATION

- Planning Calendar for 2020-21
- Racial Justice Curricula and Resources
- Lessons for At Home & Online Together
- PYM Curricula (adding here!)
- Writings on Religious Education: *Practical & Prophetic*
- The Tote Bag E-Newsletter
- Flat Fox and Fell (Faith & Play website)
ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY

https://www.illustratedministry.com/

- Progressive Christian materials
- Social Justice support — Black Lives Matter messages
- Coloring pages, coloring posters, full curricula with support for online
Is there an opportunity in the threshold of this destabilized moment to step into a different kind of model for spiritual formation? What new circles can we meet/learn/worship in together?

Shifts to consider in planning at this time:
- age-based groups → families; multigenerational
- instruction → practice; experiential learning
- one hour/Sunday → new times/online and at home

The circle of children/youth is a spiritual community — How is the home now an extension of your First Day program?

The meeting is a wider circle of spiritual community — that children are part of! Where is the opportunity to try all-ages worship in this time?

The circle grows when we gather with our PYM Family — “Giant Children’s Meeting”
Children in RE program

The Meeting

Giant Children’s Meeting

September 27
Celebrating New Beginnings

October 25
Friends and Neighbors

November 22
Gratitude and Gathering

December 27
The Light in Winter

RE committees help connect families to the meeting and to PYM
UPCOMING EVENTS

August 28-30: Young Friends Late Summer Gathering
September 27: Giant Children’s Meeting!
October 10: Quaker College Fair
October 24: Mandated Reporter Training and Meeting Practice Discussion

Youth Programs Staff are working on a series of online events for each program group and that calendar/flyer will be shared soon!
Additional Resources:

- Crossing the Threshold – How do meeting communities prepare for and engage in active invitation to families and children?
- Together at Home and Online: Religious Education during COVID-19
- Guidance and Practices for Online Youth Gatherings with participants under the age of 18
- RE Program Planning: Finding Direction in Uncertain Time
  (Quaker Religious Education Collaborative July Conversation Circle)