

# Work and Witness Groups: PYM Annual Sessions 2016

## Thursday Work & Witness Groups 2:30 PM

### **A Very Brief Introduction to the Bible**

"Be Transformed." The Bible relates many stories of transformations: Moses at the Burning Bush; the Israelites in the Wilderness; Elijah hearing a still small voice; the Transfiguration of Jesus; the Crucifixion and Resurrection and Paul's trip to Damascus. Why read the Bible? What is the Biblical Canon? What is the best translation? How do Quakers read the Bible? Some lecture, some handouts, some shared readings, some reflection and lots of discussion. Bring your favorite translation, your most troubling quote and join us as we dip our toes into this most fascinating book. Paul Joyce Collins Williams, Young Friends and Older

### **Deconstructing White Fragility: Nurturing Resilient Anti-Racist Practice in Our Daily Life**

We will explore the nature of White Fragility based on the article by Robin DiAngelo <http://robindiangelo.com/2014site/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/White-Fragility-Published.-1.pdf> We will do a Quaker text study of a key portion of the article, first journaling and then sharing in small groups. Out of those small group sharings we will build a list of practices for growing our capacity as white people (or as allies of white people working on becoming anti-racist) to increase the space in our culture for the true experiences of people of color to be expressed and heard and supported. Lucy Duncan and Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Open to all, focused on white folks. Young Friends and Older

### **Eco Justice 1: Walking the Talk**

How do we live faithfully, with integrity and power, as we face racism, injustice and environmental destruction on a global scale? What is our role in helping to birth a new economic system that promotes the common good for people and planet? Join the Eco-Justice Collaborative for a three-part series: 1) Walking the talk. What does it mean to walk the talk in our households and meeting communities? How can we make decisions more aligned with our values in terms of energy, water and resource use; what practical steps can we take, individually and corporately, to move toward using no more than our share? Part 2, on Friday is Race, Climate and Justice: We're all in this together. Part 3 on Saturday is Money and soul - How can we invest our money in a way that feeds our soul and that of others? Come to all three, come to just one! Pamela Haines and Eco-Justice Collaborative, Young Friends and older.

### **Experiment with Light**

At the FWCC Global Meeting in Peru, European Friends shared an "Experiment With Light" during a worship section. It was a simple yet powerful experience for many of us and involves a series of simple statements and queries about living in the Light. After studying the experience of early Friends and writings of George Fox, theologian Rex Ambler started using them in 1996 in Britain. These are used by European Friends to gently help focus and deepen a person's experience in an otherwise quiet setting. Friends may choose to talk about their experience after the series which generally takes about 35-40 minutes. Two sessions Thursday and Friday- sign up for one or both. Amy Duckett Wagner - Young Friends and Older

## **Extended Worship**

Extended worship is an option every day during work and witness workshop time.

## **Faith & Practice Revision Q & A 1**

Friends at annual sessions will be asked to accept the revised Faith & Practice. The Working Group would like to be available to Friends before and/or after that business session to describe our process, answer questions, hear comments, etc.. There will be two opportunities- on Thursday and on Friday,

## **Humanitarian De-mining 1**

Clearing land mines and explosive remnants of war is an expensive enterprise and most needed in countries that can least afford it. Our monthly meeting raises both funds for donating equipment to the field and awareness of the enormity of the problem. Programs like this have the potential to UNITE 'peace churches' with those taking stances for expansion of armaments. We can demonstrate that deploying mines or cluster bombs carries with it the responsibility of making one-time battlefields safe again for peaceful human activity. This session will repeat - sign up for either Thursday or Friday session. Schonstedt Instrument Company, Jack Mahon. Young Friends and Older.

## **Moving Into Mindfulness**

Body-mind awareness opens us to divine revelation whether in worship or doing the laundry. In this movement class for people at all levels of experience and ability, we'll practice Qigong, learn Vipassana (Insight) meditation, and re-member (literally) our divine nature. Discover how to bring your mindful movement experience into Quaker worship, and then into everyday living. Show up, slow down, and cultivate compassion as we relax and play together. There are two sessions of the same program planned, Friends are welcome to sign up for one or both sessions. Amy Ward Brimmer, Young Friends and older.

