

LEYM 2025 Workshop Offerings

Once again Friends have answered the call and we have a great selection of workshops that will be offered at this year's Annual Meeting in Ashland.

Speaking our Truth: What Canst THOU Say?

Presenter: Pamela Haines (Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting)

Workshop Description: Awash in words from the outside—news, advertisements, sermons and speeches, political theory, cultural debate—it can be hard to claim our own. In this workshop, we will heed the challenge attributed to George Fox: “Christ sayeth this and the prophets say that, but what canst thou say?” Come prepared to reflect on what you know about speaking truth and the forces that encourage or discourage it; to practice speaking your own truth in front of others; and to commit some of that truth to writing.

Revitalizing Your Networks Through Intergenerational Events

Presenters: Ruth Cutcher (Durango MM/IMYM, QVS), Liz Anderson (Downer's Grove MM/OVYM), Jackie Lamars (Pittsburgh MM/LEYM)

Workshop Description: This workshop's goal is to provide tools for Quaker communities to build networks intergenerationally in a variety of mediums. This workshop will provide examples of in person and online events that Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) uses to bring together multiple generations throughout the service year. We will also highlight effective intergen events and activities that we have learned about through our work with Friends. In this workshop we will practice creating a welcoming environment with activities you can try in your own committees and intergenerational gatherings. Throughout QVS's 12 years of building intergenerational community we have learned to experiment with our networks to keep folks engaged!

We Aren't In Traffic, We Are Traffic

Presenter: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting)

Workshop Description: Quaker meetings are ideally places where power is shared broadly. However, we come conditioned by power relationships in society, carrying complicated relationships with authority. What does healthy power really look like in our organizational life? Join us to explore and explode typical (and problematic) patterns of power in flat organizations.

Make a Surprising Spiral Circle Book!

Presenter: Wink Covintree (Birmingham Friends Meeting)

Workshop Description: We will be making small books which when folded closed, will be pie-shaped, and which will open into a surprising spiral.

In the sense that nets can be mended, you will glue together four paper circles that have been slashed (or cut to be less dramatic) to form one whole small book. This workshop is hands-on and requires you to be able to fold circles accurately, cut, and apply glue. It's not hard, and there's no sewing involved. I will bring the necessary supplies. If you have a bone folder, pencil, scissors, pens, markers, glue stick or other things like that which you already use, you might find them handy. A continuing line of text can be written around the edges of the spiral. I'll bring some possibilities for that. Alternately you could draw an unwinding image, or incorporate collage. It's nice to have something inside the pages that reveals itself as the book is opened.

Weaving Safety Nets from Community Fabric

Presenter: Lewis Webb, Jr. (American Friends Service Committee)

Workshop Description: The workshop will bring the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) vision of a world beyond prisons and policing where safety is found within our communities. This is our North Star. AFSC has mapped 7 guideposts on our journey to dismantle systems of incarceration, surveillance, policing, and other forms of state control and replace them with human-centered alternatives.

During our 90 minutes together, we will utilize popular education techniques to explore ways we can individually and collectively impel governments and companies to divest from the prison and military industrial complexes; accomplish restorative justice practices that reduce harm and transform conflict; develop and spread narratives that protect those most targeted by state violence and, strengthen intersectional movements for peace and justice.

Getting into Good Trouble: Theories of the Third Side from People Who've Been There

Presenter: Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting)

Workshop Description: This session will explore various possible roles played by conflict intervenors (aka Third Siders) in situations of social conflict. We'll take a look at some of the very pragmatic models espoused by experienced social conflict intervenors such as Jim Laue (Community Relations Service), Bill Ury (Harvard Negotiation Project), Raymond Shonholtz (Partners for Democratic Change), and Quakers Adam Curle (Peace Studies, Bradford University) and George Lakey (Training for Change). The session reviews a range of scholarly models that these peacemakers came up with to try to understand and mend social conflict during their time. We'll think together about how our Quaker legacy and personal experiences have prepared us for the work that lies ahead. What roles might we play? What does good trouble look like for current day Friends?

F/friends in Unlikely Places

Presenter: Micah MacColl Nicholson (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Workshop Description: The Friends Committee on National Legislation is a national, non-partisan, Quaker organization that lobbies congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship. This workshop will give opportunities to practice strategic dialogue and communication across differing values and perspectives. We'll discuss how these practices draw on Quaker beliefs, tradition, and practices of spiritual grounding, and how they can be effective tools for relationship-building and advocacy. Explore ways of working for a more just and peaceful democracy, one conversation at a time.

