



**Quaker Earthcare
Witness
Spring Gathering
25-28 April 2024**

Agenda*

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81561169403?pwd=bG1idTFGTtJFSXBlaHVxZktpUkZLdz09>

**Meeting ID: 815 6116 9403
Passcode: 480616**

**Theme: Finding Our Prophetic Voice
fifth day, fourth month (thursday 25 april)**

****All listed times are Eastern Time (for example, 2 pm Eastern is the same as 1 pm Central, 12 Mountain, 11 am Pacific, 3 pm Atlantic, 8 am Hawaii-Aleutian)***

5:30 - 6:00 PM Orientation for Newcomers (all are invited)

6:00 - 7:00 PM Meeting for Worship for Business #1

Clerks' Table: *Elaine Emmi, Suellen Lowry, and Beverly Ward; Ruah Swennerfelt, Ruth Darlington, and Spiritual Nurturance*

- Introduction, Greetings, and Overview of Agenda and Theme
- Reading of Aspirations, Community Safety Agreement, and Reflections on Racial Equity Query as a theme of our work as a community
- Concerns and joys
- Business agenda: questions/comments for committees as related to reports (see documents in advance) (**NOT A DISCUSSION**)
- First reading of any action items

15-minute break

7:15- 8:45 Welcoming Introductory Circle: What Comes to Mind When You Hear QEW?

sixth day, fourth month (friday 26 april)

All listed times are Eastern Time

11:30 – 12:00 PM Meeting for Worship

12:00 – 1:00 PM Worship Sharing

We will review worship sharing guidelines and queries together, then go into breakout rooms.

10-minute break

1:10 – 3:10 PM Meeting for Worship for Business #2

- Staff Presentation
- Questions/comments for committees and working groups as related to reports (see documents in advance) (**NOT A DISCUSSION**)
- First reading of any action items or second reading and testing of any action items
- Discussion on Membership and the Sense of Belonging
- Concerns and joys
- More about Daniel

30-minute break – breakout rooms for informal conversations

3:40 – 4:40 PM Cross-Pollination: Round 1

Open-Ended Questions to Guide Discussion

10-minute break

4:50 – 5:50 PM Cross-Pollination: Round 2

Open-Ended Questions to Guide Discussion

1 hour and 10-minute break

Zoom room will be left open for informal conversations

7:00 – 8:30 PM Speaker

8:30-9:00 PM Discussion/Fabulous Revelations

seventh day, fourth month (saturday 27 april)

All listed times are Eastern Time

11:30 – 12:00 PM Meeting for Worship

12:00 – 1:00 PM Quaker Discussion

[how can QEW strengthen our democracy/encourage people to vote for Mother Earth]

10-minute break

1:10 – 2:10 PM Cross-Pollination: Round 3

Open-Ended Questions to Guide Discussion

2:10 – 3:10 PM Cross-Pollination: Round 4

Open-Ended Questions to Guide Discussion

10-minute break

3:20 – 4:30 PM Further Work on Aspirations/Test Minutes?

30-minute break

5:00 – 6:15 PM Google Suite Workshop

6:15 - 7:30 PM Open Forum

- 15-minute slots for new ideas, small presentations, etc. (Please provide brief report to clerks by 22 April Thank you!)
 - FCNL working group and QEW clerks: FCNL priorities submission from QEW
 - Brief Review of Publications

first day, fourth month (sunday 28 april)

All listed times are Eastern Time

11:30 – 12:00 Meeting for Worship

12:00 – 1:00 PM Worship Sharing in breakout groups

10-minute break

1:10 – 2:10 PM Summary & Next Steps from Vision Work

10-minute break

2:10-3:00 PM Meeting for Worship for Business #3 and Closing Worship

Clerks' Table: *Elaine Emmi, Suellen Lowry, and Beverly Ward, Ruah Swennerfelt, Ruth Darlington. (Spiritual Nurturance)*

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Evaluation

Thank you, Friends!

Organizational Aspirations

Approved 29 Ninth Month (September) 2018

Improve recognition of Quaker Earthcare Witness within the Religious Society of Friends and beyond.