## **Policy Matters: Our Faith at Work in Government 1: Lobbying 101**

Lobbying 101 is the first session of the Legislative Collaborative three-part "Policy Matters" series. Lobbying 101 will offer basic skills in civic/governmental engagement: speaking to Quaker issues at community meetings during the November elections, using a "Roadmap" to organize a visit to a local congressional office, and practicing skills from FCNL's "Toolbox" of communication skills located on its website. These three sessions are offered to deepen a spiritual commitment to work for just and democratic government structures, and to practice the needed skills to engage their elected officials in an informed, prophetic, and strategic manner. We will explore basic and nuanced lobby and communication skills, reach out to our Congressional representatives on issues of concern to Friends, and design next steps for being in touch with others across our Yearly Meeting. Lobbying 201 on Friday will offer enhanced skills. Session Three on Saturday, Collaborating on Policy Change will explore "How can emerging and existing collaboratives and LPC work together to make our witness more powerful?" Friends may attend one, two or all three sessions. Mary Lou Hatcher, Lehigh Valley Meeting; Lynn Oberfield, Providence Meeting; Margaret Mansfield, Mt Holly Meeting. Young Friends and Older

## **Quaker Trainers in Nonviolence for the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project**

Quaker Trainers in Nonviolence for the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project --- History, Strategies and Role-Playing: Using power point, role-playing and discussion we tell the story of the Summer Project, using many first-hand materials from Charlie Walker, George Lakey, Bayard Rustin and Ross Flanagan particularly, teach strategies and benchmarks of nonviolence from their nonviolence training handbooks and then use the role-playing scenarios from their original notes to take participants through situations the young people took on in the Ohio training." Brenda Walker Beadenkopf and Valerie Walker Peery. Middle School and Older

### **Religious Education for Children and Adults: What are Friends called to do, and what do we need to carry out our leadings**

The purpose of this gathering will be to create a network of support for Religious Education programs or First Day School teachers in PYM. Friends will be asked to dig deep for what they are called to do with the Religious Education of Quaker children and adults and for what they need to carry out their leadings. Based on the needs of participants for material and spiritual support for what they are doing for their meetings, we will develop wellsprings of support which they can access. This workshop repeats on Thursday and Friday- sign up for one session only. Marty Smith. Young Friends and older.

### **The Invention of White People**

We will view a Youtube video by the author of the book, *The BIRTH OF A WHITE NATION: The Invention of White People and Its Relevance Today* (or parts thereof) then break into pairs to reflect on what we learned before engaging in a whole group discussion. Jacqueline Battalora is a lawyer and professor at St. Xavier University in Chicago. She is a well informed and engaging speaker. Amy Kietzman Beginner/Intermediate Young Friends and Older

### **What Can We Say?**

How do we speak to the millions of seekers in search of a spiritual home? What can we say to the world? How do we speak to the millions of seekers in search of a spiritual home? What do we offer to those who long for the gifts of the Spirit? Those are questions we must ask and answer today. Let's talk about growing Quakerism again. Alex Miller & Irene Oleksiw (Downingtown Monthly Meeting) Young Friends and Older.

### **What Children See - Working on Welcoming All!**

What Children See - Working on Welcoming All! will help Friends understand the role of undoing racism in religious education. Quaker Religious Ed Collaborative (QREC) members will lead the group in checking in about our hopes and our Meeting RE needs, presenting about what QREC has learned about 'undoing racism'. This will include small group exercises, queries, advices and resources with respect to ages and development. The facilitators will gather feedback on resources still in development. Sally Farneth, Joan Broadfield, and the Quaker Religious Ed Cooperative Undoing Racism project. Young Friends and Older

Friday Work & Witness Groups 2:30 PM

### **A Taste of Spiritual Formation Part 1**

This session allows people to become familiar with a program that enables participants to deepen their spiritual lives and build a more intimate covenant community. There will be experiential spiritual practices introduced and experiential exercises that invite people to look deeper into their own Truth, which could develop into lifelong practices that deepen the spiritual life of individuals, meetings, quarters and PYM. John Brady, Diane Kessler and Wanda Wyffels

