

October Vital Friends: Northern Yearly Meeting is our featured FGC Yearly Meeting and our new Ministry on Racism Support Specialist reflects on her experience at a Moral Monday event. Plus: fun community-building activities for your meeting!



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Dear Friend,

As the pumpkin spice begins to flow and we rake our yards for leaves, we invite you to take some time to catch up with FGC. In this October newsletter we're sharing excitement from Northern Yearly Meeting, reflections from our new Ministry on Racism Support Specialist Lena Glickman, and fun community-building activities for your whole meeting. We're also delighted to spread the word on an important FGC program, the Friends Meeting House Fund, and reintroduce you to our FGC staff in our new series 'Meet Your Staff' an opportunity to get to know the wonderful people who do great work to support your community through Friends General Conference.

In the Spirit,
FGC Staff

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[FGC Friends: Northern Yearly Meeting](#)



Northern Yearly Meeting is a fairly young yearly meeting, only forty-one years old.

This gives them the unique position of having some of their founders as community elders. Northern Yearly Meeting covers a wide geographic region of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Beyond being new in

the world, Northern Yearly Meeting would be defined by its youthful vitality. Of their 71st Annual Session on Memorial Day weekend, one third of the on average 300 participants are children and youth. Northern Yearly Meeting values their young families and continues to make their children and youth programs a priority. Northern Yearly Meeting sees their gatherings as a valuable opportunity for children from their broad geographic area to come together and connect with their peers and their faith. Northern Yearly Meeting has been blessed with great discipline in the process of their business, through a succession of skilled clerks, and are grateful for Arthur Larrabee's clerk training. Their focus on clear unity and not letting business drift into a morass of good intentions has been a strength for the many areas the Yearly Meeting is working through.

Friendly Facts:

- Northern Yearly Meeting now has a single location for their Annual Sessions. They feel blessed to have found a handicap accessible camp through the Lions Society with both options for staying in buildings or camping in a beautiful location. This has allowed for Annual Sessions to grow and has solidified the Yearly Meeting through a consistent location. Their interim sessions still vary in location, but offer a great opportunity for inter-visitation as they are hosted by different monthly meetings each time.
- Northern Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice has been in process the last 20 years, with approval one chapter at a time. In 2016 the whole of the document was approved and Northern Yearly Meeting is hoping to publish it in the next 6-8 months. Northern Yearly Meeting hopes that this published document will further ground their process, they see their Faith and Practice as a living document and will be updating chapters online and in paper pamphlet additions to allow for continuing revelation even after this first edition is printed.

[Read more about NYM.](#)

[Program Spotlight: Friends Meeting House Fund](#)

Friends Meeting House Fund doesn't just help meetings buy meetinghouses, the fund has been helping Quaker meetings across the US and Canada renovate, update, and make their meeting houses environmentally friendly. Storrs Friends Meeting is one such meeting. [Read more](#) about Storrs Friends Meeting's use of the Friends Meeting House Fund, and how the Fund can support your meeting.



Photo: Brenda Shaw

[Meet Your Staff: Vanessa Julye](#)



Vanessa Julye is the Ministry on Racism Program Coordinator and the Youth Ministries Program Coordinator at FGC. She first worked with FGC as a volunteer in 1994, and she has been an FGC staff member for eleven years. In her time working for FGC, she has been excited to see how the instigation of a Pre-Gathering

People of Color retreat has built support for People of Color at Gathering. She has been deeply encouraged by the work FGC has taken up with the White Privilege Conference (WPC) supporting Quakers in their attendance to this important event.

[Read more about Vanessa and her work with FGC.](#)

[Moral Day of Action – Reflection by Lena Glickman](#)

Monday September 12th: 200 low wage workers, faith leaders and activists stood on the steps of the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg, demanding that our elected representatives take action against injustice. Speakers from organizations dedicated to immigration, labor, environmental, education and prison justice testified to how their lives have been impacted by our racist criminal justice system, environmental destruction, low wages, corporate greed,

education underfunding and an immigration system that separates families and exploits workers. Leaders from diverse faith traditions spoke of how their spirituality calls them to stand for justice. [Read more about Lena's experience at the Moral Monday event.](#)



[FGC Revises Its Privacy Policy](#)



FGC
FRIENDS
GENERAL CONFERENCE

FGC's privacy policy was recently revised. While the majority of the policy is unchanged, we have added a section to allow FGC to share data with our affiliated yearly meetings and organization about who in that yearly meeting or organization has participated in some way with FGC. The data shared is basic contact data, not details about programs attended, books purchased, donation made and so for. We expressly allow for individuals to opt out of such sharing if they so desire. The new policy details how such information sharing is only upon request from the yearly meeting or affiliated organization.

The revised policy also

- Includes sharing participation in White Privilege Conference or other "allied" events as "opt in"
- Removed a section referring to the Traveling Friends Directory
- Added some language clarifications.

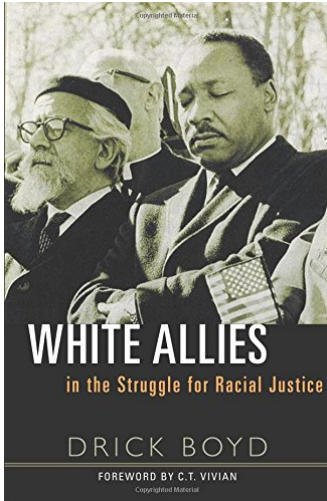
Read the updated policy on the [FGC website](#).

[Resources for your Meeting](#)

Get some movement going in your meeting and discover fun new ways to connect and to play together. "Light and Livelies" are intergenerational activities to build community. See the directions for and a list of [Light and Livelies](#) on the FGC website.



QuakerBooks Featured Title



Earlier this month, writer Drick Boyd of Eastern University talked about his book ***White Allies in the Struggle for Racial Justice*** at Pendle Hill. Boyd's latest work examines what it means to be a white ally in the current era of mass incarceration of people of color, stop-and-frisk, anti-immigration prejudices, and other racially-based forms of systemic oppression. If you couldn't make it to Boyd's presentation, you can pick up his eye-opening book anytime at QuakerBooks.org!

Use the code **QB10%** at check out to get this book for ten percent off!

Among Friends: Upcoming Events

There will be a Colorado Regional Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Fall Gathering, October 21-23, 2016 at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. The theme for this gathering is Life-Centered Economy. [Download the registration form here.](#)

Broadmead Monthly Meeting (LEYM) invites Friends to a retreat in Tiffin, Ohio, to explore racism and privilege for a whole weekend. [Learn more about the Broadmead Meeting Retreat on Racism & Privilege Oct.14-16, 2016.](#)

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