



2008 Religious Educators Institute

# Out of the Living Silence

*a dynamic conference for religious educators, parents and other adults*

Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Indiana (near Indianapolis) • August 14–17, 2008

Come join us for a weekend of worship, learning, sharing and fun as we focus on religious education in our meetings and homes. We will explore creative ways to deepen the spiritual connections between parents and children, and between our faith community members and attenders of all ages. Participants will choose one two-morning immersion workshop and will have opportunities for three interest groups over the weekend. Max Carter will lead us in

Bible study and be our evening speaker. Children ages 3 through 12 are invited to our Junior Program and scheduled multigenerational worship and activities. (Childcare will be provided for those younger than three.) We look forward to a weekend of fellowship and fun as we share experiences of teaching and learning in the Spirit.

THE FGC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## Immersion Workshops

You will be in the same workshop Friday and Saturday mornings, 9:15–11:45. Please indicate your first choice in the space provided on the registration form, and choose an alternate should that be unavailable.

### W1 Teaching Equality? A Look at Available Curriculum

*offered by Vanessa Julye, Philadelphia YM*

We will spend time together looking at curricula from the Unitarian Universalists and other religious sources that teach children to address racial and ethnic prejudice in a way that affirms each child's inherent worth and beauty. We will end with working on some exercises that we can use in our home meetings.

### W2 The Hows and Whys of Quaker Business Meetings: Teaching Process to Young Friends.

*offered by Paul Burkander, Lake Eyre YM*

The goal of this workshop is to explore ways to teach the hows and whys of Quaker Business Meeting to Young Friends. There will be participatory exercises meant to illuminate the useful skills for business meetings, and to explore and strengthen those skills. Particular attention will be paid to the importance of listening to others and to that of God within,

speaking in meeting for business and clerking a meeting for business.

### W3 Discerning Our True Leadings

*offered by Liz Yeats, South Central YM*

Leadings are the true "fruits of the Spirit." They come to us after a long searching process or suddenly out of our daily lives when we are least prepared. Sometimes they present themselves as great struggles, sometimes as unexpected joy. They nudge us to explore new and deeper understandings of God and God's intention for our life and work. In this workshop we will explore how Friends have discerned and tested their leadings through history and what forms they have developed along the way. We will share about our own experiences with discerning our leadings and examine ways we can support one another in this work.

### W4 Building Multi-Generational Spiritual Community in the Meeting

*offered by Christie Duncan-Tessmer, Philadelphia YM*

A multigenerational spiritual community is about the whole meeting living into the power, the gifts, the fun, the Spirit and the potential of all of the members of the community, regardless of age. A community that works, worships, plays and learns together can

stretch past limitations, challenging and supporting each other to go deeper into spirit and deeper into community. This workshop will look at advantages, difficulties and how-to's in creating multigenerational community in our meetings. We will explore the issues through discussion, guided activities and experiencing multigenerational approaches together.

### W5 Teaching the Hebrew Scriptures with Integrity

*offered by Cheryl Bridges, North Carolina YM-FUM and Piedmont Friends Fellowship*

Since around 144 CE, Christians have debated how the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) should be included in their worship and teaching. Today, the question of its place in religious education remains. Is it an ancient story of an ancient people? Is it an integral part of Christian history or world history? Is it merely a collection of mythical stories? As members of the Religious Society of Friends, how do we determine for ourselves the significance of the Hebrew scriptures and teach them with integrity? We will address these and other questions through a mixture of lecture, interactive exploration, small group discussion and worship sharing. Participants should bring a copy of the Hebrew scriptures (preferably, any Christian version of the Old Testament).

## W6 Worshipping with Children

*offered by Christal Jorgenson, New England YM*

Many of us came into Quakerism as adults, often as refugees. We want our children to love this place, this community, this experience that is now a spiritual home for us. How can we help them build a foundation for a lifelong love of God and worship? Bring your yearning and your questions! In this workshop we will utilize our own experience and our Quaker heritage, as well as clues from the children and from child development theory. We will share personal history, reflect on Quaker writing, examine helpful materials, experiment with worship metaphors, and plan how we can encourage our meetings to be welcoming and inspirational for our younger Friends.