### **A Tool to Dismantle Institutional Racism**

Diversity and inclusion initiatives often fall short of their intended goals. Though initiatives like corporate anti-racism training and outreach for our monthly meetings can help us increase our awareness, they don't create significant, sustainable change in our organizations—much less dismantle the institutionalized classism, and inherent racism and sexism in most institutions. This workshop proposes a way forward. Together, we will learn about and unpack Multicultural Organizational Development Theory (MCOOD), and the tools it provides to address systems, policies, and practices that can lead to systemic, long-term culture change in meetings and institutions. Though the workshop will focus on how these tools relate to organizations systems, we will also examine how MCOOD theory functions as both a moral imperative and spiritual discipline. We encourage anyone who is interested in developing concrete steps towards the realization of the beloved community to attend. (Open to all). Vanessa Julye and Richie Schulz for Young Friends and Older

### **Breakin' it down: exploring the interconnectivity of social justice, dance and human cellular biology**

Have you ever went to a party excited to dance, only to see everyone holding up the wall when you arrived? Have you ever decided against going to a party because you were unsure of your dancing abilities and the risk of embarrassment was too great to try? Have you ever come home from a party with sore feet do to the ability level of the other attendees? If any of these scenarios resonates with you, and even if they don't, come enjoy a workshop full of cohesive choreography. After learning a couple line dances, participants will be given the opportunity to compare and contrast the metaphorical similarities and differences of line dancing and social justice. Using the natural operation of cellular biology as a model for social interaction and a catalyst for conversation, we will explore the interconnectivity of social justice, dancing and human cellular biology. Noah White. Open to all.

### **Eco Justice 2: Race, Climate & Justice, We're all in this together.**

How do we live faithfully, with integrity and power, as we face racism, injustice and environmental destruction on a global scale? What is our role in helping to birth a new economic system that promotes the common good for people and planet? Race, Climate and Justice: We're all in this together is Part 2 of the Eco-Justice Collaborative's three-part series. It can be both humbling and stretching to reach deep for the underlying connections among these three big issues. In the process we may be enabled to shape our own projects and communications in a way that illuminates those connections and increases our reach. Part 1, Walking the talk is Thursday and Part 3 on Saturday is Money and soul - How can we invest our money in a way that feeds our soul and that of others? Come to all three, come to just one! Eco-Justice Collaborative, Young Friends and older

## **Experiment with Light 2**

At the FWCC Global Meeting in Peru, European Friends shared an "Experiment With Light" during a worship section. It was a simple yet powerful experience for many of us and involves a series of simple statements and queries about living in the Light. After studying the experience of early Friends and writings of George Fox, theologian Rex Ambler started using them in 1996 in Britain. These are used by European Friends to gently help focus and deepen a person's experience in an otherwise quiet setting. Friends may choose to talk about their experience after the series which generally takes about 35-40 minutes. Two sessions Thursday and Friday- sign up for one or both. Amy Duckett Wagner - Young Friends and Older

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## **Living up to our Light: Disrupting Racism and Co-creating Beloved Community**

O and Lucy will talk about evolutionary biology, imaginal cells and how we can work for real change in our communities and meetings together. We will watch a video about interrupting racism and make plans for deepening our practice as we work to transition to an anti-racist community. We will consider what co-creation looks like and how we can make visible what we hope to see emerge more broadly. Lucy Duncan and O Intermediate, Young Friends and Older

## **Mass Incarceration 1: A Discussion Leading to a Course of Action**

These sessions will provide Friends with the forum to understand mass incarceration, as well discern their best course of action to contribute to the end of this social phenomenon. The 1st session will be a course a discussion of Friend's concern related to mass incarceration via an open discussion. The 2nd session on Saturday will be helping Friends discern a course of action (i.e., involvement in AVP, prisoner visitation, volunteering to correspond with a prisoner, political engagement, etc.) Attend one or both sessions. Christopher A. Lucca, Young Friends and Older

