

Lesson 5

COMMUNITY (Part 2)

“There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become brethren.”

John Woolman

"As we went I spied a great high hill called Pendle Hill, and I went on the top of it with much ado, it was so steep; but I was moved of the Lord to go atop of it; and when I came atop of it I saw Lancashire sea; and there atop of the hill I was moved to sound the day of the Lord; and the Lord let me see atop of the hill in what places he had a great people to be gathered."

George Fox

SUMMARY FOR ADULTS

Quakers view their community as extending far beyond the walls of their meetinghouses. They see their community as encompassing their entire neighborhood, city, country, and even the world. This expansive sense of community reflects the Quaker belief in the interconnectedness of all people.

Right Sharing of Resources: Quakers are committed to the principle of "right sharing of resources." This means that they believe resources should be distributed in a way that is just and equitable, ensuring that everyone's basic needs are met. The commitment to simplicity and modest living is often done in order to share their resources with those in need.

Peace: Quakers have a long history of pacifism and peacemaking. We believe in the transformative power of nonviolence and strive to promote peaceful solutions to conflicts at all levels of society, from interpersonal relationships to international diplomacy. Many Quakers are involved in peace advocacy and activism.

Social Activism: Our commitment to equality and their belief in the worth of every individual lead us to work for social change on issues such as racial justice, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and economic justice. Quakers have been involved in various social justice movements throughout history.

Oneness of Community: Quakers believe that all people are interconnected and that what affects one member of the global community ultimately affects all. This belief underlies our commitment to social and environmental justice, as we see ourselves as responsible for the well-being of the entire human family and the planet.

Friends Meetings exist all over the world, with the largest growing populations in Kenya and Belize.

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Monthly, Quarterly, and New York Yearly Meeting

Quakers don't have a hierarchy, but they do meet together in an organized way for mutual benefit and support:

- The smallest Quaker Meetings are Monthly Meetings, which meet monthly for worship with a concern for business. These Monthly Meetings can be comprised of worship groups and other affinity groups.
- The Monthly Meetings in a certain geographic area gathered together in “Quarterly Meetings”. These meet four times a year for fellowship and worship with a concern for business. Flushing Monthly Meeting belongs to the New York Quarterly, consisting of us as well as 15th Street, Staten Island, Morningside, Manhattan and Brooklyn. (NYCQuakers.org)
- Yearly Meetings encompass a larger geographic area and meet at least once a year. New York Yearly Meeting, founded in 1694 in Flushing, right here at this very meeting house, is the gathering of all the Quaker monthly and quarterly meetings in New York State, northern New Jersey, and southwestern Connecticut. New York Yearly Meeting comprises roughly 3,200 members, in 64 local monthly meetings, 9 worship groups, and 8 prison worship groups and meetings. It works primarily through committees, such as the Ministry Coordinating Committee, the Witness Coordinating Committee, and the General Services Coordinating Committee, which encompass more specialized committees such as the Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development, Committee for Black Concerns, Indigenous Affairs Committee, Climate Justice Working Group, and many other subcommittees devoted to administration, service, and ministry. It is organized in 9 regions and meets three times a year. (NYYM.org) NYYM is affiliated with Friends General Conference, and Friends United Monthly, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and Right Sharing of World Resources. (See below).

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Major U.S. Yearly Meetings (Examples by Affiliation – about 30 total):

- **Friends General Conference (FGC) - Unprogrammed/Liberal:** Focus on silent worship, consensus. (14-16 yearly meetings)
 - Philadelphia YM: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.
 - New England YM: New England states.
 - New York YM: NY, CT, NJ.
 - Baltimore YM: MD, VA, WV, PA, DC.
 - Pacific YM: West Coast, Hawaii, Mexico.
 - Intermountain YM: AZ, CO, NM, UT, TX, SD.

- **Friends United Meeting (FUM) - Pastoral/Programmed (some overlap with FGC):** Focus on led worship, sermons, programs.
 - Many listed above (NY, NE, Baltimore) participate in FUM, plus others like Ohio Valley YM, Illinois YM, and many churches abroad, including those in Africa, belong to this affiliation.

- **Evangelical Friends (EFCI):** Conservative theology, Protestant church-like services.
 - Evangelical Friends Church International (EFCI) includes several YMs, with clusters in Ohio, California, Oregon, Kansas.

- **Conservative Friends:** Traditional, unprogrammed worship, distinct from FGC.
 - Iowa YM (Conservative), Ohio YM (Conservative), NC YM (Conservative).

