

Sharing the Light: Radical Love for the World

2018 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Earlham College, Sixth Month 13-17

We hope to see you Wednesday, **June 13, through Sunday, June 17**, at the 2018 annual sessions! We'll be back at **Earlham College** with a full slate of all the things that make annual meeting special. Details are being finalized now — look for updates and registration forms on the OVYM website, www.quaker.org/ovym/. Our theme is **Sharing the Light: Radical Love for the World**, and our plenary speakers are confirmed: Vanessa Julye and Dwight Wilson. Brief bios follow from Planning Committee:

Vanessa Julye, who has visited with OVYM as a guest several times in recent years, is the coordinator for two Friends General Conference programs — its Ministry on Racism Program and Youth Ministries Program. She first worked with FGC as a volunteer in 1994 and has been on staff for the past 11 years.

She is well known as the co-author, with Donna McDaniel, of the groundbreaking book “Fit for Freedom not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice. She is also the author of “The Seed Cracked Open: Growing Beyond Racism.”

Called to racial justice work, she has visited yearly and monthly meetings across the U.S. and Canada as they engage in the struggle with racism and white supremacy. She also spearheaded FGC's partnership with the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC), seeing the numbers of Quakers attending the annual conference grow from 11 in 2010 to more than 500 in 2016, when the conference went to Philadelphia.

Growing up in Philadelphia, Vanessa's introduction to Quaker worship came in elementary school when a friend invited her to attend a summer Quaker camp. She came back to Friends as an adult when she started working with Friends World Committee for Consultation and found Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, where she and her husband are members.

Dwight L. Wilson is a retired educator who spent 41 years as a school professional, including as headmaster of Friends School in Detroit. He also has served as pastor of Friends Meeting in Durham, Maine, and as general secretary for Friends General Conference. *(continued page 2)*

Dear Friends: Greetings from the Clerk

I'm delighted to be writing you as spring, albeit with summer temperatures, has finally burst out. Here in Kentucky, it's been a cool spring with freezing nights, chilly days, and even snows in April. Nonetheless, we've enjoyed the usual parade of spring flowers — crocus, daffodils, redbud, and now dogwood in full glory. Each year I marvel as these beauties endure cold temperatures.

Now that it's May, we're not too far away from our annual sessions in mid-June. I look forward to seeing many of you. Inside you'll find detailed information about our program and guest speakers. If you're not a yearly meeting regular attendee, I hope you'll consider attending, either full- or part-time, this year.

**Betsy
Neale**



This will be my final year as presiding clerk of OVYM. I've enjoyed my term of service to you and the yearly meeting. After our sessions I will become assistant clerk, and Martha Viehmann will become our presiding clerk. Martha has been of great assistance to me this year, even filling in for me as presiding clerk at the April meeting of the Executive Committee so that I could attend Lexington's memorial service for Bo Huff.

Long-time attendees of OVYM may remember Bo Huff and Beth Stafford, members of Lexington Friends Meeting, who attended OVYM in the 1980s and 1990s. Beth served as OVYM clerk a number of years ago. Bo was a wise and knowledgeable Friend who guided Lexington Meeting in many ways. He will be dearly missed.

I hope to see you at OVYM next month!!



The Quaker Quill

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



(from page 1)

He earned a BA in history and sociology from Bowdoin College and a master's of divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary. He also was awarded an honorary degree in Human Reconstruction from Wilmington (Ohio) College. In 1980, Christian Century magazine named him one of America's Most Influential Religious Leaders. He has served on educational delegations to Spain, Egypt, and China; and has lectured on religion, peacemaking, leadership, multicultural education, and the Ohio frontier throughout North America.

He has published religious and educational articles as well as haiku in periodicals spanning the globe. He also has written a fictional series of books inspired by real events, "Esi Was My Mother," that begins in 1795 with the enslavement of a Fante couple in West Africa.

A native of Middletown, Ohio, he and his wife live in Ann Arbor, Mich., where they are members of the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

In addition to being a plenary speaker for OVYM sessions, he will guide the daily Bible Half Hour each weekday morning at the FGC 2018 Gathering to be held in Toledo, Ohio.

An Interview with Paulette Meier about her Ministry of Teaching through Song

Cecilia Shore

Q: Could you explain your ministry as it relates to the collection of quotations from early Friends that you set to song and recorded on the CD, *Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong*?

A: Since publishing the CD with Quaker Press in 2010, I've had numerous opportunities to use "the Quaker song-chants" to provide educational presentations about the roots of the Quaker faith. Usually I sing some of the songs solo in a meditative style, and teach other more complex songs to sing along with in communal chanting style. Between songs, I provide commentary about the texts, the authors, and the context of the quotes. The quotes often provoke additional insights, discussion and personal sharing about the impact of Quaker spiritual practice on individuals' lives.

