

Report on Friends General Conference 2025

There are several changes to report this year particularly in personnel. First is the retirement of Vanessa Julye who has led the Ministry on Racism and been a significant part of the FGC staff for many years. Her position will now be held by Alicia Nance. Another staff change is for Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, who has led the development of the Spiritual Deepening Program for 11 years, she will now be Associate Secretary of Events. While the Spiritual Deepening Program is scaling down, Cai Quirk will continue to add content, communicate with participants and facilitators, and send program evaluations. Rashid Darden, Associate Secretary of Communication and Outreach, sends out weekly emails about FGC programs and events, including news about new titles at Quaker Books. FGC continues to network with Quakers RE Collaborative (QREC) to support children's and adult RE.

In 2025 there will be two Gatherings. The first held in February 1-9 was a totally online Gathering. It was an experiment to see if people who could not attend a weeklong summer gathering would participate. The second Gathering will be YAY (Youth and Young Adults) July 2-6 to be held in Clarkston Michigan. In 2026 the usual in person Gathering will be held July 7-12, 2026, in Burlington VT. The Gathering was moved off the holiday weekend and will run from Tuesday through Sunday in an effort to reduce the costs and wear and tear on the staff. There will also be only two Plenary Speakers. After the 2025 YAY Gathering, Kody Hersh, Youth & Retreat Coordinator will be leaving FGC, and his replacement is Cai Quirk.

Barry Crossno, General Secretary and Marvin Barnes, Presiding Clerk continue guiding Friends General Conference's the Volunteer Revitalization "Project" and the Financial Stability of this longtime Quaker organization.