## Interest Groups

### “A” Set (Friday, 2:00–3:15 pm)

Please indicate your first choice in the space provided on the registration form, and choose an alternate should that be unavailable.

#### A1 Fostering Stewardship of the Environment—Resources for First Day School

*offered by Jennifer Lenik, Philadelphia YM*

As Quakers, we are called upon to reflect on our testimony of stewardship with regard to caring for our earth. How we treat our earth and its creatures is a basic part of our relationship with God and requires our responsible attention. Through various curriculum resources and hands-on activities intended for Friends of all ages, we will focus on the spiritual basis of environmental awareness. Please bring comfortable walking shoes and a desire to explore the natural surroundings.

#### A2 Quakerism, Quaker History, Politics and Social Issues for Middle School Classrooms

*offered by Brad Ogilvie, Illinois YM*

This interest group will look at the role of Quakers in American history, including important men and women and the role they played in shaping our country's formation. We will connect these people and their work to Quaker values, and as a group explore the relevance and role of Quakerism in modern

society and in the classroom. This is a two-session interest group, so please select A2 and B2 if you would like this offering.

#### A3 Strengthening the Connection with Young Adult Friends

*offered by Della Stanley-Green, Western YM*

Where are our Young Adult Friends (YAFs)? Are they in what a f/Friend of mine calls the “abyss of young adulthood”—no longer visible in your meeting? If YAFs are participating in your meeting, are they being nurtured? Come prepared to listen, to learn and to tweak your worldview a bit. Please bring with you a written list of all the Young Adult Friends who are part of your circle of care and concern.

#### A4 Creating and Maintaining Successful Young Friends Groups

*offered by Kri Burkander, Lake Eyre YM*

This interest group is for Friends who are working to create or maintain young Friends (high school-aged) groups in their monthly or yearly meetings. We will talk about how to attract, involve and retain youth in these programs. Bring your success stories as well as challenges you'd like help in solving.

#### A5 Integrating Quaker Testimonies into Family Life: Focusing on families with children from birth through twelve years.

*offered by Martha (Marty) G. Smith, Philadelphia YM*

Friends testimonies can be guides for parents as they search how best to nurture their children. They also are values that Quaker parents want to teach their children. To use testimonies, parents must first be settled as to what the testimonies mean to them. During the workshop participants will center on the meaning of a testimony, share experiences when a testimony guided their parenting and consider the developmental steps their children must take on their way to living the testimony.

#### A6 Teaching Quaker Testimonies to Children

*offered by Melinda Wenner Bradley, Philadelphia YM*

This interest group will explore ways to bring the Quaker testimonies “to life” for our children. In presenting them to youth, how can

we both ground the testimonies in our religious society's history and make them part of our living faith? What role can the commitments of our meetings play by teaching and including children in their work? We will look at resources from history, storytelling, children's literature, music and suggested curricula appropriate for children ages 3–12.

## Interest Groups

### “B” Set (Saturday, 2:00–3:15 pm)

Please indicate your first choice in the space provided on the registration form, and choose an alternate should that be unavailable.

#### B1 Tapping Teen Potential

*offered by Kri Burkander, Lake Eyre YM*

In this group, we will talk about what makes Quaker youth work with teens so rich and meaningful. We will discuss the strengths that teens bring to youth programming, and how to structure programming to meet their needs and bring out the best in them. Bring your questions and concerns.

#### B2 Quakerism, Quaker History, Politics and Social Issues for Middle School Classrooms

*offered by Brad Ogilvie, Illinois YM*

This is a two-session interest group. For a description, please see A2 above. Please register for both A2 and B2 if you would like this offering.

#### B3 Creating Lessons from a Book

*offered by Erika Mittag, South Central YM, and David Wood, Ohio Valley YM*

Stories, whether real or imaginary, are wonderful starting places for exploring aspects of Quaker faith and practice with children and adults. Using carefully chosen books, *Lessons from a Book* gives you a structured process for creating engaging lesson plans which incorporate Friends testimonies, discussion questions and experiential activities. Whether you need to create a few ‘First Day School in a Bag’ lessons, plan an extended series of sessions for adults, or supplement a formal curriculum in your First Day School, *Lessons from a Book* will give you tools to create meaningful lessons. Bring a favorite book or choose from those provided.

