

PUBLISHERS OF THE TRUTH:

A Collaboration of Pendle Hill's Quaker Institute
and the Quaker Leadership Conference

Schedule and Conference Guide
Friday, May 2 – Monday, May 5, 2025



PENDLE HILL

A Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center

Welcome to Publishers of the Truth

In an age of fractured political and theological realities and an evolving media landscape, how do Friends witness and communicate the T/truth with integrity? How can this work be done collectively, bridging different worldviews among Friends? How do we create meetings that are invitational and capacious (able to contain multitudes of perspectives), while still uniting around specific T/truths?

This collaboration between the Earlham Quaker Leadership Center and Pendle Hill invites Friends into this conversation, believing our answers will be found through building relationships and listening to the Divine Teacher in each other.

We will share worship, meals, music, laughter, and learning through plenary sessions and workshops. Approaching Truth through the lens of continuing revelation, the sessions and workshops will center the voices of emerging leaders in the Quaker world, held by elders in a spirit of care.

The program will feature two plenary panels:

1. **Publishing Truth within Quaker Meetings**
NiaDwynen Thomas and Matt Rosen, Elder: Windy Cooler
How do we lean into sharing differing T/truths with each other, arriving at a sense of the Meeting, and holding the complexities of our continued differences?
2. **Publishing Truth in the Wider World**
Walid Morsarsaa and Andy Stanton-Henry, Elder: Lauren Brownlee
Do our Meetings make specific collective commitments to publication of T/truth in the wider world? What T/truths do we choose to publicize? How do we navigate the creative tension between localism and international engagement?

Schedule

Day	Time	Program Title	Location
Fri	4:00–5:30pm	Arrival	Barn
	6:00–7:00pm	Dinner	Main House
	7:30–9:00pm	Welcome Session	Barn
Sat	7:30–8:30am	Breakfast	Main House
	8:30–9:15am	Meeting for Worship	Barn
	10:00–12:00pm	Plenary Session (live streamed and recorded)	Barn
	12:00–1:00pm	Lunch	Main House
	1:30–6:00pm	Breakout Workshops TBA	
	6:00–7:00pm	Dinner	Main House
	7:30–9:00pm	Quaker Songwriters as Publishers of Truth/ Social Time	Barn
Sun	7:30–8:30am	Breakfast	Main House
	8:30–9:15am	Meeting for Worship	Barn
	10:00–12:00pm	Plenary Session (live streamed and recorded)	Barn
	12:00–1:00pm	Lunch	Main House
	1:30–6:00pm	Breakout Workshops TBA	
	6:00–7:00pm	Dinner	Main House
	7:30–9:00pm	Coffee House	Barn
Mon	7:30–8:30am	Breakfast	Main House
	8:30–9:15am	Meeting for Worship	Barn
	10:00–12:00pm	Closing Program	Barn
	12:00–1:00pm	Lunch	Main House

More details about affinity spaces and social activities will be announced soon, stay tuned!

Saturday Afternoon Workshops

Letting Our Lives Speak for Justice Through our Leadership

Lauren Brownlee and Alicia McBride

Friends make our faith visible in the ways we live and lead in the world. Our actions are a way that we publish our truth. This workshop will explore ways that Friends' beliefs and practices can give us a framework to lead in ways that align with our deepest truths, even as these approaches may diverge from the cultural norms around us. We will draw on the recently-published [Anti-Racist Clerking Advices](#) in considering how our leadership can better reflect the blessed community we are called to be part of.

Launching Our Peace Testament into Space

Todd Drake

Join the graffiti artist known as The Quaker Pirate (Todd Drake) in painting a land mural expressing our Quaker Peace Testament that will be visible by the satellites that create Google Maps. This innovative and accessible way to "publish" one's ideas has been widely used recently by movements like Black Lives Matter. We will paint a mural on a reclaimed concrete foundation in front of the art building. Drone video of us working and the final mural from the sky will allow us to move the mural's message online. Drake hopes this will be the first of many Quaker Peace Murals across the country. This project is sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee.

Out from Under the Bushel: What Are We Waiting For?