A recorded CD enables the ministry to travel further than I can. I've heard that many Quaker meetings are using it in adult education programs and even use it in conjunction with worship. I've received many emails from individuals, both Quaker and non-Quaker alike, telling me the impact of the song-chants on their lives. Some people say they listen to it every morning on their way to work as a way to ground themselves in Spirit and others tell me how it helped them get through personal crises, reminding them to "be still and cool" and to "mind that which is eternal." Hearing how the words of our founding Quakers, which so inspired me when I first read them years ago, are inspiring others through these songs touches me deeply.

Q: You've had a traveling minute for your music ministry from Community Friends Meeting for a number of years now. Where have you delivered this ministry to and how has it been received?

A: At first, my traveling minute had to do with my children's music for peacemaking. I spent a year in Philadelphia and New Jersey providing programs in Quaker meetings and schools. In the last 10 years or so, my ministry has included both adult and children's programs. As a result of the Quaker CD's distribution, I've provided programs in many FGC meetings and several FUM churches, as well as at Guilford College's Quaker Leadership

Scholars Program, Baltimore Yearly Meeting's women's retreat, Earlham School of Religion, the Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, PA, Canadian Yearly Meeting, and many more. It's always rewarding to share this gift of educating and inspiring through song, and each time I'm amazed and humbled by the response of those who participate.

Q: To what extent has *Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong* garnered interest beyond Quakers?

A: This is what's perhaps most amazing. I never expected the CD to be of interest beyond Friends; it is so simple and sparse. Right when the CD was published, I was reading a book by Cynthia Bourgeault called *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*. Cynthia is an Episcopal priest, scholar, mystic, and an international leader in a growing movement of contemplative Christians who are re-claiming Christianity as a religion grounded in the ancient Wisdom ways of inner spiritual transformation. Her description of this reminded me so much of early Friends' understanding of Jesus' message, that I felt led to send her a copy of the CD. She responded enthusiastically and is now sharing these Quaker chants widely. She invited me to co-lead workshops and retreats combining Wisdom spiritual deepening practices with teachings on the spirituality of early Friends; participants have included Quakers and non-Quakers. As a result, I myself have been opening up to a new and more welcome understanding of Christianity, as have other Friends. (Cynthia says that the Quaker faith is the one Christian religion that "got it right.") But simultaneously, I've been extremely pleased to witness the excitement of non-Quakers as they learn about and discover Quaker faith and practice for themselves.

Q: You were recently invited to a week-long Wisdom School led by Cynthia Bourgeault in North Carolina with about 200 participants. What is a "Wisdom School" and was your role there?

A: Wisdom Schools are gatherings that Cynthia has established, based on the 7th century Benedictine model of monastic life. The activities of chanting, meditation, doing conscious work together, sharing in small groups, maintaining silent times, and listening to Cynthia's teachings on Christian mysticism, provide concentrated time for individual spiritual deepening in a communal context. I was invited to be a member of their "music team," leading chanting throughout the week. I opened every morning's meditation session, singing one of the Quaker song-chants. I gave a talk about the Quaker way and my story of putting Quaker texts to song, and also to teach more of the song-chants.

Q: What effect do you think that your ministry had?

A: Many people told me how my sharing my story, along with stories of early Friends and more about Quaker spirituality, touched them deeply. A few said it was the highlight of the week for them! Throughout the week attendees told me that the combination of the voice and the spiritual messages moved them to tears. Many wondered why they had never been exposed to the Quaker faith; one person commented that Quakers must not be very good at promotion, because he had never heard anything about this religion! Cynthia is now promoting the Quaker faith among non-Quakers in a big way! At one point, she stopped, winked and said to me, "We're bringing these two streams together!"

Lafayette Meeting Supports Minute on Nuclear Weapons Ban

We of Lafayette Friends Meeting would like to announce our support of a Minute by the Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Friends in Portland, OR supporting the United Nations Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. You can access the Minute at <https://tinyurl.com/MinuteWeaponsTreaty>. The letter we received asking for consideration of this Minute is below. We are distributing this widely in our Quaker and local communities and with our elected officials.

Yours in the Light,
Karen Atcheson
Clerk, Lafayette Friends Meeting

This email is being sent from Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Friends to share a Minute supporting the United Nations Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, which was approved in Meeting for Worship for Business on September 17, 2017. It is our intention to send it to all Quaker Monthly and Yearly Meetings and prominent institutions. You can access a copy of the Minute at <https://tinyurl.com/MinuteWeaponsTreaty>.

We are asking that all who identify as Quakers, if so led, join us in supporting the new United Nations Treaty which bans nuclear weapons, just as chemical and biological weapons are already banned.