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OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF FRIENDS:

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE <https://www.fgcquaker.org/>

Founded in 1900, Friends General Conference is an association of local and regional Quaker organizations primarily in the United States and Canada. FGC is a volunteer led association. Our focus areas and related projects are determined by volunteers representing our affiliates and consistent with FGC's organizational Minute of Purpose and Vision Statement. What was once an association of seven yearly meetings holding a biennial "general conference" is now a coalition of sixteen yearly meetings and twelve directly affiliated monthly meetings.

Minute of Purpose

Friends General Conference, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers.

Major Goals

1. Nurture meetings and worship groups.
2. Provide resources and opportunities for meetings, Friends, and seekers to experience the Light, the living presence of God.
3. Help meetings guide Friends to discern the leadings of the Inward Teacher and to grow into ministry.
4. Transform our awareness so that our corporate and individual attitudes and actions fully value and encompass the blessed diversity of our human family.
5. Work to grow and sustain a vital, diverse, and loving community of Friends based on a shared search for unity in the Spirit.
6. Articulate, communicate, and exemplify Friends' practices, core experiences, and the call to live and witness to our faith.
7. Promote dialogue with others, sharing with them our corporate experience of Divine Truth and listening to and learning from their experience of the same.

Outreach

QuakerBooks
QuakerPress Publishing
Interfaith Relations
Invitational Outreach
Quaker Finder

Spiritual Formation

Ministry on Racism
Spiritual Deepening Program
Youth & Young Adult Ministries

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Friends United Meeting (FUM) has the majority of its membership in pastoral meetings which maintain much of the evangelistic zeal and missionary concern of the early Quaker movement and are closer to mainstream Protestantism than are the meetings of Friends General Conference. FUM now includes yearly meetings, comprising over half the world's Friends, and encompassing in its fellowship the large number of Friends in East Africa. A number of yearly meetings maintain an association with both Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting.

The 37 yearly meetings and associations that comprise Friends United Meeting (FUM) engage in a broad range of Christian Quaker ministries on four continents. In December, over 850 Friends gathered for the ninth African Friends Pastors Conference in Mwanza, Tanzania. The Quaker movement continues to grow rapidly in Tanzania, Uganda, and in several of the desert regions in Kenya. Turkana Friends Mission in Kenya is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year.

FUM's online bookstore has a new agreement with Britain Yearly Meeting's Quaker Books publishing arm that allows FUM to be a direct distributor of BYM's publications, and vice versa.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Mission & History

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), represents Quakers around the world.

Purpose: The primary task of FWCC is to help Friends appreciate and develop unity within the diversity of the Quaker family.

History: In 1937, FWCC was formed to help bring Quakers together across theological and cultural diversity. Peace work before and during World War I brought Friends together across the Atlantic, which gave purpose to their continuing connections.

The concept of a world organization to express the sense of world fellowship of Friends arose as an important part of the evolution of the Religious Society of Friends in the first two decades of the twentieth century. This was partly influenced by the 1920 Friends World Conference in London and the Young Friends Gathering in England. At that time, there was no other organization which linked together yearly meetings and other Quaker bodies around the world, and so the vision of an organization arose to keep Friends connected and in touch with each other across the diverse spectrum of the Society.

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How we do this: FWCC operates collaboratively as one organisation, comprising the World Office and four Section offices. The five offices are independently incorporated and have separate budgets and programs, but work cooperatively to bring Friends together across the world. The World Office encourages cross-Section engagement, while respecting the autonomy of individual yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations.

The World Office uniquely represents all Friends at the global level through its participation with those of other faiths through work with the [World Council of Churches](#), the Conference of Secretaries of the Christian World Communions, and participation in global ecumenical and interfaith work.

Right Sharing of World's Resources <https://rswr.org>

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) is an independent Quaker not-for-profit organization sharing the abundance of God's love by working for equity through partnerships around the world.

RSWR gives grants to groups of marginalized women in Guatemala, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and India to fund individual micro-enterprise projects. Right Sharing's work is grounded in a sense of stewardship for the world's material, human, and spiritual resources.

American Friends Service Committee AFSC.org

AFSC works for a just, peaceful, and sustainable world free of violence, inequality, and oppression. We join with people and partners worldwide to meet urgent community needs, challenge injustice, and build peace.

Affiliated with AFSC, the Quaker United Nations Office promotes justice, peace and sustainability at the United Nations. Our priorities are based on the concerns of Quakers worldwide. Through different areas of work in Geneva and New York, we seek to ensure that the UN system and community of nations support and uphold the dignity of all, so that justice and peace can flourish, and our shared home can be nurtured.

