

Friends General Conference (FGC) Report

Submitted by Melissa Meyer, PFF/PFYM Representative to FGC, April 10, 2021

1. The Friends General Conference gathering for 2021 will again be by zoom. "Way Will Open" will be the Theme. The dates are June 27-July 3rd. Early registration starts on April 15th. It will be a "Pay as you Can" pricing.

2. You can go online to the FGC website and see the programs that will be offered. There will be a youth and children's program starting at 6:30 PM via zoom.

3. The Gathering will be in person again in 2022 and will be in Radford VA. This is in the Blue Ridge, and will be a delightful summer location that is nearby. The gathering for 2023 will be in Monmouth, Oregon at Western University.

4. FGC finds that Friends are continuing to support our organization with donations. Our donations are running a little bit ahead of last year. However, we should be aware that even so, we are running in the red.

5. Quaker Books of FGC is trying hard to maintain its sales despite the fact that yearly Meetings and the Gathering are not meeting in person and these are a major source of their sales. Their sales are running ahead of last year. They have reached out to Yearly Meetings and are doing virtual book tables. They are giving a 10% discount on books for PFF/PFYM related to our spring retreat. As a grandparent of a toddler, I have to recommend "Raising an Anti racist Baby" written by Ibram X. Kendi. Our grandson Toby, who is almost a year and a half, loves it. Click on this for a link to the bookstore.

<https://quakerbooks.org/collections/piedmont-2021?page=1><<https://quakerbooks.org/collections/piedmont-2021?page=1>>

6. "Gathering Together", the campaign to raise money to support FGC's priorities will be starting soon in its quiet phase. Those priorities are:

A. An endowment to make the Gathering more affordable

B. A limited endowment to support the work that ministry on racism is doing its anti-racism work

C. Connecting Friends with each other

D. Youth and Adults ministries

E. Spiritual Deepening