#### B4 Teaching Quaker History to Children (or “How to Teach History Without Getting Caught”)

*offered by Marcy Maury, North Carolina YM-FUM and Piedmont Friends Fellowship*

Why is it important for children to know something about Quaker history? How do we slip history into our First Day School classes? And how do we make it stick? This interest group will talk about strategies for teaching Quaker history. Participants should bring one piece of Quaker History with them—a date, a name and a place.



## **B5 Integrating Quaker Testimonies into Family Life: Focusing on families with children from age twelve through young adulthood**

*offered by Martha (Marty) G. Smith, Philadelphia YM*

With adolescence parents are in the position of helping their children understand the Friends testimonies by which they have been raised. To do so parents must first be sure of their own understanding of the testimonies. Then they must have patience and skill to support their children as their children question and form the values by which they will live. This workshop will focus on first delving into the meaning of a testimony and second discussing the opportunities and challenges the adolescent years bring.

## **B6 Welcoming Newcomers to Our Meetings**

*offered by Suzanne Siverling, Illinois YM*

What does it mean to be truly welcoming as a meeting community? How do we weave new people into the fabric of our meetings? How do we demonstrate our commitment to newcomers and to our meetings' futures? One way to do this is to offer a class specifically organized around their needs. The facilitator will share her experiences of using Marsha Holliday's curriculum *Exploring Quakerism: A Study Guide* (published by Quaker Press of FGC). Bring your questions and experiences relevant to working with or being a new attendee.

## **Participant-led Interest Groups**

(Friday, 3:45–5:00 pm)

We recognize that conference participants come with valuable gifts, experience, resources and passions. Time will be provided on Friday afternoon for conference participants to facilitate interest groups. A sign up chart will be provided on site for offerings in this time slot. Some participants may also want to gather for impromptu discussion or interest groups during free time on Saturday afternoon (3:45–5:00 pm).

## **Evening Programs**

**Friday:** Max Carter will be our plenary speaker, and he will speak out of the living silence as the Spirit leads.

Max L. Carter is the director of Friends Center and Campus Ministry Coordinator at Guilford College, where he also teaches Quaker Studies. Max received his Master of Ministry from Earlham School of Religion and a Ph.D. in American Religious History from Temple University. His teaching experience includes Earlham College, Friends Select and Friends' Central Schools in Philadelphia, and the Friends Boys School in Ramallah. With his wife, Jane, he leads annual work/study trips to Israel and

Palestine to support Quaker and broader peace work in the region. Max is a member of New Garden Friends Meeting, North Carolina YM-FUM and Piedmont Friends Fellowship.

**Saturday:** In multigenerational settings, Institute participants age three and up will have the opportunity to experience Godly Play® and/or Faith & Play, which are engaging Montessori-inspired approaches to religious education.

## **Children's Program**

*Jane Shallert, Northern YM, coordinator*

A spiritually-based program for the children attending the REI will be provided during the adult program times. The children's program will include age appropriate small group activities, multigenerational activities, meeting for worship, worship sharing, crafts, reading, games, singing and drama. A combination of indoor & outdoor and physical & spiritual activities will keep your child(ren) active and engaged. The program is for children ages three through twelve.

## **Worship**

*Liz Yeats, South Central YM, coordinator*

Worship at the Institute will include opportunities for unprogrammed corporate worship each morning and evening, as well as multi-generational semi-programmed worship on First Day morning. There will be worship sharing in small multigenerational "cluster groups" each morning. Space will be designated for silent reflection or small group worship at any time during the gathering.

## **Bible Half Hours**

Max Carter will lead participants in exploration of the scriptures following the theme of the conference, Out of the Living Silence.

## **RE Browsing and Shopping Opportunities**

In addition to the richness of worship, the varied program offerings and informal conversations among Friends, there will be resource materials on display and available for purchase. QuakerBooks of FGC will provide an exciting array of books, curricula and resources relevant to the workshops and the overall focus of the conference.

