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THE PENDLE HILL QUAKER INSTITUTE: Deepening Our Quaker Practice

In collaboration with leadership from New York and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings

This Institute is for Quakers concerned about strengthening the spiritual heart of their meetings, inviting others into deeper Quaker practice, transmitting Quaker faith and practice, developing greater ability to exercise discernment, encouraging spiritual formation and the naming and development of spiritual gifts among all ages, and tending to the special needs of Friends in the meeting.

A strength of the Quaker way is that it is experiential. Yet the experience of a meeting for worship gathered in the Spirit is difficult to *describe* to others; while available to everyone, it must be experienced. We will experience and explore together centered worship, listening with our whole being, opening to the heart of worship, and reflecting on our experience.

We will consider how discernment is at the heart of our practice — for vocal ministry, for naming and nurturing spiritual gifts, for conducting our business, for clerking, and for caring for each other.

As we build community together during the weekend, we will also have opportunities to learn from Friends who have particular experience and skills in nurturing the spiritual lives of children, clerking in contentious situations, resolving conflict, and working with addicted and mentally disturbed people. And we will have ample time to process our experience together and meet with other Friends in smaller groups.

We expect that Friends will leave the Institute with a renewed experience of gathered Quaker worship, with helpful practices to prepare for worship, with appreciation for and practice in discernment — individually and in community, with enhanced skills in building the fabric of their Friends community with the gifts and limitations of all its members.

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PENDLE HILL
A Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center