

**New York Yearly Meeting
Monthly Meeting Partners Project
Discernment and Application
2017**

Thank you for applying to participate in the NYYM Monthly Meeting Partners Project! We hope to learn as much as we can in this time about effective new modes and methods of outreach and inclusion of children and families, while also helping your local Quaker meeting to deepen in Spirit and grow as a multi-age community.

Please review the information and questions below, and after discernment with your meeting community send your responses to the questions to Melinda Wenner Bradley, Children & Youth Field Secretary, New York Yearly Meeting, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003. You can also email a document to childrenyouthfs@nyym.org.

NYYM staff involved with the project will discern the next two sites to participate in the Partner Project from 2017-2019. Whether or not this project is a good fit with your meeting at this time, the Yearly Meeting hopes to support your work with children and families, and the Children and Youth Field Secretary serves as a resource for you.

**We would like to receive all applications by September 1,
and begin our work with the new partner meetings by October 1.**

A note about expectations for a meeting's first year in the Partner Project:

The first year of our work together will be in large part about gathering information, understanding your condition, and building trust. Three specific tasks will happen in the partner meetings:

1. Completion of a survey, "Sharing Our Experiences of Meeting Life" by all ages in the meeting.
2. Gathering for "listening circles" with the community in age cohorts (on a First Day, before and after worship).
3. Identifying a "Partnership Circle" as a connection between the meeting and NYYM staff working with you. This group can be fluid and should include Friends with different connection points to meeting life. They will communicate with staff, coordinate with committees of the meeting, and share information with the meeting body and the local community beyond.

The Children and Youth Field Secretary will be in relationship with your meeting throughout these steps, visiting to worship with you and be in fellowship together. After the survey and listening sessions, a report and recommendations drawing from the survey results and focus groups will be shared with the meeting and we will then work together to determine next steps in outreach and multigenerational community-building.

Local Meeting, or Worship Group:

**Questions can be answered in the order asked, or responded to in a narrative form.*

1. What was your experience of the discernment process and coming to clearness to apply? Who in the meeting community was involved in that process?
2. What would a multigenerational meeting community look like? What are your hopes?
3. Can you anticipate ways that being a more fully multigenerational community would change your meeting life? Are there ways we can help each other to prepare for those shifts and changes?
4. In what ways are families and children currently involved in meeting life?
5. What does the meeting offer children and youth on First Day? (child care? religious education? youth program?)
6. How do you sense the Light working among you at this time? Are there particular joys or strengths your meeting is experiencing? Are there challenges that your meeting is facing?
7. Does your meeting as a whole understand that there is a commitment of time, physical, and spiritual energy with this project? Where would this fit in the life of your meeting and other leadings for outreach, activism, and witness?
8. What kind of process might you envision to name Friends in your meeting to serve in the Partnership Circle?
9. What level of awareness do you think your local community has of the meeting now?
10. What do you feel you have to offer to newcomers to the meeting?
11. What particular support that you would like to ask of NYYM field staff who serve Children & Youth and Young Adult Friends?