## **About the Conference Center**

Bradford Woods is a peaceful conference center set on 2,500 acres of woodlands eighteen miles from the Indianapolis airport. We will be using the Lily Village and the Manor House, located

by a small lake. There are three housing options: the air conditioned Manor House (2–4 people per room, each room has a private bath), the air conditioned Lily Cabins (4–10 bunk beds per room with shared bath), or camping. The camping area includes sixteen tent platforms and two bath facilities. Bradford Woods has many lovely hiking trails, and there will be an opportunity to swim in (or canoe on) the lake for a fee of \$5 (or \$3) per person. Meals are served buffet style. The center will attempt to meet special dietary needs of guests if adequate notice is given. Friends with specialized dietary needs may wish to bring supplemental food.

## **Getting There**

**By Car:** Bradford Woods is located off State Road 67 between Martinsville and Mooresville, Indiana, on the north side of the road. It is approximately 20 miles southwest of Indianapolis. For a map of the area, go to <http://www.bradwoods.org/location.html>.

**By Plane:** If you are flying, the Bloomington Shuttle Service costs \$25 per person each way paid directly to the driver. Bradford Woods is not one of the shuttles' regular stops, but if you ask the driver in advance he or she will stop there. FGC is also making arrangements for our own Friendly shuttle service, which will cost \$10 per person each way and will be available between the hours of 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Thursday, and for flights leaving after 12:30 pm on Sunday. If you use this service you will pay upon check-in at the Institute. FGC will contact all registrants in mid-July to determine their shuttle needs.

**By bus and train:** Amtrak and Greyhound both serve Indianapolis. Friends will need to make their own arrangements for getting from the bus or train station to Bradford Woods.

**Limited Hours for Thursday Dinner:** Thursday dinner is available only from 6:00 pm until 6:45 pm. If you arrive on site after 6:45, whether by accident or as planned, you will be responsible for your own meal(s) that evening.

## **Special Needs**

Bradford Woods is a fully accessible facility. Friends with mobility restrictions and other specific needs are encouraged to describe their situation when registering so that appropriate housing assignments can be made or other services arranged as possible.

## **Please Register Early**

To facilitate planning, Friends are encouraged to register by mail as soon as possible (no registrations by fax or e-mail, please). You can also download a registration form by visiting FGC's homepage, <http://www.fgcquaker.org> (see upcoming events). Any registrations including

children should be post-marked no later than July 26. A \$20 late fee will be applied to registrations postmarked after July 26. After this date, adults should contact FGC before registering to confirm that space is still available.

## Financial Aid for Attenders

Friends General Conference has limited scholarship assistance available for those who cannot afford the full cost of Institute fees. Friends are encouraged to first request help from their monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings. If you need financial assistance, please register early and include a letter stating the amount of financial assistance you are receiving from elsewhere and the amount you are requesting from FGC. We do not have funds to provide transportation assistance. Scholarships will be granted in mid-June based on the number of requests received and the amount budgeted for this assistance.

FGC is grateful for the many individual gifts which make conferences such as this affordable for many. When you register, please consider making a contribution if you are able. Even those who are not able to attend may direct a donation to the Institute's scholarship fund.

## Refunds

If you cancel your registration in writing (e-mail, fax or postmarked letter) on or before July 26, all funds except contributions will be returned less a \$15 per person processing fee. If you cancel after July 26 and not later than August 7 (by email or fax), a \$75 per person cancellation fee will apply. If you cancel after August 7, no refunds will be made and the balance due will be owed.