Treaty negotiations were successfully concluded within the United Nations on July 7, 2017. On September 20, 2017, the new Treaty was opened for signature by heads of governments or Foreign Ministers. Fifty governments took the first step and signed the treaty on that first day and three have already submitted their documents to the United Nations for ratification. Once 50 nations have ratified, it will enter into force.

Relatively few of our fellow citizens in the United States – including many Quakers – are aware of this treaty. Our major media in this country have not reported on its development, nor have they encouraged open discussion of its significance or pros and cons of its 18 articles. Most other countries are already deeply engaged in this process.

We in Multnomah Monthly Meeting of Friends in Portland, Oregon encourage all Quaker Meetings and institutions to engage in educating ourselves and our fellow citizens on its existence. Let us now join together, seeking Divine guidance and proceeding as the way opens before us.

Additionally, we've produced a resource sheet that provides background information and links to more details about the Treaty, which you can access at <https://tinyurl.com/ResourcesWeaponsTreaty>

In the Light,
Jeff Love, Clerk of Multnomah Friends Meeting
Portland, OR

The Meetinghouse Library You Might Not Have Known About

by John Jeremiah Edminster, Clear Creek Meeting
shortlink: <https://wp.me/P6EeA-fp>

Do you find it hard to read the early Quaker writers because of all their allusions to Biblical language you have trouble identifying? Are there verses in Scripture that puzzle you, and you wonder what the “classical” Quaker writers (Fox, Fell, Penington, Barclay, Penn, etc.) had to say about them? The **Quaker Bible Index** (QBI) was created to help you with just these challenges. The QBI is an online reference tool that links verses of Scripture with early Quaker texts that reference them. As its creator, Esther Greenleaf Mürer, acknowledges, it’s “a work in progress,” and doesn’t yet index every book of the Bible, but it’s still actively under construction as of this writing (2018). It can be accessed at esr.earlham.edu/qbi/. All the early Quaker texts referenced are currently in print, with the exception of the eight-volume set of George Fox’s *Works*, reprinted in 1990 from the 1831 American Edition by the **New Foundation Fellowship** (nffquaker.org/). The NFF’s publishing ministry has also brought other Quaker classics back to light: www.foundationpublicationsnffusa.org/publications/.

Many of the works referenced by the QBI that are now in print are *also available online* at the **Quaker Heritage Press** website, www.qhpress.org/. But even early Quaker texts that have been out of print for centuries – including that 1831 edition of Fox’s works – are accessible *and searchable* in the **Digital Quaker Collection** (DQC) created by Earlham School of Religion, esr.earlham.edu/dqc/. By “searchable,” we mean that this collection of hundreds of titles allows the investigator to key in a word or phrase (for example, “carnal weapons,” or “What canst thou say?”) and see where it occurs in the works of one author, *or* the whole collection, *or* any subset of the collection.

This means that if you’re a pastor writing a sermon on Matthew 5:44 (“Love your enemies”) and you want to know how Isaac Penington (1616-1679) used it, you can navigate to the “Matthew 5” webpage in the **QBI** and have your answer within seconds. If you want to know how Thomas Chalkley (1675-1741) used it, you can call up the “simple search” option in the **DQC**, key in “Love your enemies” (don’t forget the quotation marks!), and select “Chalkley, Thomas.” Alternatively, call up “Bible search” and key in “Matthew 5:44.” The difference is that Penington’s works are now in print (hence you *may* use the QBI) and Chalkley’s aren’t (hence you *must* use the DQC).

But these online texts, and online search utilities, aren’t just for pastors, or for Quakers, or for students of the Bible. They’re for seekers of all kinds. The Quakers of those early years lived lives transformed by personal encounters with the Light of the living Christ. They still speak to us today, through writings now accessible to anyone with a computer and an internet connection. It’s the virtual Quaker meetinghouse library you might not have known about, and it’s open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

FGC Announces Welcoming Friend Project to Help Quaker Meetings Adopt Inclusive Welcoming Practices

First identified as a need at the Second Consultation on Spiritual Deepening held February 5-7, 2015 in Georgia, the Welcoming Friend Project is now moving forward thanks to the many Friends who attended the consultation and led the initial development of this project. FGC would also like to share its appreciation for the members of the Spiritual Deepening Working/Advisory Group who have stewarded this project for the past few years. We're also very grateful to the Marshall Reynolds Foundation and the Tyson Fund for funding The Welcoming Friend Project so that we can now move from concept to implementation.

The Welcoming Friend Project is a part of the Spiritual Deepening program at FGC and is connected to the efforts of the Ministry on Racism program. One goal of the Spiritual Deepening program is to help newcomers interested in Quaker faith and practice learn the foundation of our spiritual tradition at their own pace. Obtaining a working understanding of Quaker faith and practice requires immersion in community. Further, a very specific goal of this project is to create a climate in more meetings where People of Color are embraced as part of the worshipping community. Allied to this, work will also be done to help meetings be more welcoming to people of all ages, incomes, sexual orientations and more.

