

Call to the 2026 Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting

Outer Fruit - Practice

Many Friends experience individual and corporate actions in the world as responses to the Light. How do we discern?

If we are called to corporate action, how do we avoid “the tyranny of structurelessness?” in which a group of connected friends exercise leadership, and alienate dissenters?

How enmeshed are our religion and our politics? If the line is fuzzy for us, is it okay for the state to get fuzzy about it as well?

What do we do when we mess up?

Accountability:

How does our faith guide our practice? How does our practice inform our faith? How do we hold ourselves accountable? How do we hold each other accountable?

Confucius says that if we govern by law, we keep order by punishment. If we want to govern by virtue, we keep order by filial piety: The elders exercise care, responsibility and passing on traditions to the young. The youngers exercise care, respect and questioning traditions to the elders.

How does filial piety, mutual responsibility across roles, translate into Friends practice?

Inner Seed - Faith

F&P says that corporate worship is the core of Friends practice. We put away our grocery lists, arguments, and even feelings to listen for the Inner Teacher, Seed, Light.

“In worship at its best, we transcend ourselves.”

Many Friends also have an individual spiritual practice. For some this is a constant awareness of a divine presence. For others it may take the form of prayer.

The meeting community may be strengthened, and its worship deepened by individual practice.

Experiment!

George Fox found his faith “experimentally.” Friends faith is experiential, individual, and internal. We each experience it differently. What is its core? Is there a thing without which we are no longer Friends--testimonies, Jesus, “that of God” within, social action, worship?

Areas of concern:

For the past several years, we have listened to each other share concerns about the future of Quakerism and the Yearly Meeting.

These topics—communication, structures and governance, membership, and finance & resources—capture the gist of many of our conversations. Are we ready to experiment?

Structures and Governance

FGC has restructured recently. Emily Provance held a class on Committee Structures many of us attended. Ideas?

Scientific Process:

Any middle school textbook

Observe

Question

Research

Plan

Test

Evaluate

Share results

Emergent Process:

Fierce Vulnerability Network

1. Unplug

2. Walk, listen to nature around you

3. Converse with a tree, stone, or river

4. Start writing. Don't stop.

5. Journal

6. Move

7. Compare notes with others

Communication

With whom, about what? How?

How do we communicate disagreement, or challenge? Many are trained in Non-Violent Communication and the Alternative to Violence Program. Can you all help us out?

Membership

Shrinking, growing, and direct with YM

What does it mean to belong? To whom do we belong? How can we invite and engage people? How can we make room for diverse experiences?

Resources/Finance

Right Sharing of World Resources encourages us to believe there is enough. What is our money for? What is sustainable in our practices and our care for the earth?