White Noise: One Meeting's Work on Racism

Presenter: Chuck Esser (Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting)

Workshop Description: Do you wish white people in your meeting were more ready and able to talk about their personal experiences with race and racism? Would you benefit from a group where people were accountable to each other for stretching out of their comfortable roles and relationships? Come learn about Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting's experience of engaging with issues around race.

Quaker Values in the Immigration Courtroom

Presenter: Brian Hoffman (Wooster Friends Meeting)

Workshop Description: Five months into the Trump administration and its approach to the issue of immigration, it is a good time to take stock of where we have been in terms of policies and practices

in this century, to describe the situation that existed when the current administration came into power, and to see where we are now. Brian Hoffman grew up on a farm in northeast Ohio and earned his J.D. from The Ohio State University. He worked in private immigration practice for several years before beginning his career in pro bono service. Starting in 2015, Brian helped launch a series of successful pro bono projects, first serving women and children seeking asylum from a 55-acre detention camp in Texas, and then with the Southern Poverty Law Center at a notorious private prison in Georgia. In 2020 Brian became the founding executive director of The Ohio Center for Strategic Immigration Litigation & Outreach, a nonprofit that provides free legal services to people in immigration custody throughout Ohio.

Quaker Mending: Recapturing Lost Values of Our Money System

Presenters: John Howell and Robin Wilson (Athens Monthly Meeting)

Workshop Description: The workshop will explore how Quaker values might reshape the money system that underlies the economy – so we can live in an economically just and sustainable world. Our money system is currently being challenged from multiple directions. The resulting political pain & turmoil may present opportunities for change in ways that can come closer to our Quaker values, although pathways to such change present big challenges.

The session will start with a brief review of what money (monetary) systems do. A few critical thought questions will be presented. Participants will then be invited to respond by sharing ideas coming out of their own experiences that point to relevant principles, principles that could contribute to the design of money systems globally, nationally, or in our own communities. No special expertise is required. In the late 1800's, money issues were political and widely discussed; they can be now. We will think together about what the principles that emerge have to say about our current system and possibilities for the future. In the finest tradition of our Religious Society of Friends let's share how we will tip over the apple cart and build a better world.

Power of Enough

Presenter: Megan Fair (Right Sharing of World Resources)

Workshop Description: How are my relationships and my use of time, energy, and “things” in right balance to contribute to right order in our world, and to free me to do God's work? What is essential? How much is enough?

Through personal reflection, discussion, play, and worship sharing, we will explore queries to discover our power of enough. This workshop curriculum is grounded in Quaker experience, faith, and

practice. It has been developed through a series of simple and direct queries. The Power of Enough workshop allows individuals and groups to discuss their understanding of 'enough-ness;' these conversations bring up experiences with connection and climate change:

- Recognition of how every personal choice ripples out and touches everyone else.
- Reframe your perspective and create a personal change in behavior.
- Share your new insights with others (keep the ripples moving).

Participants provide a living example to their communities, as they create changes in personal behavior and choices. Queries from the workshop can be discussed again in other circles, and friends have access to an on-going collective resource document, which describes relevant books, articles, and other inspiration that they can share widely.

Renewing our Media, Democracy, Economy and Culture

Presenter: Robin Wilson (Athens Monthly Meeting)

Workshop Description: As Friends from many areas and various viewpoints we have opportunities for unique sharing and networking. Each of us will be a resource for what has worked for us as defenders of democracy, diversity and sustainability. Plus for us personally what has worked to fight the lies that make us doubt our oneness. How do we help love, diversity and sustainability to win out over fear, hate and dishonesty. What strategies have worked in our home towns and regionally? What future action do you envision for reversing our slide into fascist governance.

From our networking together we could strengthen our collective actions by listing our resources and action ideas. Participants are encouraged to bring specific information about groups working in your area. We will have tri-fold displays to post this networking information.

Right Relationship and Public Ministry in the Religious Society of Friends: The War for and Against Quakers

Presenter: Windy Cooler (Friends Incubator for Public Ministry)

Workshop Description: This interactive, discernment-based workshop is taken from Windy's recent doctoral work on this topic. What is a prophetic imagination or right relationship, and how do they manifest themselves in you and your community? How are you prepared as a worshiping community to discern, support, and hold accountable calls to ministry?