In a few words, the Welcoming Friend Project will review, test and evaluate practices for welcoming newcomers with the goal of sharing effective practices with Friends meetings. This will help introduce newcomers to the depth of Quaker faith and practice while bringing them into the life of the meeting. To achieve this, the Welcoming Friend Project, over the period of a year and working with Yearly Meeting partners, will aggregate and create a collection of resources, an online training module (eRetreat), and a workshop at the 2019 Gathering, all geared toward helping more Friends in monthly and yearly meetings adopt welcoming practices. An additional goal of the project is to create a community of Welcoming Friends that will continue the work after the initial project phases are over by maintaining and updating the resource collection, while offering online trainings and Gathering workshops on an ongoing basis. The program design and end-products may shift as the work unfolds and Friends give additional input. In this way, we hope to maximize the good that we can co-create. More information on the Welcoming Friend Project will be available on the FGC website in March after we've hired the Welcoming Friend Project Assistant.

Sent by Susan Lee Barton

OVYM Website as a Resource

Our Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website is a source of information, events, and documents. If you are looking for something, try our website. You want our up to date Faith and Practice document, the recent Executive Committee minutes, Quaker job postings, upcoming events, or registering for the upcoming Annual Sessions? Check out our website. Search for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting or <http://quaker.org/legacy/ovym/>. If you have suggested updates to the information on a particular page, click the [Website Administrator](#) link on the bottom right of each page to contact Lonny Burger, the Website Administrator. *From Deborah Jordan*

Friends General Conference Gathering 2018 “The Power of Truth”

July 1-7 at the University of Toledo, in Toledo, Ohio.

Gathering information at tinyurl.com/18gathering

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/FGCRegistration>

Friends Committee on National Legislation 75th Anniversary

“FCNL has worked to realize the world we seek, lobbying Congress and the federal government to advance peace and justice for 75 years. We began lobbying against conscription and for aid to war-torn Europe in the midst of World War II, yet from the beginning Friends had a bigger vision - to plant the seeds of changes for a more peaceful and just world that might take decades to grow...

<https://www.fcnl.org/timelines/full/working-for-the-world-we-seek-for-75-years-1>

Midwest AFSC Digest

Earlham students break for justice. “There is a community working on making things better, and there is strength in collaboration,” said an Earlham College student involved in this year’s Alternative Spring Break with AFSC in Indiana and Chicago. <https://www.afsc.org/story/earlham-students-connect-justice-work-spring-break>

Hundreds support Gaza at hearing, celebration in Indy. AFSC hosted a remarkable “Hearing in the Heartland” ... in Indianapolis. Check out this video and these photos of community panelists and expert speakers ... Following the hearing, people celebrated Palestinian culture, food and music — and also posed for #HeartlandToGaza photos.

<http://gazaunlocked.org/hearing-heartland>

<https://tinyurl.com/heartlandtogaza>

Dayton program steps up work with African immigrants.

Migwe Kimemia, AFSC Program Director in Dayton, reports that the recently-appointed New African Immigrants Commission in Ohio will soon start making visits to communities around the state, starting with Dayton. *Source: emails from Jon Krieg*

SAVE THE DATE Oct 20-21 Joint Quarterly Meeting

Hosted by Whitewater Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow Children’s Camp, near Nashville, Indiana.

Indiana Yearly Meeting

“Where Love Grows” will be the theme of the 197th session of Indiana Yearly Meeting scheduled for July 26-28, 2018, at Quaker Haven Camp.

From IYM Communicator

IFCL News

Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation recently screened a video in Indianapolis on predatory lending. In an email Tom Roberts says, “... your voice will be needed in the coming months to protect economically vulnerable citizens from the predatory lending industry. Please take advantage of this opportunity to become more informed so we can keep up the pressure on lawmakers. A short film trailer can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yi_Sf6ScA4w.” 2018 Summaries of legislative activities can be found on the website at: <http://www.quakerifcl.org/>

New from INNER LIGHT BOOKS

Charles H. Martin, Publisher

Primitive Christianity Revived

I am pleased to announce the release of the twelfth publication from Inner Light Books, *Primitive Christianity Revived*, by William Penn, translated into modern English by Paul Buckley. William Penn outlines in only a few dozen pages the beliefs and behaviors that define the Friends' way of life. The simplicity and precision of Penn's description is unsurpassed in the three centuries since it was first published, but seventeenth-century English vocabulary and grammar have obscured his message. In this new edition, Paul Buckley has translated *Primitive Christianity Revived* into modern English, revealing the straightforward clarity of Penn's reasoning for a new generation.