Peter Blood-Patterson

Early Friends were passionate about sharing their experience of truth. We will explore "experimentally" ways we might become Publishers of the Truth to the world — again. Do you long to share ways you've experienced the Inward Teacher at work in your life and community as a Friend? Is it possible to do this with both passion and respect for others' spiritual journey? In a non-judgmental space, using role-playing techniques, we will practice talking about our faith — as we might do with neighbors or nations, on an airplane ride or on the steps of a federal courthouse.

Saturday Evening

Quaker Songwriters as Publishers of Truth

Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan

We will explore together music and songwriting as a vehicle for publishing truth. We will sing together, look at lyrics, and share personal experience in "publishing truth" through songs and songwriting.

Sunday Afternoon Workshops

Crafting Beauty in Community with Linocut Quilting

Lucas Meyer-Lee

In this workshop, we will discover how our collective Truth can have a beauty that is greater than the sum of its parts. Participants will receive introductory training on linocut printmaking and create a design which represents their individual truth. Then, we will engage in a printing practice that “quilts” all our truths together. At the end of the workshop, each participant will have a unique linocut quilt embodying the beauty of our collective Truth. No prior artistic or linocut printmaking experience needed.

Bridging Contexts: Navigating Global Connections and Local Realities in a Diverse World

John Muhanji

A workshop on publishing, witnessing, and relationship-building across differences, focusing particularly on the ongoing journey of African Quakerism to adapt faith practices to local contexts while engaging meaningfully with the global Quaker community. We will engage with challenges and opportunities of cross-cultural relationships and contextual adaptation, encouraging us to think critically about the interplay between global dynamics and local experiences. Throughout the workshop, we will consider the tension between speaking one’s truth boldly and maintaining relationships with those who may see the world differently. This topic invites exploration of Quaker traditions of discernment, testimony, and the responsibility (or challenge) of an evangelical role—whether that means outreach, bearing witness, or living as an example.

The Care and Feeding of Ministry

Windy Cooler

Friends say “we are all ministers.” How do our meetings prepare to meet this intention, and how might we prepare...differently?

This workshop explores through story, history, experience, and imagination what it means for everyone to bring gifts to a community, how to nurture those gifts and the people offering them, and how to prepare and nurture full-time calls into public ministry.

Elder and Leader Bios – Alphabetical by First Name

Elders



Lauren Brownlee (she/her) is Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)'s inaugural Associate General Secretary for Community and Culture and the leader of the organization's new Community and Culture team. In this role, she offers strategic support to FCNL's young adult program, Quaker outreach, human resources, and Friends Place on Capitol Hill. She helps to steward FCNL's shared anti-racism, anti-bias, *justice*, diversity, equity, and inclusion commitments. Lauren joins the FCNL staff after serving on FCNL's General Committee beginning in 2017 and its Executive Committee from 2019-2022. She has also served on the boards of Sandy Spring Friends School, DC Peace Team, the National Farm Worker's Ministry, the Central Committee for Friends General Conference, and the Program Committee for Quakers Uprooting Racism. Before coming to FCNL, Lauren was the upper school head at Carolina Friends School and, before that, the director of social action at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.



Windy Cooler is an embraced public minister from Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly. She writes, speaks, and travels full-time in the ministry, carrying a call to right relationship within the Religious Society of Friends. Windy offers workshops on novel models of corporate discernment, especially in times of crisis, as well as trauma and attachment to Quakers worldwide. In the past two years, she has transitioned to a focus on the practice of ministry among Friends. She is the convener of her meeting's new project to create space for public ministry in all Friends' worshipping communities called The Friends Public Ministry Incubator. She is the past convener of the Life and Power: Quaker Discernment on Abuse project. She lives with her spouse, Erik Hanson and cat, Buster, in Maryland, and has two young adult children, Maggie and Ob.

Leaders



Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan have been traveling life together for over 45-years. Members of Heartland Friends Meeting, Great Plains Yearly Meeting in Wichita, Kansas they have tended to their spiritual lives and given gifts in leadership and music in and out of Quaker circles.

