

FGC Representatives Report 2021

Friends General Conference has been challenged by Covid cautions and restrictions as most other organizations have. Because of the long lead time required for on-site Gatherings and the considerable uncertainty in the fall of 2020, the decision was made to have the 2021 FGC Gathering again be virtual. Registration will begin in early April and the list of workshops and evening programs is available on their website, fgcquaker.org.

The longer term effects of postponing in-person Gatherings is that Radford University in Virginia will now host Gathering in 2022, and Western Oregon University in 2023.

FGC continues to explore how best to support Quakers broadly and its member yearly meetings. The Spiritual Deepening program provides resources for seekers to deepen their faith. FGC has seen a rise in queries about Quakerism and held an e-retreat in December for people who had responded to Facebook ads.

There has been a growing awareness of the need to address systemic racism in Friends General Conference even before the Black Lives Matter movement developed and they continue to work to become an actively anti-racist organization and to assist yearly meetings in the work as well.

FGC is in the early stages of developing a capital campaign to support the work and priorities identified for the organization including making the Gathering more accessible for a wider range of Friends, strengthening connections among yearly meetings across the country and addressing racism.

Mary Hampton has been serving as our representative to Executive Committee. Jan Michael serves on the Long Range Conference Planning Committee. They would welcome another SCYM Friend to serve as an FGC representative.