

Printable handout to help you prepare your application for Nurturing Faithfulness 2022-2023

In order to apply for the Nurturing Faithfulness program, you will be asked to submit an [online application form](#) with the following questions. We recommend you use this printable handout as a way to reflect on the questions and gather your responses ahead of submitting the application. When you apply, you can copy and paste the responses you have gathered.

We recognize that the format of this application, particularly the essays, may present challenges to people who are disabled and/or neurodiverse. If you would like assistance filling out the application or more information about alternative essay options, *please contact us at nurturingfaithfulness@neym.org.*

Basic information:

Name, mailing address, phone, email

Your current Quaker meeting/church/spiritual community

Your pronouns

Your primary race/ethnicity

The decade you were born

Please tell us about any identities you hold that you are willing to share. Examples might be: parent, queer, non-binary, neuro-divergent. This information will help with forming small groups and mentor pairings.

Longer response questions

- Tell us about your desire, concern, or call to help deepen your faithfulness or other aspects of your spiritual life. If relevant, include how this relates to deepening faith or practice in your meeting or faith community. Include both blessings and challenges you have experienced.
- Please share an experience when you invited another or others, such as an elder or a clearness committee, to help you with discernment.
- Tell about a time when counsel from an elder or friend helped you discover and/or be aware of something about yourself, your practice, or efforts to be faithful in a new way.
- How would you describe your relationship with your faith community at this time?

Discernment questions

These questions are meant for your own discernment and to assist with the admission process.

1. Are you able to make the time commitment that this program calls for? i.e., daily spiritual practice, attendance at all retreats, reading up to 50 pages per month, preparing two reflection papers, monthly meetings with both a Faithfulness Group and a care/support committee, and finding active ways to nurture your faith community during the term of the course.

2. Are you willing and able to engage with the teaching team (including elders and mentors) and the other course participants through regular email exchanges, use of the program website, and twice monthly online webinars between retreats?
3. This program will include use of an interactive course website (Mighty Networks), digital files, and Zoom meetings. A short training will be offered to all participants in the tools we will use together. Please tell us about any additional support you expect to need to fully participate in the virtual aspects of this program. What challenges might there be for you in this form of communication?
4. Are you dealing with personal needs that demand a major part of your attention at this time? (e.g., recent loss, emotional issues, financial or family pressures, professional demands)
5. Do you have persons in mind who might serve on your care/support committee?
6. Have other questions arisen in your discernment process to enter into this program?

Letter of support

Please ask a group of two or more people, preferably from your local faith community, to engage in a clearness process with you and to then write a recommendation for your participation in this program. The clearness process might include addressing some of the questions above. The letter of support should include the group's sense of your gifts and appropriateness for the program at this point in your life, and the names of those participating in the process. The letter of support should be submitted with your application.

You'll also be asked for your letter of support contact person, their email & phone number, and their connection to you.

Financial questions

We are committed to accepting applicants regardless of their financial means. The following questions are for budgeting and planning purposes only and will not be shared with teachers during the selection process.

- If selected, how much of your own funds do you expect to pay? Please include financial support you expect from family members. Information about suggested fees can be found here: <https://neym.org/events-calendar/2022/09/nurturing-faithfulness-2022-2023>
- Are there additional sources from which you plan to request or apply for funds? This may include your local meeting/church or Quarter, the Lyman Fund, or other grantmakers.

Applications are preferred by June 1, 2022. People applying by June 1 will hear back by July 1. These are rolling admissions, so applications submitted after June 1 will be reviewed as they come in. The application process will fully close September 1, 2022.