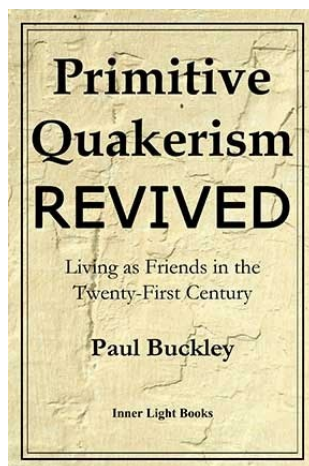
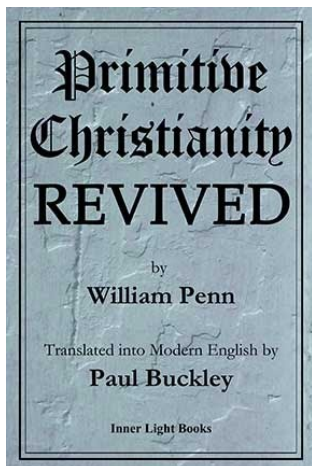
William Penn's classic 1696 work, *Primitive Christianity Revived*, describes how the ways of the early Christian church as established by Jesus and his apostles had been restored "in the Faith and Practice of the People called Quakers." Central to this short treatise is the Quaker belief in the reality of "the Light of Christ in Man, as the Manifestation of God's Love for Man's Happiness." This doctrine, he wrote, distinguished the Religious Society of Friends from all other Christians, and "as the Fingers shoot out of the Hand, and the Branches from the Body of the Tree; So True Religion, in all the Parts and Articles of it, Springs from this Divine Principle in Man." This book was written by a Christian Quaker to other Christians, and it remains an invaluable resource for twenty-first-century Quakers and Christians.

Paul Buckley is a Quaker historian and theologian, well-known among Friends of all stripes for his workshops, short courses, and retreats. He has written books on William Penn, Elias Hicks, and the Lord's Prayer; and co-edited *The Quaker Bible Reader*.

To order
Primitive Christianity Revived
by William Penn

Translated into Modern English by Paul Buckley
Hardcover, ISBN 978-0-9998332-0-9, \$25,
Paperback, ISBN 978-0-9998332-1-6, \$15

Go to Inner Light Books
website, www.innerlightbooks.com.



Primitive Quakerism Revived

I am pleased to announce the release of the thirteenth publication from Inner Light Books, *Primitive Quakerism Revived*, by Paul Buckley. *Primitive Quakerism Revived* challenges contemporary Friends in each of the Society's branches to reexamine their fundamental beliefs and practices, to identify the changes and additions that have been made in the past three and a half centuries, and to acknowledge which of those are unacceptable compromises that need to be abandoned. This book is a plea to reclaim the essential Quaker principles and mission by modeling a joyfully faithful community of God.

The Religious Society of Friends arose as a passionate missionary movement in the 1650s and suffered through decades of persecution before gaining legal toleration in 1689. The new religious sect questioned the fundamental values and underlying principles of English society, pointedly challenging the social, political, and religious status quo. From its inception, members of the Society felt divinely called to model a God-centered alternative to the surrounding culture. Outwardly, this was manifested by such things as distinctive ways of dressing and unique forms of speech. Inwardly, Friends were characterized by their faithful dependence on the immediate direction of the Inward Light of Christ in all aspects of their lives. As the years passed, the outward forms dropped away and the peculiarities of the Quaker way of life gradually disappeared. While in some ways Friends today continue to resist "the world's ways," they have largely accommodated themselves to the forms, customs, and standards of the peoples they live among.

Paul Buckley is a Quaker historian and theologian, well-known among Friends of all stripes for his workshops, short courses, and retreats. He has written books on William Penn, Elias Hicks, and the Lord's Prayer; and co-edited *The Quaker Bible Reader*.

To order
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Hardcover, ISBN 978-0-9998332-2-3, \$25,
Paperback, ISBN 978-0-9998332-3-0, \$15

Go to Inner Light Books
website, www.innerlightbooks.com.

If you have any questions about the publishing program of Inner Light Books contact me by email, editor@innerlightbooks.com or write: Editor, Inner Light Books, [54 Lapidge Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, USA](http://54LapidgeStreet.com).

Charles H. Martin, Publisher
Bearing witness to the Light that lighteth everyone who comes into the world.

Faith and Practice Revision

There were some lightly edited texts from the 1978 edition of our *Faith and Practice* in the February *Quill*. Such texts are printed in the *Quill* before being adopted for the revised *Faith and Practice*. Unfortunately, some of the text of the section entitled “Establishment and Relation of Meetings” <https://tinyurl.com/F-PM Meetings> was omitted. The material below restores the missing text. The other sections in the *Quill* were correct as printed.

