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Dear Friend,

If Quakerism had just one season, it would be Spring – a time of transformation and renewal. Friends General Conference is no stranger to transformation, and we are ever renewing our commitment to serve our faith community.

There is plenty a-buzz in all our programs and on all our committees, but this time of year we always start getting excited about the [annual Gathering](#). Registration is finally open!

FGC continued its tradition of sponsoring a group of Quakers at this year's White Privilege Conference, a very transformative event. [Friend Jamie Newton offers his reflections](#).

Quaker Quest sessions continue to sprout up all over. The FGC office has been talking with Quaker communities from Kansas to Utah to Washington. And [we have a new blog!](#) Maybe you'd like to contribute your story?

Thanks for reading, thanks for participating, and Happy Spring!

The Journey of Aging and Other Pre-Gathering Events

Registration is now open for the 2012 FGC Gathering of Friends! Please join us in Kingston, Rhode Island, July 1-7. We can't wait for another summer of companionship, growth, and spiritual renewal. All the necessary details can be found at www.fgcquaker.org/gathering.

And this year, there are a few very exciting pre-Gathering events taking place:



Gathering Choir coming together to perform *The Fire and The Hammer*

The Fire and The Hammer is a beautiful choral piece steeped in the rich history of the Religious Society of Friends. It will be performed at this year's Gathering and we are looking for singers to help bring this music to life. Find out how you

can [join the choir](#).

[More info >>](#)

Finding Purpose: Adult Young Friends Seek Clarity

The second annual Adult Young Friends pre-Gathering retreat is happening!. The retreat is intended to build the AYF community, to help us learn together through experiential activities and discussion, and to have fun.



[More info >>](#)

The Journey of Aging: Quaker Communities Supporting Aging in Place

Explore issues, learn about resources, and gain understanding toward supporting Friends aging in place in your community.

Although this conference is full, we expect to accommodate a few more registrants who will expand the number of represented yearly meetings.

[More info >>](#)

Power, Privilege, and the Search for Community:

A Reflection on the White Privilege Conference – March 28-31, 2012, in Albuquerque, NM

by Jamie Newton

A gull soaring just above the surface of the ocean called out to a fish below, "How's the water?" Baffled, the fish responded, "What's water?"



For this Friend, it was a privilege to attend the thirteenth annual White Privilege Conference, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center March 28-31, 2012 – and I use that term literally, not as a pun. As first-time participants, my wife and I weren't quite sure how a pair of older, middle-class, white Quaker professionals would fit in. Would we be merely tolerated, perhaps not always courteously, as beneficiaries of an oppressive system and examples of well-meaning but irrelevant bumbler to whom inequities that are unavoidably obvious to nonwhites and other minorities

must remain forever as invisible and taken for granted as water to a fish?

[Read more >>](#)

New Quaker Quest Blog: What's Your Story?

Tips for You and Your Meeting



Quaker Quest is inviting folks from around the country to contribute stories of how they came to Quakerism. [Check out the blog](#) to read stories from **Peter Meredith** (Annapolis Friends Meeting, MA), **Marjorie Van Buren** (Topeka Friends Meeting, KS) and **Chel Avery** (Goshen Friends Meeting, PA).

To contribute and share your story, check out our ["Writer's Guidelines"](#) and contact madelines@fgcquaker.org. This is a great new opportunity to share our stories and our faith. [More info >>](#)

Have you ever looked for ways to reinvigorate your Quaker community? or maybe just try something new? FGC has put together some tips. Here's one. See the full list and add your own in the comments section at www.fgcquaker.org/tips.

#12 Embrace religious language. Be unafraid of using religious language in meeting for business. It helps remind us that business meeting is (or should be) a spiritual event. This also applies to meeting for worship.

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