

# Gathering Anew

Join us as we imagine, connect, seek, and rejoice in transforming the Gathering anew.



## What is important to take forward

### Relationships

Way to connect to the broader circle of Friends beyond the Monthly / Yearly Meeting. Gathering so important for younger people - becomes a family to come back to. Multigenerational experiences grounded

workshops were the most important. Why? - meal times are special - Felt much broader than my meeting - In person so important, 1000+ folks worshiping together is important - Closest friends at Gathering, deep friendships

deepening spiritual experience and understanding-- learning there is more than one path to connection with the Spirit

Build Friends experience of volunteerism, giving to others through service

A week retreat with a large group of Friends

Willingness to follow the powerful (and sometimes scary) call of Spirit rather than falling back on tradition.

Multigenerational  
Multiregional

The opportunity for impromptu conversations - at meals and in chance encounters with people you didn't know you had to meet,

an opportunity to learn of the broader world of Quakers and to develop skills and new understandings because of the larger group

A place for all to rest

A chance for subgroups that need to nurture within themselves (BIPOC, Youth, FLGBTQC) to be with one another

The sense of the Gathering as an annual "family reunion" - especially for children.

In person gathering where the Gathering committee is allowed to set the vision for the theme, programs, speakers, etc. to reflect what they see is important for Friends.

reunion, particularly with the kids - you weren't the weird kids, adults finding family. What makes them my people? - Acknowledge that were we come, so much so that so we didn't need to talk about it (shared understanding/experi

Building community via in-person and virtual; leadership building, especially in younger Friends

giving people, especially youth, their supportive dose of Q-ism and connection to last them through the year



# What concerns or fears arise for you

increasing cost, decreasing number of Quakers, competition with other summer activities, concerns about carbon footprint,

Virtual gatherings seemed to be just another workshop without the special bonds you develop in person

virtual connection far more difficult than in-person.

- online worship not particularly satisfying

centering some particular groups are important, but risks distancing others; how can we serve the needs of all to build a stronger community

It doesn't seem appropriate to ask Friends to travel such distances to be together

Gathering Planning Cte need to be large messy and engaging....not just a group of the same folk

I fear that we are losing centering in God and in love.

Finding an appropriate host venue has become increasingly difficult as we try to take into account the needs of our various constituent

Numbers of Quakers are dwindling drastically

Fear that Fear will stifle creativity and joy

there is a challenge in not burning staff out because there is so much work that used to be done by volunteers

Decreasing volunteerism makes the Gathering more difficult to "staff"

Youth in the west don't have opportunities like the BYM summer camps.

Is the Gathering youth programming better/deeper/more effective than the Quaker youth programming that already exists and is being done (ie, BYM camps)? Are we duplicating efforts?

We need to consider how FGC can serve the RSOF. The Gathering has always only been one part of that. What happens to the RSOF is FGC doesn't exist, and also, what if the Gathering doesn't exist?

Having the Clerks in the regional area and expertise is important and seems less and less

Everything has a time and place. Has Gathering outlived its time and place in the RSoF?

If there is no Gathering, is there a role for FGC in the life of the RSOF?

FGC created to serve the religious society of friends, vs. FGC trying to lead the Religious society of friends (context, FGC shared its set of goals, but not taking a survey of what constitutes needs)

FGC was established to serve the RSoF, but it seems to act as if it was setting the agenda for the Society. It's goals should arise from the yearly meetings.

We built a broken system. I worry that we are emotionally attached to keeping that system just out of tradition.

It feels like the old guard is still leading. Do we trust young voices enough to let them actually run things?



What do you envision?  
What hopes and possibilities arise?

Co created "jam style spaces" where talents are valued

using the successes of the YAY Gathering as a foundation/template to build smaller events at different times throughout the year.

A co-created space of rejuvenation and support for all.

I would love to see Gathering as a place that Friends come together to work together, not just a place where individuals find like minded Friends and workshops

Gathering as a spiritually enlivened and enlivening opportunity

A place where bodies and minds of all abilities can give from their abilities without guilt, pressure, or exhaustion.

**A jubilee year**

a space for growth outside of our monthly and yearly meetings

I loved the word generative that came up in my breakout room. Can we nurture the creative spirit and transform our lives through something old or something new?

that would occur at the same time and have the possibility of some virtual connections between those gatherings-- this might serve to allow some of the in-person interconnections and also decrease some of the difficulties.

The Young Adult Friends that I have seen in FGC committees and in Gathering are inspiring and I have every confidence that if they don't let go the Gathering and FGC will continue

I would love to see a Gathering where Friends actually work together not just come to see their like-minded Friends and take personally satisfying workshops.

A week with more space instead of a week "sponsored" by every possible Quaker event/org crammed into every second of the day.

Gathering began as an opportunity to come together to accomplish work of shared interest- what work are we called to now?

Considering venues other than college campuses!

An actively anti-racist faith community that welcomes newcomers into the work as they join in.

