

Building Vibrant Multigenerational Community with Children & Families

- The meeting community can be like a family: providing mutual care across “generations.”
- Pastoral care for children begins with pastoral care for their parents and caregivers — *this includes the Friends providing religious education in our meetings.*
- Children belong in worship: are we clear why? What do we need to help create clarity about why — and how we make a place for them?
- We need to attend to spiritual care for “second-thirds” (ages 30-55), as they may be providing care for both children and aging parents. How do we also invite them to share their gifts in the meeting community?
- How do we rethink Quaker structures and practices for our changing society today — including being realistic about the complex needs of modern families?

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Queries for Conversation . . .

- What does pastoral care for families look like, in your experience? Name a practice or kind of support that you believe could be added for Friends?
- Consider: *Children, Youth/Teens, Emerging Adults, People who are Parents, Older Adult Friends* — What are the gifts each generational group brings to the meeting family?
- Articulate a sense of why children being in worship is important — for children *and* for adults. This statement may feel like a stretch. Notice that feeling, too, and see if you are led to speak to it.
- If the meeting is a well of living waters that we fill our spiritual life from, what are these waters for young people? For people who are parents?
- What do you need in a group to feel included and safe to be yourself? What are the opportunities in the meeting family for people to share their voice, be recognized and heard? What opportunities do you wish existed?