Aaron, a Credentialed Teaching Artist, Master Teaching Artist, and children's author, spends time with young people and teachers around the country developing math, science, and reading skills through music as well as conducting residencies where groups write songs based on the lives of community elders. Laura continues to contribute to the field of community organizing through deep listening practices, coaching and organizational consultation. Her first book, *The Archer*, a novel, will be available in June 2025.

Both singers and songwriters, Laura and Aaron look forward to opportunities to share their unique blend of human experience, life lessons, and spiritual expansion through song.



Alicia McBride (she/her) serves as FCNL’s senior director for Quaker leadership, where she focuses on connecting Quaker faith, practice, and community to policy advocacy in Washington, DC. Her various roles and more than 20 years of work at FCNL are united by a concern for how to act with integrity at the place where faith and the world meet. She is a member of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), assistant clerk of the Earlham School of Religion Board of Advisors, a parent to two teenagers with her husband Sam Garman, and a yoga teacher.



Andy Stanton-Henry is co-pastor of Lost Creek Friends Church in New Market, TN and co-director of the Quaker Leadership Center at Earlham School of Religion. He carries a concern for Quaker revitalization and the renewal of rural congregations, leading him to author *Recovering Abundance: Twelve Practices for Small Town Leaders*. He makes his home in East Tennessee with his spouse, Ashlyn, their 14 laying hens, three dogs, and one cat.



Francisco Burgos is the executive director at Pendle Hill and has facilitated spiritual retreats and *lectio divina* sessions for many audiences. Francisco was a De La Salle Christian Brother for almost ten years, serving in Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Costa Rica, and has been a Friend since 2004. He is a member of Harrisburg Friends Meeting and an attender of meetings including Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica and Adelphi Friends Meeting in Maryland.



Lucas Meyer-Lee (he/they) is a current Quaker Voluntary Service fellow, working in this capacity as the Education Associate at Pendle Hill. They are a recent graduate of Swarthmore College, where they studied across a wide range of arts and humanities. Lucas has been guided by a lifelong love for visual and literary arts in particular, leading them towards extended engagements with poetry, printmaking, painting, sculpture, graphic design, and boardgame design. In the coming years, they hope to continue their higher education, researching Arabic comparative literature at the graduate level. Lucas currently serves on the American Friend Service Committee's Community, Equity, and Justice Board Committee and as the co-coordinator for Friends General Conference's Adult Young Friend community.



Matt Rosen is a convinced Friend and member of Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative). He lives in England and has been part of the Oxford young adult Friends worship group. He has traveled in the gospel ministry throughout the UK, under a concern to encourage Friends in listening to Christ within. He was the Henry J. Cadbury Scholar at Pendle Hill in 2023, where he explored the significance of conviction experiences across the generations of Friends, and his writing has appeared in *Friends Journal*, *the Friend*, and other Quaker periodicals.



NiaDwynwen Thomas is a member of Northampton Meeting in Massachusetts and serves as Program Director for New England Yearly Meeting of Friends. In this role, Nia co-creates, curates, integrates, and evaluates opportunities and resources in faith formation, leadership development, and Quaker practice for Friends across the lifespan with particular focus on congregational health, multigenerational relationship, and emergent design.

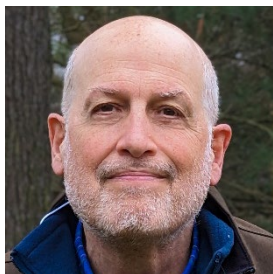


Todd Drake is an artist and teacher living in the East Village area of Manhattan in New York City. During the COVID pandemic he and his wife stayed to continue running Penington Friends House, a Quaker collaborative community. Drake has also collaborated with other Quakers in creating “Quaker Canvassing Peace Walks” that allow Friends to engage successfully with other people across political divides. Today, Drake continues to print and post his linocuts and silkscreens. His most recent posters speak to how war begets war. Originally from North Carolina where he earned an MFA in Painting, he was also a Rockefeller Fellow at the University of Chapel Hill. Drake has exhibited his work all over the United States and overseas, including in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Palestine. Drake is a member of the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. You can learn more about Drake from his Pendle Hill First Monday Lecture, [Graffiti as Witness: The Art and Activism of a Quaker Pirate](#), and follow his work on Instagram @QuakerPirate.



