

## **Joint Report: Ministry and Care and Religious Education Committees**

**June 2026**

*presented by Rachael Cundey*

Religious Education Committee met with Ministry and Care Committee on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> in the Community Room. Denise, Jillian, Judy, Lisa, Pat, Rachael, Rebecca, and Roberta were in attendance.

Friends opened the meeting with silent worship. We gathered to discuss the idea of intergenerational/all-ages worship.

Friends feel the purpose of intergenerational worship would be to come together as a community to experience worship in a new way. We will need to prepare children, parents, and the whole Meeting to try something new.

This idea came from Melinda Wenner Bradley's experience of intergenerational worship in her Meeting: <https://quakerfaithandplay.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Children-in-Intergenerational-Quaker-Worship.pdf>

In intergenerational worship, Friends of all ages are provided materials and permission to have a quiet spiritual experience that may look different than other Meetings for Worship. Friends are encouraged to sit on the floor, color, journal, or engage in whatever other quiet activity they find contemplative.

Childcare would be available for Young Friends who feel the need to leave the Meeting room. At the end of the hour, Friends would pair up and share about their experience of worship.

We imagine this form of worship as a quarterly event.

In the article mentioned above, Melinda Wenner Bradley shared the following quote from Craig Barnett, in his piece "Nurturing the Seed." It captures well the spirit of the discussion in the joint meeting of the Religious Ed and Ministry & Care committees:

"A Quaker Meeting is not a meditation group; it is a community, where people share their lives and minister to each other. The aim of Quaker worship is not an hour of undisturbed silence. It is a shared openness to the Spirit that is present among us to challenge, guide and to heal. All of us, of any age, can discover this source of life and make it visible to others."

We offer the following minute for Friends' consideration as a first reading, with a second reading next month.

**Proposed MINUTE** Friends Meeting of San Antonio recognizes Friends of all ages form our community. In that spirit, we approve an experiment in intergenerational worship. On a quarterly basis, Friends will be invited to worship in an age-inclusive environment, where anyone can give vocal ministry, sit on the floor, and engage with quiet materials provided by the Meeting or brought from home.