



Quaker Religious Education Collaborative Representatives Report to SCYM, March 29, 2021

<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/>

The **Quaker Religious Education Collaborative** (QREC) is an international, cross-branch, grassroots network of Friends sharing a stewardship for lifelong Quaker faith formation through religious education. It formed in April 2014, with SCYM member Liz Yeats as one of the founding members. QREC serves more than 300 Friends in Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America. This network of Friends actively engage and support each other across languages, time zones and continents through its website, at the annual conference (held via Zoom in 2020 and this summer, too) and at monthly conversation circles and other events. The Conversation Circle in April will focus on Quaker Youth Workers and will be held on Tuesday afternoon, April 20 at noon CDT and again on Thursday evening, April 22 at 7 p.m. CDT. Go to the website to register (<https://quakerrecollaborative.org/april-2021-conversation-circle>) and receive the zoom link. While you are at the website, you can access the notes from other Conversation Circles held this year and in previous years. Topics include:

- Beyond Quakerism 101: How can Friends Prepare to be a light in the world?
- Welcoming Diverse Youth and Young Adults
- Child Safety
- Program Planning in Uncertain Times
- Sustainability
- Quakers, Death and New Life: Lent, Easter and Passover

QREC website includes a resource library created by the network of Friends sharing & uploading lessons and resources they have created. I encourage First Day School and Yearly Meeting teachers to utilize this resource and to share your lessons and resources with Friends through QREC Resource Library. Inspired by the work QREC is doing with unstaffed yearly meetings, Liz Yeats sent a Quaker Family Fun Sheet about how Love Changes Lives to all the children under 12 in SCYM.

Other resources include a Facebook group named Valiant Together: Sharing Quaker Religious Education Support and Resources during COVID-19; resources for Spanish speakers; and resources for African Friends. QREC is good at linking various groups together. This is how US Friends are helping African Friends in Kenya establish archives of their history and work.

QREC is supported by the membership and grants. SCYM has a yearly meeting membership and some of our monthly meetings have Monthly Meeting Memberships. QREC is very grateful for SCYM's support through the yearly meeting membership and for the monthly meetings and individuals who support it in time and treasure.

The biggest take away for SCYM Friends is that QREC is a collaborative organization. It offers resources to us and we offer resources back. QREC is how Erika Mittag (Austin MM) and I got connected with Friends Peace Teams and Peace Libraries in Indonesia, Rwanda and hopefully in Bolivia. Participating in QREC events and utilizing QREC resources will connect you to a world of Friends and to useful experiences and resources. QREC is staffed completely by volunteers working in Working Circles. You can volunteer to be involved with QREC by going to the website and becoming a member and volunteering to attend a conference or conversation circle, or by being a working member of one of the 10 working circles.

Link to Introductory Slideshow: <https://quakerrecollaborative.org/qrec-introductory-slide-show>