## **Policy Matters: Our Faith at Work in Government 2: Collaborating on Policy Change**

Lobby 201 is the Second Session of the Legislative Collaborative "Policy Matters" series. We will offer enhanced skills: staying steady during difficult/contentious conversations, researching a Congressperson's record on a given issue, and putting steps in place for a continued relationship with one's Congressman. These three sessions are offered to deepen a spiritual commitment to work for just and democratic government structures, and to practice the needed skills to engage their elected officials in an informed, prophetic, and strategic manner. We will explore basic and nuanced lobby and communication skills, reach out to our Congressional representatives on issues of concern to Friends, and design next steps for being in touch with others across our Yearly Meeting. The first session, Lobbying 101 on Friday will offer basic skills in civic/governmental engagement: speaking to Quaker issues at community meetings during the November elections, Session Three on Saturday, Collaborating on Policy Change will explore "How can emerging and existing collaboratives and LPC work together to make our witness more powerful?" Friends may attend one, two or all three sessions. "Mary Lou Hatcher, Lehigh Valley Meeting; Lynn Oberfield, Providence Meeting; Margaret Mansfield, Mt Holly Meeting. Young Friends and Older

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The purpose of this gathering will be to create a network of support for Religious Education programs or First Day School teachers in PYM. Friends will be asked to dig deep for what they are called to do with the Religious Education of Quaker children and adults and for what they need to carry out their leadings. Based on the needs of participants for material and spiritual support for what they are doing for their meetings, we will develop wellsprings of support which they can access. This workshop repeats on Thursday and Friday- sign up for one session only. Marty Smith. Young Friends and older.

### **Showing Up #UnapologeticallyBlack in Quaker Spaces Session 1**

PYM Quaker spaces—meetinghouses, committees, organizations and schools—are invariably mostly white spaces. What does it mean to show up as an "unapologetically black" person in those spaces? This two-day workshop hopes to examine some of the forces at play, such as implicit bias and micro/macro-aggressions, and to explore why and how they are often part of our exchanges in Quaker spaces. We will use scenario-based breakout exercises as part of the journey. We will consider why close self-examination is important for all Quakers, and what we can do to mitigate the negative effects of how white Quakers interact with "unapologetically black" Friends, as we strive toward an inclusive, anti-racist Society of Friends. People of all racial, cultural and ethnic identities are invited to attend. While the workshop is geared toward interactions between black and white Friends, the material can be intersectionally applied to all Friendly interactions. The workshop is designed for those at an intermediate level in anti-racism work to stretch a little out of their comfort zone, as both familiar and potentially new concepts are explored. It is recommended that you sign up for both sessions. Intermediate, People of all racial, cultural and ethnic identities are invited to attend. Marille Thomas and Jennie Sheeks. Young Friends and Older

### **Supporting Individual Calls to Ministry: A Continuing Dialogue**

Do you personally feel a nudge to Spirit-led service and wonder how to begin? Do you carry a ministry and wish you knew how to ask for support? Do you want to know more about how to support someone following a leading? Can your meeting embrace ministry more fully? Come

explore with others the many facets of supporting individual calls to ministry. We will dive into this topic as a large group and then break out into smaller groups to interactively discover particular needs in each of these three spheres: self, other, and meeting. Sign up for one or both sessions. Amy Ward Brimmer, Lola Georg, Viv Hawkins, Hollister Knowlton Young Friends and older.

### **Welcome to newer YAFs! (aka YAF fun times hour)**

New(er) Young Adult Friends as well as more seasoned YAFs are invited to get together for an afternoon of fun & community building! Wonder what YAFs do outside of Annual Sessions? Find out, and join us in continuing to grow and strengthen our peer community! (Organized by the YAF Coordinator & YAF Pastoral Care & Outreach group!) Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt. This program is just for Friends 18-35-ish.

### **What's happening and can happen in public education today? Part 1**

Friends have long held a commitment to and interest in education, but many Friends have lost direct touch with what is happening in public schools today and rely more on the media for information, much of it biased. We wish to share first-hand experiences of public school educators, students and parents so Friends can create a broader understanding of the crisis in public education today and learn about ways to address these issues in two program sessions: This first session will focus on what is actually happening in public education within the PYM region and the challenges facing educators, parents and students using a simulation activity, spoken word presentations by students and video interviews of public school educators, students and parents. The second session on Saturday will focus on remedies- how Friends, meetings and Friends schools are already collaborating with and supporting public schools and a step by step training for participants to learn how to get involved in and/or initiate such a relationship with a public school. It is recommended that you sign up for both sessions. Public Education Group, Young Friends and Older.

