

Friends General Conference Observer Report to PYM Annual Session 2019

Friends General Conference offers many different programs to anyone interested in topics related to Quakerism. These include:

The Annual Gathering: This year in Grinnell, Iowa, June 30-July 6, 2019, “Peace in Our Hearts, Justice in the World,” Worship, workshops, singing, cafeteria meals, evening speakers, children’s programs and more. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

The Quaker Bookstore, which is available online; their site contains suggestions for Quaker-related books to read in a column called “Our Picks.” They also have book reviews of books on topics related to Quaker themes, and you can write a book review and perhaps have it printed in their column. Another column re-prints the book reviews printed in *Friends Journal*.
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/bookstore>

Building Intergenerational Communities: with The Build-It Toolkit, a set of resources, available online from FGC, and designed to help build intergenerational communities.
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/building-intergenerational-community-0>

FGC Publications: FGC publishes primarily through Quaker Press of FGC, whose publications are on topics that address one or more of FGC’s goals. Titles include our own Anthony Manousos’ *Howard and Anna Brinton*. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/fgc-publications>

Grants for Meetinghouse Repairs and Upgrades: offers support for meetings seeking help in making repairs and effecting energy efficient upgrades. They list projects that have been supported by their grants. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/grants-meeting-house-repairs-and-upgrades>

Help for Meetings to Challenge Racism: There’s a section of the FGC website that has a number of resources to help us to begin thinking about how to challenge racism in our meetings and what to do if we feel drawn to this work. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism>

Loans Through Friends Meeting House Fund: Quaker meetings can apply for a loan from the Friends Meeting House Fund for renovating, constructing, or purchasing a meeting house. Since 2017, these loans are arranged through Everance.
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/loans-through-friends-meeting-house-fund>

Resources for Adults interested in Religious Education are located in the “Resources for Adults” section. Included here is information about the Spiritual Deepening series of workshops that FGC has been developing as an online resource for friends wanting to study various topics more intensely, either in an online or an in-person group.
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/resources-adults>

The **Resources for Children section** includes a number of different resources to use for religious education of children, including items from the FGC *Faith & Play* Series, and from the *Sparkling Still* series. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/resources-children>

Quaker Cloud: an FGC resource that allows meetings to maintain a website; to archive, search and share meeting minutes with members and, if they choose, with the public; and offers an option to create a directory where members maintain their own information and it’s easy to print a new version. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/quaker-cloud>

With warm regards,

Heather Levien, PYM’s Observer to FGC Central Committee