Thank you.

Betsy Neale and Rex Sprouse, Faith and Practice Committee co-clerks

Establishment and Relation of Meetings

The Establishment of Meetings

Friends and seekers who find themselves at a distance from an established monthly meeting may find spiritual sustenance by forming a worship group. These groups often meet in the home of one of the attenders. A worship group is typically not affiliated with any monthly, quarterly or yearly meeting.

A worship group that desires the company and support of other Friends and wants to be recognized as Quaker as defined by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice should request to become a preparative meeting under the care of the nearest OVYM monthly meeting. If the monthly meeting agrees to receive this charge, a defined group of monthly meeting members should be selected to assume the responsibility of organizing the preparative meeting and reporting frequently to the monthly meeting.

Without first becoming a preparative meeting, a worship group could appeal directly to the quarterly meeting to be recognized as a monthly meeting.

A monthly meeting is established by action of its quarterly meeting. The quarterly meeting should investigate and give due consideration to any group requesting to be organized into a new monthly meeting. The quarterly meeting may appoint a committee to render assistance and advice to the group forming a new monthly meeting. This committee should give regular progress reports to the quarterly meeting. Among other considerations, the committee should verify that the new group's members are familiar with the OVYM Faith and Practice and that the meeting is organized according to it.

The quarterly meeting may continue its oversight for a year after the establishment of any new meeting, in order to strengthen and aid the members in carrying their new responsibilities.

New monthly meetings are typically formed in one of the four following situations:

- The preparative and its monthly meeting agree it is time to recommend that the quarterly meeting recognize the preparative meeting as a new monthly meeting. In this case, it is likely that most of the work of oversight of the new meeting has already been accomplished. Officers and members of the new monthly meeting should be recorded at the quarterly meeting session where the new monthly meeting is approved. certificates of transfer from the overseeing monthly meeting to the new meeting are not required.
- A worship group that appeals directly to the quarterly meeting for recognition as a new meeting for worship places a larger responsibility on the quarterly meeting to investigate that good order is being used among the attenders. The quarterly meeting should appoint a committee for advice and counsel. Officers and new meeting members should be recorded at the quarterly meeting session where the new meeting is approved. An attender who is a member in good standing at another monthly meeting must request a certificate of transfer to the new meeting.
- If the membership of any monthly meeting should consider it advantageous to separate into two monthly meetings, or to establish a new Meeting, they should propose to the quarterly meeting that an approved group of members be set off to constitute the new monthly meeting. Certificates of transfer between the two meetings are not required. The quarterly meeting should appoint a committee to be present at the reorganization to assist in making necessary property adjustments between the two meetings.
- A group of Friends who are members of various monthly meetings that desire to organize a new monthly meeting should bring their request before the quarterly meeting with which they wish to be associated. The quarterly meeting which approves the request is directed to appoint a committee to be present and assist, if necessary, in the organization of the new meeting. Each attender of the new meeting shall request a certificate of membership transfer from his or her monthly meeting to be forwarded to the newly appointed clerk.

A quarterly meeting may be established either upon the initiative of the Yearly Meeting or upon approval of the Yearly Meeting of a request from one or more monthly meetings, or from a quarterly meeting that desires to be divided into two quarterly meetings. The Yearly Meeting, in any case, should appoint a committee to be present and assist if necessary in the organization.

Discontinuance of Meetings

If it becomes desirable, in the judgment of the constituent members of any meeting, to discontinue it, or to unite with another, the request should be laid before the meeting to which it reports. The request should be considered and, if approved, a committee should be appointed to assist in making the necessary business arrangements, and in the case of the closing of a monthly meeting, to arrange for the proper transfer of individual memberships to another meeting. Information of such action should be forwarded promptly through the proper channels to the Yearly Meeting.

A preparative meeting should not be discontinued, or suspended, without first consulting the monthly meeting of which it forms a part; a monthly meeting should, in like manner, obtain the approval of the quarterly meeting, and a quarterly meeting should refer a similar request to the Yearly Meeting.

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Reversion of Property

If a preparative meeting ceases to exist, all its records and property shall be transferred and conveyed to the monthly meeting of which it is a part. If a monthly meeting ceases to exist, all its records and property shall be transferred and conveyed to the quarterly meeting of which it is a part. If a quarterly meeting ceases to exist, all its records and property shall be transferred and conveyed to the Yearly Meeting of which it is a part. If two monthly meetings or two quarterly meetings merge or consolidate, all the property of both shall be held by the merged meeting.

