Warm Greetings, Friend!

One of the core elements of PYM Youth Programs is youth discernment and meeting for business. Starting with the Children's program, each age group has their own approach to experiential learning about Quaker practice. Witnessing youth-centered meeting for business, led by middle school and high school clerks and recording clerks, is one of my favorite parts of Sessions and other gatherings. These Friends are the future, and the now of Quakerism.

This hands-on learning and practice is happening in our local meetings, too!

The Story of Junior Meeting for Business at Buckingham Meeting, is a wonderful example. Gratitude to Amy Connelly for sharing! From the article:

"We used Quaker process to decide what order everyone would present in, and all took turns sharing of themselves and listening attentively to the light in others. [...] It seems to be giving the kids a chance to develop their own community with appreciation for each individual, as well as a sense of belonging within the group."

I hope you'll read the rest of the inspiring story of how Friends at Buckingham Meeting centered the children's leadings -- LEGO's and minutes included!

In service and joy,

Melinda Wenner Bradley
Youth Religious Life Coordinator
mwennerbradley@pym.org

Recipients are subscribed to the PYM Religious Education Thread List and the Youth Programs Thread List.

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Covid-19 updates that impact upcoming PYM programs will be shared on PYM.org and on Youth Program Facebook pages.

Click here for a helpful resource to explain Covid-19 to children.

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PYM Programs for
Youth & Families
Please share in your meeting!

March 28: Spring Continuing Sessions at Westtown School! Learn more about the day-long program and register here: **Recipe for Youth Programs at Spring Continuing Sessions**

April 18: **Quaker Family Meetup**, Abington Meeting (3-5:30pm)

May 2-3: **Spring Family Overnight**, Camp Darkwaters, Medford, NJ

*Print the Family Meetup/Family Overnight flyer to share with Families of children in K-5th Grade!*

May 1-3: Camp Swatara weekend for Middle School & Young Friends

July 29 - August 2, 2020 at the College of New Jersey
"**Quaker Camp**" for PYM Youth at Annual Sessions!
Youth Programs for Children (K-5), Middle School Friends, and Young Friends (high school) will include workshop time with the Sessions Resident Artist, poet Zenaida Peterson, and making music with City Love. Field Trip Friday means visits to Snipes Farm (Children) and Grounds for Sculpture (MSF & Young Friends). There will be lots of time for play, fellowship, and exploring the theme “Letting Ourselves Be Known.”

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**REsource Sharing:**

**Approved! A Story about Quaker Meeting for Business** is a great introduction to Quaker decision making for children. Available from QuakerBooks of FGC, and also published in Spanish, the book uses a "real life" situation and simple, clear language to introduce Quaker decision-making and help children learn the basics of Quaker process. Includes queries, a glossary, and a brief overview of junior meeting for business.

**Quaker Earthcare Witness Curriculum: "Earthcare for Children"** QEW’s revised curriculum is designed to "help our children ages 5 - 12 walk gently over God’s Earth through interactive and fun activities. In the lessons, we will experience the Earth as our home, see how we share our home with God’s creatures, and learn how we can behave in caring ways for our world." We are using this curriculum in our Children's program this year at West Chester Meeting, as part of our theme, "Stewardship as Spirit-led Witness" -- it is a treasure chest of ideas! Each chapter includes suggested songs, scripture, a wide variety of activities, closing, and take-home pages.
March **Conversation Circles** hosted by the Quaker RE Collaborative:

Conversation Circles are 1 to 1.5 hour online discussions hosted on Zoom. The same conversation happens twice in a week at different times, and is minuted and audio recorded.

**Walk Gently Over the Earth: RE for Sustainable Living**

Friends, young and old, find joy and inspiration in the natural world, yet we are challenged by a mounting environmental crisis. Join this conversation with Friends from Quaker Earthcare Witness to explore resources to help young Friends and their families lead sustainable lives and advocate for the environment in a spirit-led way.

**Tuesday, 3/17, 1:00 PM ET**
**Thursday, 3/19, 8:00 PM ET**

Register on the QREC website

More information, and online Resource Library, at www.Quakers4RE.org

Are you interested in more conversation, support, and sharing with Friends involved in religious education and youth work?

The 2020 Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) conference will be August 14-16 in Hickory, North Carolina.

**PYM has funding to support Friends attending!**

Save the Date!

**Coming in Fall 2020. . .**


**Saturday, October 24**
**10am-2:30pm**
"I still have a question about resources, programs . . . or a great idea to share!"