

TO: IMYM Arrangements Committee

FROM: Program Working Group

John Huyler and DeAnne Butterfield (Co-clerks), Laura Peterson (Arrangements), Sarah Feitler & Polly Feitler (Seminars and Interest Groups), Eric Swanson and Cindy Yurth (Youth Programs), David Henkel (Peace and Social Concerns), Travis Etling (New Mexico Regional), Nancy Duncan (Colorado Regional), Kay Bordwell (Worship Sharing), William Viavant (SYF), Caroline Rackley (Friends in the Arts)

DATE: January 2, 2020

RE: Status Report

The Program Working Group met three times at Ghost Ranch in June 2019 and with five conference calls since. We have had strong and active participation in these calls and especially appreciate the presence of SYF William Viavant. Details of our work to date are summarized below.

2020 IMYM Theme and Keynote Speaker
Being Here, Now...Together

IMYM Friends will gather in 2020 at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. This will be a new experience for most, after many years at Ghost Ranch. The Program Working Group chose the theme Being Here, Now...Together as a way to suggest being present in this place with each other. The summer of 2020 will be swirling around us with political, environmental and social issues. We envision the IMYM gathering to be a respite for contemplation, fellowship, joy, spiritual connection, deep listening and learning.

C. Wess Daniels, Quaker author, educator, intellectual, and theologian, will be our Friend in Residence and keynote speaker. Wess, 41, is Director of Friends Center and Quaker Studies at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. A self-described convergent Friend, Wess probes the roots of Christianity and Quakerism and how to integrate these truths into the faith and practice of living as Friends in today's world.

Wess has a PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary in California. He is a recorded Quaker minister and has pastored at Barberton (Ohio) and Camas (WA) Evangelical Friends Churches. He is active with the students at Guilford and a board member of Quaker Voluntary Service. He and his wife Emily Daniels have three children. She will join him at IMYM.

Wess looks forward to coordinating with Children's Programs, JYF and SYF leaders to schedule time with our youth. As a Friend in Residence he is invited to

participate in all our activities and talk one-on-one with Friends over meals and walks. He will host a post-keynote discussion about his message and offer an interest group presentation/discussion on his most recent book, [Resisting Empire: The Book of Revelation as Resistance](#).

[Quakerspeak Video](#) What is a Friend?
Wess' Blog www.gatheringinlight.com

Early Days Seminars and Regular Days Interest Groups

Sarah Feitler and Polly Feitler, interest group/seminar coordinators, are seeking proposals for Friends to present seminars and interest groups at yearly meeting June 15-20, 2020. There will be seminar time in Early Days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning) of approximately 3 hours each day. Seminars usually are conducted over the three days, each with one or more presentations, experiences or training on a theme; one- or two-day seminars will also be offered. These will be finalized by the end of February so details and sign-up can be included in the registration.

Interest groups will meet during the regular session for 90-minute time slots. Interest group proposals will be solicited through April. We are particularly interested in presentations that relate to the theme of Being Here, Now...Together, recognizing that Friends also appreciate topics involving how Friends are active in the world. There will be a limited number of time slots available; we will accommodate as many proposals as we can but may not be able to accept all submissions. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee, in consultation with Delegates Committee, is organizing a pair of interest groups to explore in what activities our Monthly Meetings and Friends organizations are involved.

Interest group topics will not be included in registration this year; Friends will sign up for interest group sessions after they arrive in Durango. We note that interest group leaders often make last-minute changes, and many Friends do not remember what interest group they signed up for or change their minds. There will remain a challenge to anticipate room size but this is an experiment we want to try.

Friends in the Arts at IMYM

Friends in the Arts is planning and will solicit workshops, projects and art opportunities at the Arts Center. The artists hope Friends will share their gifts, skills and inspiration to lead or assist the coordinators. We hope to recruit someone to present a painting or photography workshop and a leader for singing, dance/physical movement. Friends in the Arts plans to offer another group artwork

project that combines efforts to produce something visual. They welcome sessions for children and JYF but need collaborative advance planning.

Worship Sharing

Worship Sharing continues to receive high praise in the evaluations. Kay Bordwell, worship sharing coordinator, will continue to work with the Friend in Residence and others on readings and queries, arrange a thorough training and mid-week check in for worship sharing leaders, and offer a variety of formats. With breakfast served until 8:30 instead of 8:15, it will be a challenge to schedule longer than 60 minutes if business starts at 10:00.

SYF have asked that Friends be encouraged to attend all three Intergenerational Worship Sharing gatherings if they sign up; it is dispiriting to the SYF leaders when attendance declines significantly.

Topics we would like to discuss with the Arrangements Committee:

1. How do we envision Early Days? Is there still a desire for unscheduled half days? If so, is there a preference for mornings or afternoons? Could a seminar or hike be scheduled for a full day?
2. How might Monday and Tuesday evenings be used—the past two years have featured a family movie Monday and topics of race and privilege on Tuesday?
3. Will 15 minutes be adequate time between sessions? Also, mealtimes are 15 minutes longer which will take up 45 minutes a day in the schedule.
4. PWG members are particularly attentive to the query about how our Monthly Meetings and IMYM gathering support our youth. In particular Children's Yearly Meeting needs a boost. Are there ideas for how this discernment and encouragement can be incorporated into the broader IMYM schedule?
5. Can there be time on the agenda early in the Arrangements Committee meeting for SYF representatives to talk with us about schedule? It is not optimal for each to work on a schedule separately then try to integrate at the end of the meeting. Intergenerational worship sharing? Fishbowl? Early Days hike? Racism program? Their attendance at the keynote plenary? Other SYF needs and ideas? Let's model listening and collaboration!
6. There are not enough evenings for opening session, singing, dancing, creativity night, presentations, and special programs. What should be the evening priorities? Evaluations expressed both disappointment in double-scheduling evening programs, and also desires for alternatives for those who don't dance or sing. Guidance?

7. PWG wants to support the interest group coordinators to have a broad mix of topics, avoid duplication, and keep the number of interest groups lower (last year there were 18!). Will Arrangements Committee support this in responding to disappointed proposers?
8. In the desire to provide opportunities for Friends to hear about activities of “Quaker Alphabet” organizations, Delegates Committee and Peace and Social Concerns scheduled an evening plenary in 2019. This year, we will instead offer two interest groups for these committees to organize. Other ideas? Will there be space in the large room or bookstore for display tables?
9. Evaluations from 2019 note the reduction of worship time other than early mornings and Sunday. How can more worship be infused into the schedule? Perhaps worship times can be scheduled for less than 60 minutes or for an extended time in conjunction with business meetings?
10. Faced with the desire of many, including PWG, for Friends to have opportunities for contemplation, conversation, spontaneous gatherings and less-frenetic schedules, could/should we create an unprogrammed time slot during regular days? Is this goal addressed by Early Days? What would this replace?