## Tentative Schedule

### Thursday, August 14

2:00 PM	Registration opens
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:15 PM	Welcome, Orientation, Introductions
7:45–8:15 PM	Cluster Groups convene
8:30 PM	FGC book table opens
8:30–9:30 PM	Informal gathering time
9:30 PM	Space available for open worship

### Friday, August 15

7:00 AM	Space available for open worship
7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30–9:00 AM	Cluster Group worship sharing
9:15–11:45 AM	Immersion Workshops (children in Children's Program)
Noon	Lunch, rest, recreation, book table
2:00–3:15 PM	Interest Group "A" (children in Children's Program)
3:15 PM	Free time
3:45–5:00 PM	Participant-led interest groups (children in Children's Program)
5:15–5:45 PM	Bible Half Hour
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00–8:15 PM	Multigenerational Godly Play® experiences in groups
8:30–9:30 PM	Informal gathering, book table
9:30 PM	Space available for open worship

### Saturday, August 16

7:00 AM	Space available for open worship
7:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30–9:00 AM	Cluster Group worship sharing
9:15–11:45 AM	Immersion Workshop (same as Friday) (children in Children's Program)
Noon	Lunch, rest, recreation, book table
2:00–3:15 PM	Interest Group "B" (children in Children's Program)
3:15 PM	Break
3:45–5:00 PM	Free time, book table, swimming and canoeing
5:15–5:45 PM	Bible Half Hour
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:15 PM	Speaker—Max Carter (children in Children's Program)
8:30–9:30 PM	informal gathering, book table
9:30 PM	Space available for open worship

### Sunday, August 17

7:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00–9:30 AM	Cluster Groups' final meeting
9:30–10:20 AM	Family Worship
10:30 AM	Singing, packing up
11:30 AM	Lunch and "good-byes"



### *For more information please contact:*

Michael Gibson  
Religious Education Coordinator  
Friends General Conference  
TELEPHONE: 215-561-1700  
E-MAIL: michaelg@fgcquaker.org



**FRIENDS  
GENERAL  
CONFERENCE**

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
1216 Arch Street, 2B • Philadelphia, PA 19107

# Registration Form

# Out of the Living Silence

a dynamic conference for religious educators, parents and other adults

### Room, Board and Program Fees (all fees include meals)

- 1 Adults, Manor House . . . . . \$325.00
- 2 Adults, Lily Cabins (see box below on left) . . . \$260.00
- 3 Adults, camping . . . . . \$215.00
- 4 Adults, commuting (no breakfast) . . . . . \$175.00
- 5 Children (3–12 yrs), Manor House . . . . . \$210.00
- 6 Children (3–12 yrs), Lily Cabins  
(see box below on left) . . . . . \$150.00
- 7 Children (3–12 yrs), camping . . . . . \$120.00
- 8 Children (3–12 yrs), commuting (no breakfast) . \$80.00
- 9 Infants (2 and under) . . . . . \$40.00

REGISTRANT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME TELEPHONE (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_ EVENING TELEPHONE (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

YEARLY MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHLY MEETING \_\_\_\_\_

To avoid late fees, postmark on or before  
July 26, 2008 with check to  
"Friends General Conference"  
1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Last Name	First Name/ Preferred Name	Age	M/F	Vegetarian?	Workshop		Interest Groups "A"		Interest Groups "B"		Cluster Groups* See note below	** Specific Needs	Fees (see chart)		
					Ist choice	alternate	Ist choice	alternate	Ist choice	alternate			Choice #	FEES	
														\$	A
														\$	B
														\$	C
														\$	D
														\$	E
														\$	F
														\$	G

If registering for Lily Cabins, please check below:

I can sleep in a top bunk if you need me to.

Please don't put me in a top bunk.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Room, Board, and Program Fees (add A–G)	\$	H
\$20/adult Late Fee (postmarked after July 26)	\$	I
Contribution (US tax-deductible)	\$	J
<b>TOTAL (add H–J)</b>	\$	K
Amount enclosed (minimum \$130 per adult; \$40 per school child)	\$	L
Registrar's use	\$	M
Registrar's use	\$	
<b>AMOUNT DUE AT BRADFORD WOODS</b>	\$	N

\* **Cluster Groups** for daily worship sharing are multigenerational. If you do not wish to be assigned to an multigenerational group, and prefer being with adults only, please check in cluster group column above.

\*\* Please specify need \_\_\_\_\_.



Friends General Conference  
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
1216 Arch Street, 2B  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

OFFICE: (215) 561-1700 • EMAIL: michaelg@fgcquaker.org