



■ FGC Gathering 2021: *Way Will Open*

June 27th - July 3rd, 2021 | Virtual

FGC 2021 Gathering - A Place for the Whole Family

A note from FGC's Junior Gathering Program:

We welcome people of all ages to FGC's 2021 Gathering. Since we will be joining virtually from home, all of Virtual Gathering will be a family space. We encourage participants and presenters to consider the needs of parents and families during this year's conference. Below are a few recommendations for all of us to ensure that Virtual Gathering is welcoming to all ages:

1. Recognize that families are attending Virtual Gathering together.
2. Welcome young ones into the space, acknowledge their presence and invite their participation.
3. Consider beginning worship with a story. This is an opportunity to create an all-ages inclusive worship.
4. Invite families to have books, stress balls, playdough, coloring pages, and pipe cleaners on hand for kids to work with during worship or workshop. We recommend [FGC's Quaker Activity pages](#), [Ricardo Levins Morales's Coloring Pages](#) or [Illustrated Ministry's coloring pages](#).
5. Let parents know it's ok if they need to mute or turn off video to attend to a child's needs during a workshop or presentation.
6. Encourage taking breaks every 30 minutes for movement, water, & looking out the window.
7. Think about how your content and presentation may be received by a younger audience, or adapted to include them.
8. Hold plans lightly and allow for the ability to change and adapt.

Thanks to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, and the Valiant Together Facebook page of Quaker Religious Education Collaborative for many of these suggestions.

More resources:

- [Lessons from Running Youth Programs Virtually](#) by Gretchen Baker-Smith
- [Key Ingredients for Working from a Distance](#) by Maggie Nelson
- [Working with Children in Virtual Spaces](#) by Melinda Wenner Bradley
- [Gathering Together: Support for Families & First Day Programs](#) by Melinda Wenner Bradley
- [Valiant Together Facebook Group](#) of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative
- [FGC Spiritual Deepening Library](#)
- [Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Religious Education Lesson plans](#)
- [Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Tote Bag Newsletters](#)
- [Funny Video about attending online Meeting for Worship](#) by Mim Lilly Coleman (with Friendly Faces!)