

Moses Brown School's Report to New England Yearly Meeting, 2024-2025

In its second year under Katie Titus's leadership, Moses Brown is planning its next decade of work as a Friends school, guided by our **"Lighting the Way" strategic vision**. Priorities include: evolving the N-12 curriculum towards a skills-focused, inquiry-based, purpose-driven program that challenges students to become leaders in their own education; supporting teachers through fellowship programs, mid-career sabbaticals, and a master teacher track; and assessing and updating campus infrastructure, with attention to the Field House, Three Oaks fine arts building, and Friends Hall. (See the Moses Brown School website for more information.)

A significant development for Friends education at MB is the **draft Faith and Practice document**, which has been funded for a second year by the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund, and which aims to provide information, inspiration, and guidance for the Moses Brown community. This year's work involved collaboration from MB's Rustin Center for Peace and Belonging, the Committee for Nurturing Friends Education, and numerous faculty, staff, and students. Draft copies will be available for Friends to review at Sessions.

The 2024 election and its aftermath were an opportunity for Moses Brown students and employees to consider the importance of **civil discourse**. In early fall, all students, employees, and many parents engaged in discussions of how key Quaker beliefs result in commitments to civil discourse, and used a variety of real-world scenarios to discuss how this looks in everyday practice. MB will offer a glimpse into this work as a workshop at Sessions this year.

The establishment of a **Student Quaker Life group in middle school** provided new opportunities for student leadership. Weekly middle school meetings for worship featured student-authored queries and often included mindfulness and grounding techniques. Student leaders have helped transform the experience of meeting for worship in the middle grades, creating space for engaged reflection through structured practice.

Another highlight is **Moses Brown School's selection to host the annual student-run Quaker Youth Leadership Conference (QYLC)**, where students from Friends schools around the country gather for shared learning, fellowship, and worship. QYLC 2026 will take place on MB's campus January 29-31, and the students in MB's Upper School Quaker Life team have chosen the theme "Creat(iv)e Change" to explore the connections between art, advocacy, and activism. Friends Council on Education and community partners will help develop programs for about 200 guests. New England Friends who are interested in supporting the conference or have suggestions for possible speakers are invited to reach out to Jen McFadden.

The school's Business Office established a working group to recommend **guidance for values-centered purchasing**. The team's work resulted in queries for discernment around purchases; recommendations for purchasing practices (including bid solicitation) that invite reflection on our testimonies; and ongoing work to consider how our values inform vendor choice.

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To learn more about any of this work, please contact Jen McFadden, Director of Friends Education (member, Providence Monthly Meeting) at jmcfadden@mosesbrown.org.