- Increase Staff and Steering Committee attendance at Quaker gatherings: FGC, FCNL, QIF, AFSC, FUM, FWCC, Climate Disruption Group, and more
- Continue involvement: UN Conference of the Parties, UN side events, Global Climate Action Summit, Climate Fourth Month (April), etc.
- Get articles published: Friends Journal, Western Friend, etc.

Reach out to young adult friends: 18-40 years old

- Reconstruct the Quaker Earthcare Witness website
- Create the website so as to function on cell phones
- Participate in projects led by young Friends
- Support youth lawsuits on climate as they are brought to our attention
- QEW video project: 90 second promotional piece
- Outreach to Yearly Meetings with Youth Coordinators

Expand our network to include more People of Color and increase focus on Environmental Justice concerns.

- Each issue of Befriending Creation to include relevant articles, and invite People of Color to contribute articles;
- Share relevant articles via social media; include these concerns in our public speaking;
- Seek out and support related projects and campaigns within the Society of Friends and beyond.

Expand our network of Monthly and Yearly Meetings.

- Visiting ambassadors (establish and fund a speakers' bureau);
- Mailing to selected meetings with phone follow-up;

- Reach out to Yearly Meetings who have not been a part of QEW. ·

Reach out to any Monthly Meeting that is not already part of our

network, but they are a part of a YM with a Representative. · Reach out to those Monthly Meetings that do not belong to a Yearly Meeting. · Create promotional and distribute materials for Representatives to take to their Yearly Meetings

Continue Steering Committee meetings as a place of inspiration and nurturing.

- Maintain a mix of business, committees and working groups, and presentations, worship sharing; regionally mixed locations and meetinghouses when available
- Working Groups and Committees are urged explore how to expand their work to a wider community;
- Form small ad hoc groups to propose projects that would expand our current reach (youth, outreach to specific sectors, etc.)
- Address behaviors (e.g., being prepared, following QEW's established processes, operating in the manner of Friends) that inhibit discernment and getting the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness done.
- Adopt Quaker ways of addressing these inhibitors include: eldering; self-clerking; supporting the Clerk's table with appreciation, reinforcement; develop clerking consciousness
- Focus on the needs of the Quaker Earthcare Witness community
- Develop means to address conflicts within the QEW community.

Projects

- Develop projects for QEW network participation. Examples include: UN Working Group and Mini-Grants Working Group
- Increase fund raising across Friends; grants; crowd

sourcing Getting the work done and evaluating it

- Expand our capacity for work
- Bring forward many paths for growth including growing financially
- Recognizing that many of the goals require more

funding

- Maintain Statistics; Information on how effective QEW has been, the number of individuals, Monthly Meetings, Yearly Meetings are part of the QEW network, donations, etc.
- Survey how much Friends are engaged on Earthcare
- Increase Staff and staff benefits
- Determine the positions and hours required
- Develop means to increase funding to pay additional staff and programs
- Clarify how we are going to use the money.
- Create a Field Secretary for Earthcare
- Hire a Volunteer Coordinator
- Hire a Youth Coordinator
- Engage grant writer to seek funding sources from foundations.
- Increase our fund raising efforts
- Expand our donor base thru additional Monthly/Yearly Meetings
- Raise endowment money, \$150,000.
- Talk to our YM Reps about raising money through their contacts.

QEW Committees and Working Groups

Standing committees include Continuing Council Committee (made up of committee and working group clerks and staff), Spiritual Nurturance, Publications, Finance, Nominating, Outreach and Personnel Committees. Standing committees are permanent committees responsible for the administrative operations and the spiritual life of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Every member of the Steering Committee shall serve on a Standing Committee. The following committees will be meeting during our April 2023 Steering Committee sessions:

