



## NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS QUAKERS

Greetings to all New England Friends!

I write sending news and a preview of what's to come in August for New England Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions.

Please mark your calendars for August 7 to 12 for Sessions 2021, where we gather as Friends from across New England and will dig into the theme "A Time for Healing: How Are You Called?"

**Planning for this major event is well underway. Not surprisingly, due to pandemic conditions this year we will be primarily gathering for Annual Sessions on Zoom as we did last year.**

While health and safety concerns continue to limit the ways we can gather, we also know that much has changed since Sessions 2020. Considering what we learned last year and are learning about the course of the pandemic, this year we recognize that **gatherings in person may be possible**, following CDC and local communities' safety guidelines. We are thus hopeful that if so led, individual monthly meetings and/or quarterly meetings might plan for in-person events as they feel comfortable doing so.

With that possibility in mind, we are planning the schedule for Sessions so that major groupings of events may be easily participated in, of course via Zoom, but also in some local gatherings. You can preview a **draft** Sessions schedule [here](#).

In your local monthly meetings and quarters, we invite you to think about what ways your Friends community might wish to participate in Sessions. Would the possibility of gathering in person be especially welcomed by families? Would it realize long-postponed fellowship? Could it nurture your local community's connection with the wider world of Friends?

If your meeting already holds small group in-person activities, might you want to plan a schedule of Sessions events? If your meeting has been using technology to create hybrid experiences bringing together virtual and in-person groups, might you participate in that way? If you have not yet brought people together in person, might you be led to do so carefully and safely for specific Sessions events?

And if there will be folks in your meeting joining business sessions together as a group, support is available! You'll be expected to have a local tech host, to provide for accessibility needs of those present, and to practice some of the logistics in advance. Please read the [expectations for group participation in business](#), and register your interest.

I know that advance planning is crucial and for that reason encourage you to contact me (sessions@neym.org) as early as possible to think through creative, inclusive and intergenerational ways to participate this year.

When your plans are set, we would like to share with all Sessions registrants a schedule of the in-person opportunities that are available. So, if your meeting or group is planning to host a gathering during Sessions that is open to others, [please submit this form by July 18](#).

Thank you for considering how you might be able to support a vibrant Sessions experience this year,

Rebecca Leuchak, clerk  
New England Yearly Meeting Sessions Committee  
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