



# PENDLE HILL

A Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center

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February 4, 2021

Dear Susan,

I am pleased to submit this letter of intent to you and the Friends Foundation for the Aging (FFA) Board of Trustees on behalf of Pendle Hill, a national and international Quaker center and spiritual retreat in Wallingford, PA.

We respectfully request FFA's consideration of a \$40,000 grant to support Quaker innovation in reimagining the Religious Society of Friends, using technology best practices, to make Quakerism more inclusive to elderly people who are staying in their homes. In response to the pandemic, Quakerism is in the process of reimagining itself, with meetings moving to a format that combines in person and online interaction. This request would support best practices in this evolution and consist of a two-part initiative: (1) a collaboration with Woodbrooke Study Centre in Birmingham, England to provide education on blended worship to Friends; and (2) a series of innovative online programs to meet spiritual needs of older adults isolated nationally and internationally at home. We believe our online programming can serve as a model for how the Religious Society of Friends might evolve to meet the changing demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and serve elderly isolated people on a national basis.

Pendle Hill and Woodbrooke have been pioneers in exploring the possibilities of blended worship, in which some Friends are physically in one space while others are online. There are inherent issues of equity and inclusion at play. For example, how can we ensure online participants feel equally included as in-person participants? Our workshop would seek to provide guidance and mutual understanding around these issues. We are confident that even after in-person worship resumes, blended programming will likely remain a key component of many Meetings. Therefore, this workshop provides a crucial space for meeting members to learn about best practices.

With funding from FFA and other sources, we would facilitate a series of online programs that allow for more equitable access for older adults isolated at home. These programs would be focused on racial justice, the arts, and Quaker spirituality. We would offer scholarships to those with financial need. Furthermore, we would provide program support, reaching out to participants in their homes to ensure that they receive technical guidance. Our long-term goal is to increase quality of interaction and equity within online spiritual programming for elderly people, and FFA's support would help tremendously in this effort.

Research shows that spiritual programming for the elderly is crucial. The National Poll on Healthy Aging found in 2020 that 56% of older adults reported feeling isolated. Studies show that loneliness adversely affects mental and physical health, memory, and longevity. Pendle Hill directly addresses these needs through our programs: last year 62% of our program participants were 65 or older, with several programs above 90%. In addition, several of our programs either require that participants identify as BIPOC or are designed to benefit marginalized communities.

We will evaluate success using written feedback from program evaluations; in addition, we will track the number of people over 65 who attend Pendle Hill programs and the geographic diversity of our participants.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter of intent. We are grateful for the work that Friends Foundation for the Aging does to promote dignity, self-determination, and community for older adults in accordance with Friends' values, and we look forward to future conversation and collaboration.

In peace and gratitude,

Edward Wang  
Grants Writer

<b>Proposed Budget for National Online and Blended Programs, including:</b> Woodbrooke Collaboration on Blended Worship, Barclay Press Collaboration, Clearness Committee, Two Planned Programs on Racial Justice	
<b>Income</b>	\$
Registration Fees ( <i>estimated</i> )	19100
<b>Friends Foundation for the Aging</b>	<b>40000</b>
Bible Association of Friends in America ( <i>confirmed</i> )	5000
Pendle Hill Subsidy for Scholarships	13000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>77100</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Honoraria	10500
Scholarships	13000
Outreach /Advertising	6400
Direct staff support	24950
IT, registrar, and indirect support	6400
Miscellaneous materials	3000
<i>Administrative overhead (20%)</i>	12850
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>77100</b>