



Quaker Religious Education Collaborative

Joining Hands in Service to Quaker Religious Education

**EPISTLE FROM THE FIRST GATHERING
OF THE QUAKER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE IN EAST AFRICA
CONVENED AT THE FRIENDS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE KAIMOSI, KENYA,
16-19 JANUARY 2019.**

TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

Dear Friends,

We send sunny greetings from East Africa Sunday Church School Teachers (Quakers) who gathered in the serenity of the place where Quakerism started in East Africa, and where the 76 year-old Friends Theological College (FTC) is located.

We had 24 active teachers from the following Yearly Meetings:
Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya
(Chavakali, EAYM-Kaimosi,
Kakamega, Lugari, Malava,
Musingu, Nairobi, EAYM-North,
Tuloi, Chebuyusi, Vokoli



Our Facilitators from the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) came from New England Yearly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We developed a community of equality among all.



During the Plenary and Group Sessions we looked at emerging issues affecting the Sunday Church School Ministry in Africa, and sorted out possible suggestions to consider about these issues. Facilitators also shared about the Godly Play method of Sunday School Teaching, and Faith & Play, Quaker stories that have been developed for Friends who use Godly Play. Printed materials about these religious education resources can be accessed in the FTC Kaimosi Library.

It is our resolve that the records of these proceedings be shared across the world.

In our deliberations, we reiterated that the Sunday Church School is a dynamic and vibrant Ministry that should be nurtured and respected. Thus we urge the Yearly Meetings to give space and support to this very delicate and vital Ministry (the Congregants: the Children and their Teachers).

As we learned about the Faith & Play stories, we realized the sad fact that Quaker history in Africa is not properly documented. We want to collaborate with the FTC Kaimosi, Marian Baker, and the Earlham College Archives to document the histories of Quakers in Africa so that we can write the stories of important African Quakers, to share with our children and the rest of the world.

We, Teachers in Africa, in collaboration with QREC resolved to set up a Steering Committee. We suggest that FTC Kaimosi might act as our coordinating centre temporarily. We also suggest an exchange program to expose our Teachers and Children from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean to cross cultural experiences. This workshop appeals to the Leaders of the Friends Church in Africa to fund the operations of the Sunday Church School Ministry. We further appeal to the Quaker Leadership to urgently create specific space for Children's worship that will run concurrently with the main Church service.

Conclusively, we had moments of refreshment and spiritual nourishment of this important form of ministry.

We appreciate the immense efforts of the facilitators, the kind reception of the hosts, FTC, and those who made this gathering possible, Obadiah Brown's Benevolent Fund.

Prepared by:

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God bless you all