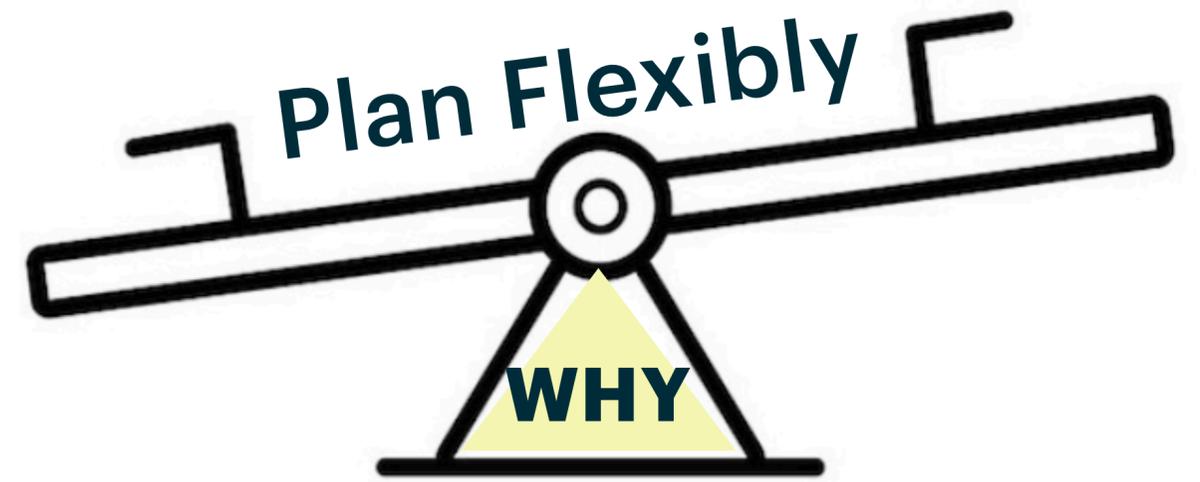

PYM Religious Education Conversation Circle

**FALL PLANNING:
CONNECTION
& NEW DIRECTIONS**

August 24 & 25, 2020



Stay Tethered



**Nurture
Spiritual
Community**

STAYING TETHERED TO FAMILIES

- **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**
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PLANNING FLEXIBLY

- **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
 - **On the FGC website: "Planning Religious Education Programming for Children During COVID-19"**
 - **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.***
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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)**
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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**



CIRCLES OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

- *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”**
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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)
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