- a) Spiritual Nurturance Committee gives continuing attention to the need for all Quaker Earthcare Witness activities to be spiritually grounded and consistent with its statement of purpose. Clerk: Mary Ann Percy and Christopher Haines
- b) Publications Committee is responsible for implementing a policy of publications; reviewing of content, publication and distribution of printed materials, including *BeFriending Creation*, our regular newsletter, pamphlets and booklets; and overseeing the web site and social media sites. Clerk: Anita Camic
- c) Finance and Development Committee consists of the treasurer and at least two other persons from the Steering Committee. It recommends fiscal and accounting policy and contract terms for any salaried employee (in consultation with the Personnel Committee) and consults with the treasurer on the preparation of the budget. Clerk: David Ciscel
Treasurer: Patricia Finley
- d) Nominating Committee brings forward nominations for officers, clerks of standing committees, members-at-large of the Steering Committee, and any other positions referred to it. Clerk: Mary Jo Klingel and Tom Roberts
- e) Outreach Committee encourages individuals and groups to support Quaker Earthcare Witness through participation, communication, and/or financial contributions and assists Quaker Earthcare Witness committees and staff to stay in two-way communication with one another. Clerk:

The following committees will NOT be meeting during the Fourth Month (April) 2024 sessions:

Personnel Committee has oversight of the General Secretary and other

office personnel and coordinates with the Publications Committee on the oversight of the Director. It develops and updates personnel policies, reviews all staff members and recommends salary and benefits to the Finance Committee. Clerk: Tom Roberts and Elaine Emmi

Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of QEW has a focus on the bigger picture of QEW by holding space to ask: Are we staying faithful to our vision, witness, and purpose?; Are we reaching toward our Organizational Aspirations?; Are we inviting on-going revelation on where we need to be in these changing times?; and Are we designing Steering Committee meetings to move us forward? Ideally we would like the make-up of this committee to include staff, a Friend from each of the Standing Committees and others who feel led. Clerk: Roy Taylor

Working groups are sub-groups of Quaker Earthcare Witness that have concrete, ongoing programs but do not necessarily directly support the administrative operations or the spiritual life of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Existing working groups include: Population, United Nations, No Name, and Minigrants. The following working groups will be meeting during our April 2023 Steering Committee sessions:

- a. Minigrants offers matching grants to support projects that benefit the environment and/or promote environmental awareness and education among Friends and the larger spirit-led world. Clerk: Allen McGrew
- b. No Name Group meets virtually once a month, without a clerk or an agenda. The Group sits in silence, and listens respectfully to one another as we seek the larger truths that inform our environmental work. Convenor: Mary Jo Klingel
- d. Population Working Group seeks to inform and educate how human population and population growth impact our care of the Earth and to encourage action, when appropriate, to address these impacts. Clerk: Dick Grossman
- e. United Nations Working Group focuses on environmental justice, especially linked to UN programs and policies. Clerk: Frank Granshaw
- f. Friends Committee on National Legislation Working Group supports the work of FCNL's Energy and Environment program. Clerk: Ruth Darlington

QEW Vision & Witness

WE ARE CALLED to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God.

WE WORK to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the earth's ecological integrity.

WE PROMOTE these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the earth.

Purpose of Quaker Earthcare Witness

To search and to help others to search for that life which affirms the unity of all creation.

To apply and to help others to apply Friends' practice to live in deep communion with all life spirit.

To be guided by and to help others to be guided by the Light within us to participate in the healing of the earth.

To provide resources, networking, and support to yearly and monthly meetings of the Religious Society of Friends, and to others of whatever persuasion; to help them in their search for effective ways to achieve the above objectives.

To provide a reflective and energetic forum that will strengthen and deepen that spiritual unity with nature which values the integrity, diversity, and continuity of life on earth.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Goals

We seek to:

Nurture and share spirit inspired continuing revelation that awakens, transforms, and empowers effective action to meet the physical challenges we face.

Turn to our Friends' roots, develop a Friends' response plan, pose the right

queries and questions, and give us hope.

Work with other Quaker organizations, including: FCNL, QUNO and QIF to develop a strong Quaker voice and actions on living in right relationship.

Use our website and other social media to enable our constituency to share concerns and information on vital issues, tell our stories of what we are trying to do to address these problems, and help each other make the transformational changes that are necessary for us to address the ecological, social and spiritual crises that we face.