

QREC CONNECTIONS FALL 2015

"Joining hands in service to Quaker Religious Education"



SHARING FROM THE AUGUST 2015 CONFERENCE

Three months later, we're still feeling the power of the time together in August, and looking forward to the next opportunity to gather in June 2016. In this edition of "Connections" you'll find news of some outcomes from our sharing last summer, and plans and resources for the future.

Work growing out of conference interest groups:

- Working group on Seeking Ways to Teach About Undoing Racism
Next meeting: January 2016, date TBD using Doodle Poll:
doodle.com/poll/7wmav9gr3mdnsn25 (see page 2 for more)
- Working group on Child Safety in Meetings
Next meeting: February 9, 2016

Friends are welcome to join these online conversations! If interested, please email quakercollaborative4re@gmail.com to be put in touch with conveners.

- Collaborative work on "Quakerism 101" curriculum for adults.
If you're interested in joining this conversation, please contact QREC member Bill Smith at wmgsmith59@gmail.com

Help wanted! The Friends on the QREC Steering Group are working on an application for 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status. *Do you have skills in this area? Please be in touch.*

Save the Date! 10-12 June 2016

QREC Collaboration Gathering

*Quaker Hill Conference Center
Richmond, IN*

Join the Collaborative for fellowship, worship and sharing from our work in this ministry. Watch email and the [Facebook page](#) for more information about program and registration.

Read about QREC in the November issue of the Friends Journal

Gratitude to
Chris Jorgenson,
Friends Meeting at
Cambridge (NEYM)
for her reporting and
writing from our time at
the conference.

Excerpt from "Collaboration in Action"

"When I heard QREC would be having a three-day conference this past August, I knew I wanted to go. It would be a chance to see and share with old friends [...] and perhaps share about the work I do now in my monthly meeting planning and nurturing family worship experiences. I signed up with the hope I'd return to my meeting with ideas and inspiration for our religious education program. [...] There were so many gifts along the way, a generous sharing so that all were learners and teachers."

REsource Sharing



Coming Soon! Two new resources from Collaborative members . . .

“*Finding the Light in You: Bright Silent Worship with Young Friends*,” a book of support and ideas for helping children have the direct experience of God from Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs (Community Friends in Ohio Valley YM).

A “*Quaker Affirmation*” program curriculum from Beth Henricks and Indianapolis First Friends in Western YM. Developed for 5th-12th Graders, the curriculum will guide study of aspects of Quaker faith and seeks to affirm youth identity as Friends.

Watch for news of their availability in “Connections” and on the QREC Facebook page!

Where to begin?

An interest group gathered twice during the conference in August to begin exploring ways to address bias, assumption and racism through Quaker religious education. A working group grew out of the conference, and as we meet and discuss ways to address undoing racism in RE, we’ve begun to identify resources for supporting children, adults working with them, and families. We also recognize that the work of seeking ways to teach about undoing racism is only part of the larger work, and when we’re engaged in this work it will include discomfort and mistakes. We offer these resources as a first step on the journey:

- [How to talk to your kids about prejudice with the help of 12 of our favorite books](#) (from web)
- [Considerations When Choosing and Using Books in First Day School](#) by Gail Thomas (includes a section on Racial and Cultural Awareness)
- Friends might consider attending the White Privilege Conference 2016: [pre-register with FGC](#).

Please let us know of books, resources or curricula you recommend, so we can share them with others.

Did you know?

“[Western Friend](#)” (the official publication of Pacific, North Pacific and Intermountain Yearly Meetings) includes “Pages for All Ages” in every issue with games, puzzles, coloring pages and stories connected to the issue’s theme. Archived issues (all but the most recent three issues) can be accessed using the link [here](#).

What’s new on the [QREC website](#)?

We’ve added a Resource Sharing page, and on the home page you’ll find a document to share for introducing QREC and an annual report from the Steering Group.

Conversation Circles Winter 2015:

Please join the discussion on GoToMeeting in the coming weeks!

To register and receive login, please contact QREC at

quakercollaborative4re@gmail.com

Supporting Parents in Contributing to Meeting Life -- January 7, 2016 @8pm EST

Mentoring Young Friends in the Meeting Community (Date TBD)

Spiritual Partnership Between Meetings and Friends Schools – January 13, 2016 @7pm EST