Such transfer and conveyance shall be authorized by an appropriate minute, duly recorded, and the assignment, transfer and deed of conveyance shall be executed and delivered by the terminating meeting before such meeting is formally laid down or disbanded, or, in the case of merged or consolidated meetings, at the time thereof.

In the event that such action is not taken by such meetings before they are laid down, merged or consolidated, the monthly meeting, the quarterly meeting, or the Yearly Meeting entitled to receive any such records and property shall be the equitable owner thereof, and shall be entitled forthwith to require the assignment of conveyance of the legal title thereto, to be held by such monthly, quarterly, or Yearly Meeting under and upon the same trusts as the records and property have been theretofore held, if it is practicable that such trusts be carried out; otherwise, upon trusts similar thereto as the successor meeting may determine. No records or meeting property shall be distributed or partitioned among the individual members of a meeting.

All moneys invested in the properties referred to having been contributed for the purpose of maintaining meetings and/or burial grounds under the care of Friends, a moral obligation is laid upon us to see that this purpose is served, even though particular meetings may no longer exist. Upon the meetings receiving such property the obligation rests to receive and provide care for properties and burial grounds conveyed to them.

The Executive Committee is directed to assist meetings in placing their meeting properties in suitable trusteeships, if desired. Funds and/or properties may be turned over to the township trustees, historical societies or other appropriate organizations if it is considered that better care will be obtained in this manner than through the Yearly Meeting structure.



The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative announces plans for their 5th Annual Conference & Retreat 17-19 August 2018 at Powell House, 524 Pitt Hall Road Old Chatham, NY 12136

Religious Education in Action: *Activism, Outreach and Parenting*

- How do we take the lessons of Quaker religious education beyond the meetinghouse?

- Where do life-long spiritual formation and activism, outreach, and Quaker parenting intersect?

We encourage you to ask your local and yearly meeting to invest in the ministry of Quaker RE by supporting your attendance.

The program includes:

- Worship in the manner of programmed and unprogrammed Friends.
- Gather and network with Friends from across the Americas who come to share their emergent work.
- Panel and Discussion, Workshops, Interest Groups
- Bonfire evening and swimming in the pond!
- Fellowship, learning, and joy!

Registration is open on the Powell House website: powellhouse.org. Printable flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/yb9qa7hj>

Shared Room \$275 • Commuter \$210 • Saturday Daytime Only \$125 (2 meals) Younger Friends are welcome and child care will be available upon request. Infant to 12 yrs \$58, 13 to 22 \$115. (All adult rates include a program fee and a \$5 QREC membership fee.) Find more information about QREC and this event at www.quakers4re.org and www.facebook.com/Quakers4RE.

Please email questions to QREC at quakercollaborative4re@gmail.com.

Source: email from quakercollaborative4re@gmail.com

News from Monthly Meetings

Community

We made it through the long winter. On Feb. 4th, First Day School sponsored a simple meal for our potluck, a.k.a. carry in, which ends up being a “somewhat simple” meal because not everyone gets the message. The good news is the young people raised \$134 for Right Sharing of World Resources from contributions for the meal. On Feb. 18th, we had a full house (not of cards but of people) for Miami Quarter with a program by Rachel Ernst Stahlhut about deepening in the Spirit. Meanwhile, the younger people in attendance enjoyed a trip to the zoo that Community Friends hosted. On Feb. 25th, the director of the local Harriet Beecher Stowe House gave us an excellent presentation ; you might consider inviting her to your Meeting. On March 11, a member’s son installed a Little Free Library near our front sidewalk. He built it from much that was recycled, which we appreciate as we recycle a number of items (from empty plastic pill bottles to tennis shoes) at our Meeting already.



Young people hanging out at the zoo during Miami Quarter

For the month of April, a number of us celebrated Earth Day month by planting 24 thornless blackberries, 4 apple tree varieties and 1 plum tree in our front yard. We gratefully received a \$500 grant for this project. We enjoyed the annual Easter Egg hunt at Meeting. And finally on April 8th, we had a post-Easter miracle when Frank Huss returned to Meeting bearing egg salad sandwiches. Happy Spring,

submitted by Deborah Jordan

Eastern Hills

At Eastern Hills Friends Meeting, we have held several recent second hours led by Franchot Ballinger and Dale Hayes in which we have focused on Quaker Foundations. We have discussed the beginnings of Religious Society of Friends in England, its development in the United States, and many of its core practices.

On Saturday April 14th, we hosted a joint retreat with Friends from Campus Meeting. A short get acquainted session was followed by a group discussion of Rex Ambler’s *Living in Dark Times* (Pamphlet #447) led by Patricia Thomas. Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious lunch organized by Linda Coppock and sang hymns accompanied by J.P. Lund on the piano. The retreat concluded with worship sharing based on a query from the Ambler pamphlet followed by worship.