Walid Morsarsaa is based in Greensboro, NC, and is a passionate advocate for refugee causes. Born in Amman, Jordan, and raised in Ramallah, Palestine, he received a values-based Quaker education at the Ramallah Friends School. Walid holds a BS from Guilford College and an MA in Religion with a focus on Peace and Justice Studies from the Earlham School of Religion. He is currently pursuing an MBA at Guilford College. Driven by his personal background as the grandson of Palestinian refugees, Walid is dedicated to helping displaced populations. Currently, he works with Every Campus A Refuge and supports mobilizing higher education institutions in the United States’ work on refugee resettlement. He is also actively involved with Quaker and service organizations and sits on the board of directors of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). In his free time, Walid enjoys going on runs, the gym, traveling, and spending quality time with friends and family.

Pendle Hill Resident Leaders



Chris Stern (he/him) is glad to be returning to Pendle Hill this Spring Term as a Friend in Residence. He was at Pendle Hill two years ago as one of the Kenneth Carroll Quaker Scholars. During that time, he met a lot of wonderful students, staff, scholars, and Friends in Residence and he has continued to build on many of those friendships and connections today. This has resulted in some amazing opportunities to travel in the ministry together and continue to work together for spiritual renewal among Friends. He has even been invited to Kenya! His memoir, *Who Turned on the Light?* was started during his time at Pendle Hill in 2023 and published in June of 2024. It follows his story of being brought up in a Quaker Meeting, leaving to look for a more defined faith, and later finding a living experience of Christ through the writings of early Friends, discovering Jesus as the Light within. He is returning to Pendle Hill to continue on this journey with old F/friends and new! He is a retired Special Educator, a Quaker minister, writer, musician, and (sometimes) playwright. He is working part-time as the Concord Quarter Coordinator for 8 Quaker Meetings in this area and a member of Middletown Meeting in Lima, PA. He lives outside of Media, PA with his wife and adult children.



Deborah Cooper, M. Ed. L.P.C., is a licensed professional counselor, a member of Germantown Monthly Meeting and a provider with the Friends Counseling Service. Deborah also teaches classes in Mindfulness Meditation. A seeker all her life, Deborah has been practicing Mindfulness meditation for the last 19 years. Having experienced the profound benefits of meditation in her own life, she now teaches others both individually and in groups in the Northwest Philadelphia area. For the last 3 years she has greatly benefited by spending some time in a Buddhist monastery in Canada.



John Muhanji is the Director of the Africa Ministries Office of Friends United Meeting based in Kisumu, Kenya. John and his wife Rose had three children: Kevin, Audrey & Allan. Unfortunately, we lost Allan in a motorbike accident in 2021. John's commitment to the African Quaker community is unwavering. As an MDIV graduate of Earlham School of Religion and a DMIN from George Fox University, he is dedicated to supporting leadership development and renewal among Friends Churches in Africa. He is a key figure in the development of the 'African voice in the Quaker Theology' and the promotion of spiritual formation among Quaker leaders in Africa. His efforts have significantly contributed to the expansion of Quaker missions in Tanzania, Eastern Congo, and Uganda. He wholeheartedly embraces the unity of purpose of Friends both in Africa and beyond. During his time as the Henry J. Cadbury Scholar, John will be continuing his work to contextualize Quakerism to African culture, history, and realities while maintaining its core values and principles.



Peter Blood-Patterson has spent a diverse life as activist, Quakerism teacher, advanced practice nurse, family therapist, and promoter of communal singing among Friends and around the world. He was mentored by and received spiritual direction from Bill Taber and Parker Palmer at Pendle Hill. He has led Quakerism courses, workshops, and retreats for meetings through Philadelphia YM's traveling teachers program and for meetings and retreat centers around the world. As a 2025 Kenneth L. Carroll Scholar at Pendle Hill, Peter will build on his long-term belief that faith-based work of social transformation represents a form of prophecy. He will explore ways Friends today can play an important role in helping create the Kingdom of Heaven on earth — springing from God's vision of a new creation.



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