

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC)
Report to South Central Yearly Meeting Representative Meeting
Saturday, November 19, 2022

The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC), a cross-branch and international organization, was formed by a small group of FGC Friends to provide a community of practice for Quaker religious educators. With spiritual development a lifelong quest, QREC develops resources for all ages and creates community to foster the spiritual development of Quakers in their homes and meetings. They partner with Faith & Play, Friends Peace Teams, Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and Quaker Parenting Initiative.

Resources that QREC has include:

1. **Website:** <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/> The website is beautiful and user friendly. This is the first place to go to learn about QREC and the resources they have collected.

2. **Resource Library** includes curricula, articles, recommended books and videos. The categories to search in are:
 - Children's Education
 - Youth Education
 - Adult Education
 - Small Meetings
 - General Search
 - Family
 - Young Adult Friends
 - African Quaker Library
 - Biblioteca QREC

3. **Conversation Circles** – <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/rise-youth-conversation-circles> QREC holds monthly conversation circles covering different topics each month. Each conversation has a knowledgeable person talk about the topic before the conversation is opened to the attenders. There is a Tuesday noon (Central time) session and a Thursday, 7pm (Central time) session. The November conversation this week considered RISE: A Quaker Youth Curriculum on Human Relationships and Sexuality, a course developed by Durham NC Friends Meeting. The summary of the October conversation about "Experiments in Meeting for Worship: Plain, Virtual and Blended" can be found at <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/experiments-in-worship-cc-summary> These conversations are rich. I highly recommend them.

4. **Other Events:**

- **Spiritual Companion Group Gatherings**, in partnership with Friends Peace Teams, are *Power of Goodness* online events. These events offer a story followed by small group conversations with people from many faiths and nations. <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/spiritual-companion-group-gatherings>
- **Quaker Parent Mutual Support Groups**
<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/quaker-parent-support-groups-3>
Quaker parent mutual support groups provide a supportive forum in which Quaker parents can talk about their parenting and their faith. Parents celebrate one another's successes and provide fellowship for one another through difficulties. – See proposal from SCYM Youth Program Support Committee
- **Annual Conference** – hybrid and in-person. Cross branch. International.
<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/events#otherEvents>

5. **Faith at Home** <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/faith-at-home> is a fabulous collection of resources for families to use at home. Topics include:

- Love at the Heart of It All – a vision of beloved community
- Active Caring – Helping and responding to nudges
- Spiritual Practices – Opening ourselves to divine love
- Discernment – Weaving faith into life
- Quaker Family Culture – Stories from Quaker homes
- Finding the Light – Nurturing gifts, affirmations

6. **Valiant Together – Facebook page** – an online conversation about Children's religious education <https://www.facebook.com/groups/142565643748892> This page was started during Covid to connect and support parents at home and continues to connect parents to each other and online events.

QREC is a volunteer run group. It needs the support of Friends who use the resources regularly and those who want to make sure the resources are there for those who need them. QREC needs our funds. Our funds are what make the website possible, along with the other work that QREC does. I encourage each of us to become a member individually and to encourage our monthly meetings and SCYM to become members as well. Donations can be made via PayPal by going to <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/get-involved#donate> or by sending checks to Jane Jackson, QREC Treasurer, 35 Winchester Drive, Lexington, MA 02420.

In addition, QREC needs volunteers. There are many ways to get involved. Go to <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/get-involved#> to see how you can be involved.

Ways to get involved are to get announcements of events such as the Conversation Circles, become a member, submit resources and volunteer to join a working circle. QREC is a valuable resource. I hope SCYM Friends will utilize it.

Anne Collins
Stillwater OK Monthly Meeting