The Quaker Quill

We welcomed our newest member, Linda Sears, who transferred from Campus Meeting. We are also blessed to have several new regular attenders to our meeting.

Congratulations were extended to Madeleine Murray on successfully completing her baccalaureate at the University of Cincinnati. We celebrated by having lunch and cake after Meeting for Worship. We wish her all success as she embarks on a career in dietetics.



As we do every month that has five Sundays, a Meeting for Healing was held on April 29th following the Meeting for Worship.

submitted by Eric Heineke

Miami

Easter Program. April 1st (Easter Sunday Morning), Miami got together for its annual Easter breakfast in the Red Brick Meetinghouse. Worship was followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Friends Burial Ground.

Food Pantry. Miami continues to work with the Waynesville Area Food Pantry. We keep a basket in the Meetinghouse and as donations come in, Jeanette Rockwell delivers them to the Pantry. The Episcopal Church that maintains the Pantry can take in just about anything (except clothing and furniture) and distribute it to those in need. Knowing that individuals and families have needs throughout the year, and not just during the holidays, our contributions to the Pantry has been expanded to a year-round program.

Annual Fort Ancient Worship and Picnic. Our annual Worship and Picnic at Fort Ancient is scheduled for July 15th. Members of Meetings in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are invited to join us. We will gather at 10 a.m. for worship with the picnic to follow. Please enter via the driveway to the Caretaker's house and follow the signs to the pavilion. Those wishing to tour the grounds of this historic Native American site are welcome to do so following the picnic.

Baby Shower for Kaitlin Morrison. Kaitlin Morrison's baby shower is tentatively planned for the 1st Sunday in June. Kaitlin is a long-time attender who has supported the Meeting with her time and talent.

submitted by Lonny Burger

North Meadow Circle of Friends

Our weekly meeting for worship is well attended and enriched by Friend's messages inspired by the Spirit. In addition, we gather monthly at each other's homes for worship sharing and every other First Day for a Spiritual Deepening exercise.

First Day School is stable and growing, with about 10 young people attending periodically. School is divided into two classes, one for teens and another for elementary age and younger. An adhoc committee led by parents enthusiastically guides First Day School and have invited adults to contribute to a Gifts of Faith booklet that shares prayers and spiritual words of support to a booklet for the children.

We are blessed to have two children born into the meeting. One of the parents introduced a simple but moving baby welcoming ceremony from his home meeting in North Carolina. The joy that morning contrasted with the loss of two members of our community this winter, Denny Troth and Joyce Felton.

North Meadow has begun discernment around the meeting house that has served us for thirty years. We are weighing our attachment to this place with the expenses of necessary repairs, as well as considering how this building serves our growing meeting.

submitted by Lamont Hulse

Oxford

The meeting has begun a series of inreach discussions, reflecting on the qualities of our meeting. This sharing has been very meaningful to us. We are grateful to Mike and Nani Ball for hosting our annual Spring Fling potluck. Ian Murray (to be in the Earlham class of 2022!) gave a presentation on Norman Borlaug and the "green revolution". We collected donations for the homeless in nearby Hamilton, OH. Four of us attended the Interfaith Festival, with food, music and fellowship, held at the building where we meet. We recently made a budget commitment to provide recycled paper products for the InterFaith Center to support sustainability, the IFC and our local food coop. Several of our members attended a public rally in support of students protesting gun violence. We are looking forward to leading the adult program at the next Miami Quarterly meeting in May.

submitted by Cecilia Shore

Yellow Springs

Yellow Springs has had two reading and study groups going at the start of this year. Our book club read "On Tyranny", by Timothy Snyder.

The YSFM reading group meets at the Friends Care Community, Assisted Living. We also began the *Experiment in the Light Group - An exploration in Quaker Spirituality*. This is a newly formed monthly group learning Rex Ambler's re-creation of early Quaker spiritual practice. The 6 step guided meditation invites the eternal light to search us and show us the truth about our lives.

Our meeting is continuing to lend our "Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions)" banner to other local churches to display in and around Yellow Springs. It is a real joy to see the banner and its message traveling through the area!

Yellow Springs Friends have taken on the Porch Collection project in cooperation with the Food Bank. The meeting is a collection point for items that are difficult to obtain with food stamps.

We recently enjoyed our annual intergenerational talent show where we all came together to celebrate our talents and share with each other.

As the school year draws to a close our children's programs are winding down. Our last day for first day school will be the last Sunday of May.

We extend a warm invitation to all OVYM members and attenders to come visit and worship with us!

submitted by Heather Snediker-Morscheck

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

3960 Winding Way

Cincinnati, OH 45229

We're on the web:
ovym.quaker.org

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Contact: quakerquill@gmail.com

Cecilia Shore, editor.

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