



PENDLE HILL

A Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center

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Susan W. Hoskins, Executive Director
Friends Foundation for the Aging
P.O.
Box 1081
Langhorne, PA 91047

Dear Susan,

Thank you for taking the time to accompany us through this application process. We are particularly grateful for the opportunity to meet with the Board and other grantees at the convening on Tuesday night.

The queries we used to prepare for the meeting, and the conversation at the meeting itself, helped us focus our attention on what role Pendle Hill can play in the broader Quaker ecosystem. For almost a century, Pendle Hill has been an experiment in *spiritual learning community*. In the pandemic, and particularly for older adults, each component of this experiment – the spirituality, the learning, and the community – feel more precious than ever, especially in the ways that they reinforce each other. This tradition of building spiritual learning community uniquely situates Pendle Hill to address the problem that we identified in our proposal, the isolation of older adults.

During the pandemic, many older adults have developed basic competencies with Zoom and other online tools, and Pendle Hill has increased our competencies in supporting F/friends in participating actively in our community from all over the country and the world, even using unfamiliar technologies. We are delighted to welcome over a hundred F/friends to worship with us every morning, most of whom are older adults, and older adults continue to comprise the majority of our program participants, both in person and online. Coming out of the convening, we have a renewed clarity that we would like to partner with FFA, and we hope with other FFA grantees, in building online spiritual learning community.

Building Online Spiritual Learning Community

Our programming this summer surrounding the *Gospel of John* can serve to illustrate Pendle Hill's interactive and experiential approach to building online spiritual learning community, integrating the online programs, reading groups, and study guides that build dynamic community around published and recorded materials.

1. Our "*Illuminate* Summer Speaker Series" is about to begin in June, focusing this year on the Gospel of John. This collaboration between Barclay Press and Pendle Hill is an interactive opportunity to engage with Barclay's quarterly *Illuminate* study guide, allowing program participants to engage directly with the leading Quaker theologians who authored the study guide. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/illuminate-summer-speaker-series-2022/>.

2. Pendle Hill is beginning to integrate our free monthly pamphlet reading group with our other online programming. Our June reading Group will return to Pendle Hill Pamphlet #352, Paul N. Anderson's *Navigating the Living Waters of the Gospel of John: On Wading with Children & Swimming with Elephants*. See <https://pendlehill.org/events/pendle-hills-reading-group-june-2022/>.
3. Our Quaker Voluntary Service fellow, Anna Hill, is designing study guides, pairing our pamphlets with excerpts of YouTube recordings of our previous programming. She is piloting these study guides in the reading group, and will subsequently be making them available for F/friends to use as an independent tool in building their own spiritual learning community.

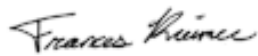
We see the podcast as another element of this ecosystem. The podcast itself will be a conversation, and we will integrate it as a component in online programming. At this stage, recognizing the concerns raised by the Board, we would withdraw our request for FFA to fund the podcast itself, and rather seek funding from FFA to further develop our interactive online programming, which will draw on the podcast as a resource.

The Power of Naming and Partnering

We continue to believe that the intergenerational nature of the programming we offer is a great resource for both the older and younger participants. However, from conversations in the convening, we learned about some of the rich resources that are being developed specifically for older Friends. Given that some of the programs we initially proposed to be funded have now passed, and we are now actively engaged in planning our programming through summer of 2023, we propose to partner with at least one (and hopefully more than one) other FFA grantee to develop at least one online program designed specifically for older Friends, lifting up existing and emerging resources. We are excited to think about how such a program might parallel or interact with our annual Continuing Revolution program for young adult friends, including exploring the mentorship model referenced in Tuesday's convening.

We remain grateful to you and to the Board for your leadership and vision, and look forward to continuing this conversation.

In friendship,



Frances Kreimer
Director of Education