



Gathering Anew Focus Group FLGBTQC
September 13, 2022

What is important to take forward?

Networking provides vital support; especially when there is conflict in our yearly and monthly meetings

Volunteer opportunities - to serve each other is a gift to all

The "simplify" comment made me think: if we had to do away with certain parts of the Gathering, I would preserve workshops and worship opportunities over the evening plenaries

FLGBTQC worship, an immersive spiritual experience we don't get in other Quaker spaces

May need to simplify Gathering

Intergenerational community very important to every age group

Allow for rotation among regions, themes, focuses, audiences

FLGBTQC as trailblazers for the Society of Friends

FLGBTQC as pioneers within FGC and the Gathering can help us all move forward in FGC's - OUR - goal to become an anti-racist faith community

To whom is gathering accessible; who gets to come to the table

Contact between generations.

I would love for FGC to be a part of Quaker life on the west coast. The Gathering is unlikely to make that happen.

Sense of spiritual immersion

Yes, informal time, unplanned time

Sustainability in every sense of the word

I wonder about separating in-person and virtual gatherings. i am finding hybrid experiences less effective (for me) than either.

Important to take forward: Being physically together, perhaps regionally based, and affordable

Must maintain in-person gathering at least for teens and YAFs; must be affordable

Time to meet people outside of structured activities.

we need to play together...queer quakers have soooo much fun

What concerns or fears
rise for you?

STAFF AND
VOLUNTEER
BURNOUT

Cost,
travel

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Traveling
long
distances

For contract and
shift workers, even
full financial
support means they
are still
out-of-pocket

Serving aging
Quakers as financial
concerns and
disability limit their
ability to remain a
part of the in-person
FGC community

the Spirit
abandons
us.

Covid remains
a concern; so
hard to
predict its
future

Access problems
making Quakers'
demographic
problems worse;
impeding
discussions about
racism, classism etc.

Gathering
becoming a
vacation and
losing its
spiritual core

Virtual
workshops
can be more
effective than
virtual
worship

Digital
gatherings
don't allow for
an immersive
spiritual
experience

Can't be
all things
to all
people

Digital experiences
also limit the
serendipity that
brings people
together on golf
carts, before and
after workshops, at
meals, and so on

In trying to become
everything to all
people we might
eventually become
nothing to nobody
(because FGC and/or
the Gathering
disappear
altogether)

Gathering becoming
yet another place
that's only
accessible to
affluent white
people

"Voting" on
which parts of
the Gathering
are MOST
important is
so unQuakerly

What do you envision?
What hopes and possibilities arise?

a community that enacts the Kingdom of God on earth

Some in person activities please

The possibility that as we seek the Spirit together we will receive guidance.

Responding to the Spiritual need of Seekers is primary.

more Friends working together to hold regional gatherings, not so much staff organizing.

A "progressive dinner" style of offerings over say five years, might meet a lot of people's needs without overburdening FGC.

I for one am willing to make sacrifices in order for the Gathering to carry on another 100 years. Are other Friends?

Maybe we need to rejuvenate structures beyond gathering, like traveling ministry and regional gatherings, to take pressure off FGC Gathering, not asking for it to do too much

Reconsidering our testimony of simplicity, seeking continuing revelation

TBH, part of me just wants another Gathering like the recent in-person ones!

the possibility of even tighter connections among and between Friends as a result of the changes we make to The Gatherings

More traveling ministry, regional gatherings sharing staff time, especially resources for youth.

Real pay for real work, not always depending on volunteerism (reinforced by guilt!)

original "committee of concern" or the Poly and/or Kinky Quakers group that was active for a few years 8-10 years ago, is full of energy, optimism, and a sense of power and transformation. I wonder if there's any way to capture/inspire

part II: I wonder if there's any way to capture the energy of small new groups in an older group whose numbers are declining. The answer may be No, but what if it were Yes?

occasional regional special interest gatherings