### **White Supremacy? Building capacity for change** Joan Broadfield and Mimi Scalia

Through conversation, diads, concentric circles, journaling and/or artistic response in self exploration, we will explore the structure of racial dominance/ white supremacy, how it has shaped us and our culture; and we will look at strategies to interrupt the behaviors that continue to shape this racialized society, both within ourselves and our surroundings. Joan Broadfield and Mimi Scalia Beginner/Intermediate, for white folks and people of color Young Friends and Older.

### **Saturday Work & Witness Groups 2:30 PM**

#### **A Taste of Spiritual Formation Part 2**

This session allows people to become familiar with a program that enables participants to deepen their spiritual lives and build a more intimate covenant community. There will be experiential spiritual practices introduced and experiential exercises that invite people to look deeper into their own Truth, which could develop into lifelong practices that deepen the spiritual life of individuals, meetings, quarters and PYM. Sign up for one or both sessions. John Brady, Diane Kessler and Wanda Wyffels. Young Friends and older.

#### **Claiming our Whiteness and Working for Change**

I envision this as an experience of shared listening, to each other and to the Spirit, as we lay out some of the realities of what it means to be conditioned into being White and what it takes to grow through and past that conditioning into grounded human awareness. Ellen Deacon  
Intermediate/Advanced Young Friends and Older

### **Eco Justice 3: Money & soul: How can we invest our money in a way that feeds our soul...**

Money and soul: How can we invest our money in a way that feeds our soul and that of others? is part 3 of the eco-justice collaborative's series. Explore what we as individuals, monthly and quarterly meetings and as a yearly meeting may be called to do to ensure that our resources are being invested for the highest and best use and in line with our Quaker values. How do we live faithfully, with integrity and power, as we face racism, injustice and environmental destruction on a global scale? What is our role in helping to birth a new economic system that promotes the common good for people and planet? Part 1, Walking the talk is Thursday and Part 2, Race, Climate and Justice: We're all in this together is Friday. Come to all three, come to just one! Eco-Justice Collaborative, Young Friends and older

### **Elijah and the Uninvited Guest: Am I welcome at your table?**

Who is welcome, and who is turned away, when we gather for worship or conduct our business? Do we leave others to raise concerns out of ignorance or fear of each other? Come ready to listen to yourself, and each other. We'll try out new language and concrete ways to make welcoming each other more real, and share what's happening in our meetings, schools, or other faith communities. Shani Taylor and Gabbreell James (members of Green St MM) will facilitate around challenging the usual notions of 'welcome', and getting real about the challenges of really accommodating each of us in our meetings. Shani Taylor and Gabbreell James. Young Friends and Older

### **Extended Worship**

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### **Friendship and Service between India and PYM**

"Friends will learn of the trans-formative experiences that we have had interacting with Friends across the world and serving those in need. We will be presenting slides of two major activities of the India Friends Collaborative 1. Support for the Village of Bhimkothi and construction of a well there in cooperation with Ekta Parashad 2. Liaison and visit between PYM Friends and Quakers in India Descriptions of visit to All India Congress and related activities will be presented Henry Beck and the India Friends Collaborative

### **Living Our Faith in the World: What it means to be a Quaker today in Britain**

Deborah Rowlands and Paul Parker of Britain Yearly Meeting will share their perspectives on the current Britain Yearly Meeting theme, Living out Our Faith in the World, and what it feels like, in local meetings and as individuals, to be a Quaker in Britain today. Deborah Rowlands and Paul Parker, Young Friends and Older

### **Mass Incarceration 2: A Discussion Leading to a Course of Action**



These sessions will provide Friends with the forum to understand mass incarceration, as well discern their best course of action to contribute to the end of this social phenomenon. This 2nd session will be helping Friends discern a course of action (i.e., involvement in AVP, prisoner visitation, volunteering to correspond with a prisoner, political engagement, etc.) The 1st session on Friday will be a course a discussion of Friend's concern related to mass incarceration via an open discussion. Attend one or both sessions. Christopher A. Lucca, Young Friends and Older

### **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Poetry**

This program will stretch friends by expanding the concept of worship, to explore how language inspires us, unites us, and moves us. Friends are invited to bring a favorite poem to share, either one you have written or someone else has written, or a poem that arises in the moment. Friends will be encouraged to leave space between the readings of poems in order for spirit to move amongst us. Lola Georg. AGES 5 and OLDER! Children and middle schoolers need to be accompanied by their adult.

