

World Plenary Meeting 2024 Hubs Information

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Questions and Answers - World Plenary Meeting Hubs

The 2024 World Plenary Meeting (WPM) will take place on site in South Africa and online. Some Friends will join the WPM online as individuals, and others in groups. We are describing groups of people joining the WPM (and the locations they are joining from) as hubs.

1. What is a WPM hub?

A hub is any group of Friends joining the World Plenary Meeting online from another location, from a single internet connection. The group size could be from 3 to 300+, but in many cases will be about 10 or 20 people. They may participate in the complete WPM, or in some sessions.

2. What is needed to be a hub?

Firstly, a hub needs more than two people wanting to join the World Plenary Meeting from another place or country. On registration we will ask for at least one person to be named as a facilitator/elder for the hub, and a second to be the tech lead. There will be a 'tech rehearsal' for tech leads prior to the World Plenary Meeting, and regular check-ins to see how it is going.

For larger groups of people, we recommend that a hub has access to:

- a projector, large screen or monitor
- a laptop, or tablet
- a reliable internet, wifi or data connection
- a reliable supply of electricity
- speakers
- a web camera, and
- a microphone.

A group of up to about five people could gather around a computer or tablet. They could use the computer screen, microphone, camera and speaker. For the best experience of the WPM, a larger group would need a larger screen, external speakers and an external microphone.

3. Is there technical support to be a hub?

Limited technical support, for example on connectivity issues, will be provided to all hubs through by the World Plenary Meeting technology team.

4. Is there financial support to be a hub?

We also have the capacity to make small grants for equipment and data through the World Plenary Meeting Inclusive Participation Fund. In most circumstances we anticipate that applicants will be Quaker Meetings or Friends Churches who already have some familiarity with hybrid Meetings or live streamed worship. Perhaps they might need just one or two pieces of hardware to participate more effectively.

In some circumstances we will consider equipping a Quaker group entirely with the technology needed to participate, to a maximum of \$2,000. Priority will be given to Friends groups in the Global South, larger groups of participants, and where the benefit would last long beyond the World Plenary Meeting. To request support, please complete the hub registration form [here](#).

5. Are there grants for food or accommodation for hubs?

We recommend that hubs are located in places easily accessible for Friends to visit for the day rather than residentially. For example, Friends Churches or Meeting Houses would make good hub locations. Where a hub is arranging food or accommodation for participants this will need to be paid for by the host meeting or participants, as grants are only available for tech costs.

6. How many hubs can there be?

There is no limit on the number of self-funded hubs.

We have an Inclusive Participation Fund for which we hope to raise around \$20,000. This will limit the number of grants available, but we still hope this will make a substantial difference to a number of Quaker groups.

7. Which sessions of the World Plenary Meeting will be available online to the hubs?

It will be possible to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies, core business sessions, plenary worship and keynote sessions in the main hall of the World Plenary Meeting through hubs. These will take place in the middle of the day in South Africa.

The major WPM sessions noted above will also be recorded, and put on the FWCC website. Hubs will be able to stream and watch these sessions at a good time in their time zone.

There will also be an online-only programme which will include online worship, homegroups and excursions. These will take place throughout the day to suit

different time zones.

Some of the WPM sessions will not be accessible through hubs, including on-site excursions, small group workshops and on-site homegroups. However we hope that the hub itself could act as a smaller discussion group (for example following the plenary speakers), or could lead local excursions near to the hub.

8. Does being in a hub mean just listening or can I speak as well?

Being in a hub should be a fully interactive experience. We plan for Business Meetings to be held in a fully hybrid/blended way. These will include ministry being able to be given from any location, online or onsite. The same goes for the Plenary sessions, some of which may have speakers based in hubs rather than South Africa. Some of the worship may also be led from the hubs.

9. What language will be used in a hub?

The official languages of the World Plenary Meeting are English, Spanish and Kiswahili. Each hub or connection to the WPM online will need to be in only one of these three languages.

Where participants in a hub speak another language, then someone locally would need to interpret from one of the WPM languages. This would need to be organised locally by the hub organisers.

10. How is joining from a hub different from joining individually online?

In many ways the experience will be very similar. In a hub though there would be more opportunity for in-person fellowship, and it also offers Friends who might not have access to a stable internet connection, data or equipment a chance to participate.

For Friends joining individually online we plan to create spaces for fellowship together, for example in online homegroups.

11. What are the technology specifications for World Plenary Meeting Hubs?

For groups of more than 5 people, for the best experience, a hub would need to have access to the following:

- **Laptop or tablet**
A device to connect to Zoom – preferably a Windows or Mac PC but a smartphone or tablet may be the best option in some areas.
- **Camera**
For small gatherings, the built-in cameras of laptops or phones might be sufficient. For more than around 10 people, multiple webcams or a PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom)

camera would be needed. For 50 or more people, a PTZ camera is necessary or people will need to move to a designated speaking location.

- **Speakers**

If a TV is being used as a display device, the TV speakers should suffice. Otherwise, an external speaker is recommended, preferably with a wired connection to limit the possibility of radio frequency (RF) interference.

- **Microphone**

An omnidirectional USB conference microphone such as [this](#) will work for groups of up to about 25-30 people. For larger groups, using two microphones would be a solution.

- **Projector or large screen**

For a group of up to 30 people, a 40" class TV or monitor would be a minimum requirement. For larger groups of around 50 people, a projector such as [this](#) is recommended. These are portable WiFi projectors that can run off a battery. If the room being used can be darkened, it may be a better choice than trying to get a TV. However, using a projector may mean an additional speaker system is needed.

- **Reliable internet or data connection**

You can connect to the internet in the hub location and visit www.speedtest.net and click the "Go" button to check the download and upload speeds of your internet or data connection.

- **Reliable supply of electricity**

- **Physical Security**

Hub locations need to consider the need for the physical security of the equipment when it is not in use. This could be as simple as putting the equipment in a locked cupboard to keep it out of sight. But Friends need to be mindful of security risks and plan accordingly.

12. What do we do next for our Friends Meeting or Church to become a hub?

Registration Process

To register to become a World Plenary Meeting hub, [please complete this form](#). All individual applicants may register to participate in the World Plenary Meeting online.

As having a blended World Plenary Meeting is a new experience for Friends, we want to make sure that hubs are fully set up to participate in the WPM online. This registration form will help the Technical Team determine the capacity of potential hubs and connect those interested in joining or creating a hub, and identify any technical needs you have to set up a hub.

We will be in contact after your registration to confirm if you can be assisted to become a WPM hub.