

## FGC Virtual Gathering Expectations

The Gathering seeks to be a community of Friends living in the discipline of the Spirit. It is a rare opportunity for personal spiritual growth and sharing. We endeavor to balance the opportunity for individual seeking with the challenges of growing together. We respond with respect and support to the best efforts of Gathering staff and volunteers, and registrants alike.

The 2020 Virtual Gathering presents the opportunity for each attender - staff, volunteers and registrants – to enter into community in a new way. In this transformational time of pain, fear, loss, and anger brought about by COVID-19, economic precarity, systemic racism, and ongoing anti-Black police brutality, we are called to honor own and others' lived experiences, to be honest about what we do not know, and to hold multiple truths.

**An All-Age Event.** The Gathering includes programs for adults, children, and teenagers. All attendees are asked to make the Gathering a safe and supportive community for children and elders alike. Parents and guardians are expected to help their children to be actively engaged with Junior Gathering and High School activities. Parents of children under age 10 are expected to be present and in the room during Junior Gathering.

**A community of respect, free from harassment.** Friends General Conference, in keeping with Friends' historical concerns for equality and justice, is committed to providing environments - including online environments - which are free of discrimination and harassment. Actions, including words, jokes, or comments, which demean groups or individuals will not be tolerated. Intimidation or sexual harassment, both overt and subtle, will not be tolerated. This includes for example: ethnicity, race, age, gender, sexual identity, or orientation, faith and religious belief, or physical or cognitive abilities. All allegations will be investigated thoroughly and fairly. A copy of the Harassment Policy is also attached.

**An event for registered attendees.** The Virtual Gathering programs are restricted to registered attendees, except for the limited "open to the public" events published on the website. Registration materials will include Zoom invitations to specific program events. **Do not** share this access with those who have not registered.

**Online Behavior Expectations.** All participants in the Virtual Gathering carry responsibility in creating an environment suitable to enable each one to be able to enter into the spirit of worship. Please act during Virtual Gathering program events as you would during worship in your home meeting, including being fully dressed and spiritually focused, making no recordings or photos, and engaging in no other internet use. Please place yourself on mute when appropriate and limit background distractions.

**Prohibited items.** Substances such as alcohol and recreational marijuana are not permitted in an in-person Gathering. FGC asks Virtual Gathering attendees to refrain from being under the influence of such substances when they participate in Virtual Gathering program events.

**FGC may ask any Friend unable to function within these guidelines to leave the Virtual Gathering.**