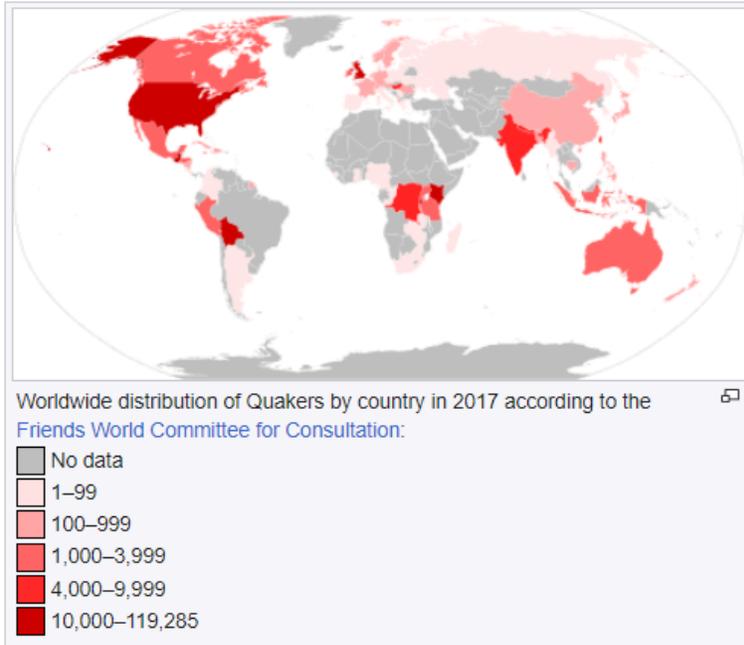
The Friends Committee on National Legislation FCNL.org

The Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL Education Fund, and Friends Place on Capitol Hill are national nonprofit, nonpartisan Quaker organizations working collectively to advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship.

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Schools Supported by the New York Quarterly Meeting in East Africa

Did you know that In Tanzania, which is a country in Africa, we have friends who are going to school like you? They go to school in Kisangura, which is a village near the north western border of the Serengeti National Park. They speak Swahili in grade school and learn English in high school, but they learn all the same subjects that you do – math, science and social studies.



If you are interested in learning more about the Tanzanian school, here are some videos:

Kisangura Video about the Drawing Share Program with Brooklyn Friends School -
<https://vimeo.com/235622709>

[FOR ADULTS: There is also another more extensive video on Youtube (please note this mentions female circumcision and HIV. It also has pretty poor sound quality, but its very interesting):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9782u4Cb18Y>.]

There is also another Friends School in Africa which the New York Quarterly has supported. Its in Kenya in the village of Davanga, which is in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, the Chavakali South Zone of Sabatia Sub County in Vihiga County, north of the Winam Gulf of Lake Victoria. This is an area which has been heavily influenced by the Quaker missionaries that arrived in 1902. Today, Kenya has the highest number of Friends found anywhere on Earth. Davanga Friends School serves over 300 students ranging from Pre-K to 9th grade. Kenya has a richly diverse ecosystem, ranging from savannas with lions, rhinoceros, and elephants to the Great Rift

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Valley's lakes, home to vast bird populations. Its history dates back to the earliest days of humanity, with a cultural tapestry of over 40 distinct ethnic groups, each possessing unique languages, traditions, and artistic expressions. Despite this extraordinary heritage, some schools in Kenya struggle with a lack of teachers, infrastructure and materials.



Vihiga County

QUERY

Can we find a song or poem that we think our Friends in Kenya would enjoy as much as we do?

Links to Audio Excerpts from podcasts available on Youtube:

Quaker Thee Podcast: “Quakers in Kenya “ Quaker Podcast.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02ryaQ6N9sk>

19:42-20:14

Quaker Thee Podcast: “We Went Inside a Quaker Church in Kenya – Can I get an Amen?”

Kenyan Friends Church Manyatta - Kisumu, Lake Victoria

1:53 - 9:00 Intro to Rev. Pamela “Nigessa”

16:47 - 20:04. First part of Rev. “Nigessa”'s sermon.

https://www.google.com/search?q=quaker+thee+podcast+kenya+church&oq=quaker+thee+podcast+kenya+church&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAQIRigATIHCAUQIRigATIHCAQIRifBTIHCAcQIRifBTIHCAgQIRifBTIHCAkQIRifBdIBCjEzOTA4ajBqMTWoAgiwAgHxBRdIRU6LFAGp&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:c2eedf83.vid:WVUgUGjlocA.st:0