

Committees of the Yearly Meeting

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN COMMITTEE

This is not the Children's Program Committee, q.v.

The purpose of this committee is to help Meetings and families foster their children's spiritual growth, sense of community, and knowledge of Quaker faith and practice. This committee is responsible for furthering religious education for children in the Monthly Meetings. It is concerned with curricula, programs, activities and information about First Day Schools. It provides assistance through various means such as publications, interest groups, regional gatherings, and visitations as opportunity and need arise. Its focus is to increase worshipful connection and sharing among those who are concerned to share Friends' faith with children. It is available on request for information and assistance.

The committee does not limit its work to First Day School content, but may include related areas such as the place of children in Meeting, Quaker parenting, preschool and teenage religious education.

The committee consists of six members who serve overlapping three-year terms, with two members appointed annually. The committee meets during the annual session and will also meet twice during the year for weekend retreats, once in the northern Quarter and once in the south. Place of meeting varies and accessibility needs are accommodated.

Tasks

- Holds workshops and interest groups at the annual session for those in Monthly Meetings doing First Day School work. Provide a bulletin board toward the end of the session to facilitate arranging of two weekend retreats during the year.
- Maintains a presence at Quarterly Meetings in the form of interest groups and/or display tables.
- Gathers and shares resources relating to children's religious education
- Communicates to share ideas and problems and to publicize materials and programs
- May conduct surveys of Quarterly Meetings
- Visits Monthly Meetings, at the request of the Meeting.
- Provides liaison with other committees and groups such as Unity with Nature, JYM, Ben Lomond Quaker Center
- The committee uses e-mail and telephoning among members and with Meetings. It keep minutes of committee meetings and makes written reports to PYM.