

# FGC Programs and Services for Friends and Meetings, 2021

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Friends General Conference provides services and resources for individual Friends, meetings, and people interested in the Quaker way. FGC is an association of regional Quaker communities in the U.S. and Canada working together to nurture a vital Quaker faith. *Together we nurture the spiritual vitality of Friends.*

## **The Gathering**

The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. In 2021, FGC will host a virtual Gathering from June 27 - July 3, with the theme of *Way Will Open*. The 2022 Gathering will be held in-person at Radford University in Virginia.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

## **Ministry on Racism**

Through the Ministry on Racism, FGC empowers individual Friends and Quaker meetings to confront and heal the wounds of white supremacy, challenge racism, and help Friends co-create communities that are more accessible and equitable. Specific projects include the Pre-Gathering Retreat for People of Color and their Families, organizing Friends to attend the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC), and regional gatherings for Friends of Color and their Families.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism>

## **Online Worship Opportunities**

FGC has supported Friends, Quaker newcomers, and spiritual seekers who want to worship online with Friends during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, with worship groups for People of Color, Friends of European Descent Confronting Racism, and other community-building opportunities.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/online-worship-opportunities>

## **Spiritual Deepening Library and Online Opportunities**

The Spiritual Deepening Library offers a FREE collection of experiential activities and exercises for small groups of Quakers and newcomers of all ages to explore together, with the goal of building connections with Quaker roots, growing as a spiritual community, and listening deeply to the Light within.

Spiritual Deepening Online Offerings build spiritual community through 4-week book discussions, worship sharing groups, or eRetreats on topics such as *Silence and Light for Quaker Newcomers*; *Living into Wholeness*; *Aging, Death, and Dying*; *Weaving a Wider Welcome*; and *Understanding and Healing White Supremacy*.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/enrichment/spiritualdeepening>

### **Year-Round Youth Programming**

FGC is offering several year-round virtual programs for youth so we can stay in community, including gatherings for children and parents and online youth retreats for Friends across North America.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/year-round-youth-programs>

### **QuakerBooks**

FGC operates an online bookstore that provides key resources for local meetings, yearly meetings, and individuals with the goal of strengthening the Religious Society of Friends. QuakerBooks operates a pop-up bookstore at in-person FGC Gatherings and provides consignments to yearly meeting sessions and other events. We depend on Friends' patronage to provide this important service.

[www.quakerbooks.org](http://www.quakerbooks.org)

### **Institutional Assessment Implementation**

In 2017, Central Committee (FGC's governing body) united around the need to undertake an institutional assessment to uncover structural racism within our organization. After two years of work, the Institutional Assessment Task Force's report and recommendations are now available at [www.fgcquaker.org/report](http://www.fgcquaker.org/report)

As a result of the Task Force's report and recommendations, Central Committee approved the creation of an Implementation Group to guide the transformation of FGC into an anti-racist organization. FGC has committed to confront and heal white supremacy within our organization and among FGC Friends, and to model anti-racism as we support the work of the Implementation Group.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism/becoming-anti-racist-faith-community>

### **Quaker Cloud**

The Quaker Cloud offers a user-friendly platform for a monthly or yearly meeting to have a public presence online. The service has undergone a number of technical improvements and uses professional technical support as we seek to provide meetings with an easy to maintain, low cost, and feature-rich website that includes a minute

manager and member directory. Approximately 150 meetings/Quaker organizations are now using the Quaker Cloud.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/quaker-cloud>

### **QuakerFinder.org**

The QuakerFinder website offers a searchable list of Quaker meetings and churches whose Yearly Meetings are located primarily in the United States and Canada. There were 70,380 visitors to QuakerFinder.org in 2020.

[www.quakerfinder.org](http://www.quakerfinder.org)

### **Quaker Press**

FGC publishes new books and pamphlets in service to the spiritual needs of Friends guided by FGC's major goals and programs. Look for new titles in the coming year.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/serve/publishing/quakerpress-fgc>

### **Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee**

Through CIRC, FGC brings Quaker perspectives to ecumenical and interfaith events. It also connects us with faith-based conversations about truth, justice, and reconciliation.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/deepen/outreach/christian-interfaith-relations-committee-circ>

### **Friends Meeting House Fund**

The Friends Meeting House Fund supports Quaker meetings by guiding meetings through the process of securing a loan or grant to buy, renovate, or add onto a meeting house (or other structures on meeting house property); or to increase the energy efficiency their meeting houses.

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/friends-meeting-house-fund>

*These programs and projects are only possible due to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers and donors across the United States and Canada. We are grateful for this support.*