### **Moving Into Mindfulness 2**

Body-mind awareness opens us to divine revelation whether in worship or doing the laundry. In this movement class for people at all levels of experience and ability, we'll practice Qigong, learn Vipassana (Insight) meditation, and re-member (literally) our divine nature. Discover how to bring your mindful movement experience into Quaker worship, and then into everyday living. Show up, slow down, and cultivate compassion as we relax and play together. There are two sessions of the same program planned, Friends are welcome to sign up for one or both sessions. Amy Ward Brimmer, Young Friends and older.

### **Policy Matters 3: Our Faith at Work in Government: Collaborating on Policy Change**

Collaborating on Policy Change is Session Three of the Policy Matters series. We will ask the essential question : "How can emerging and existing collaboratives and LPC work together to make our witness more powerful?" Together we will design a plan for further engaging Monthly Meetings in shared work, use the PYM Communication system to stay in touch and reach others, and take our own legislative action steps on current issues. The first session, Lobbying 101 on Thursday, will offer basic skills in civic/governmental engagement: speaking to Quaker issues at community meetings during the November elections, using a "Roadmap" to organize a visit to a local congressional office, and practicing skills from FCNL's "Toolbox" of communication skills located on its website. The Second Session, Lobby 201, on Friday, will offer enhanced skills. Sign up for all three, or one or two. Mary Lou Hatcher, Lehigh Valley Meeting; Lynn Oberfield, Providence Meeting; Margaret Mansfield, Mt Holly Meeting. The Legislative Policy Collaborative, Young Friends and older.

### **Quaker College: Learning that Transforms, Lives that Speak, Citizens who Lead**

At Quaker Colleges, students learn to approach the integration of their passions with their fullest spiritual and emotional selves. As a result, exemplary citizenship and transformational lives emerge. Through the lens of these distinctive qualities, workshop participants will be invited to explore the various benefits and challenges of Quaker College. In discussion, small group sharing, and interactive exercises, we will ask questions like: How do I get "the most" out of my college education, and what does that mean? What if a Quaker College doesn't end up offering

me admission? What are Quaker Colleges doing today in the face of rising income inequality and racial disparities in education? Quaker College Fair SubCommittee of the Committee on Friends Education, Grace Sharples Cooke, Luke Van Meter, Bob Sloan, Kimberly Haas, Zachary Dutton. Young Friends and older,

### **Refugees, Refugee Resettlement, and Middle East Complexities: Continuing the Conversation**

The Middle East Collaborative will lead a discussion and organizing sessions on Middle East concerns such as refugee involvement possibilities. We will use this time to find expressions of preferred foci for our group's attention, such as AFSC/FCNL's Shared Security; and for learning of what others are up to in peace work e.g., AFSC, other churches, and other support for refugee agencies. Sandy Rea and The Middle East Collaborative, Young Friends and Older.

### **Showing Up #UnapologeticallyBlack in Quaker Spaces Session 2**

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### **What’s happening and can happen in public education today? Part 2**

Friends have long held a commitment to and interest in education, but many Friends have lost direct touch with what is happening in public schools today and rely more on the media for information, much of it biased. We wish to share first-hand experiences of public school educators, students and parents so Friends can create a broader understanding of the crisis in public education today and learn about ways to address these issues in two program sessions: This second session in the two-part series focuses on remedies- how Friends, meetings and Friends schools are already collaborating with and supporting public schools and a step by step training for participants to learn how to get involved in and/or initiate such a relationship with a public school. The first session on Friday focuses on what is actually happening in public education within the PYM region Two sessions Friday and Saturday. Sign up for one or both.