

Update: June 29, 2020.

Summary of responses to IPASC Survey #1

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Overall Summary

The survey was published on May 21 on FaceBook, and an email went out through the CYM office on May 23. By May 28, 2020 there were 85 responses. By the date of this analysis (June 29, 2020), there were 107 responses.

Overall, people either responded yes or maybe to both CYM-in-session events and out-of-CYM-in-session events. However, the large number of people who are undecided indicates that we should look at what would help people to make that choice.

For the CYM-in-session, the most popular choices were: Study opportunities (62%), Meeting for Worship (57%), Worship Sharing Groups (45%), Special Interest Groups (45%), Discussion groups on particular topics (34%) and Memorial Meeting (24%)

For the out-of-CYM-in-session, the most popular choices were: Quaker Study Group (self-organized, self-led; 38%), On-line Special Interest Groups (33%), Worship Sharing Groups (33%), Online place to have written conversations with Friends (25%), and Quaker on-line learning courses (paid facilitator; 25%). There were many offers of help: 25% offered to call Friends who would like a call, 21% were willing to write and send a letter or card in the mail, and there have been independent offers made as well.

There was a strong interest in tutorials on how to use quaker.ca and how to find things (23%), with some interest in sharing information among CYM Friends about technologies that are being used (14% wanted a description, 9% would like a discussion). Few people (5) wanted one-on-one support, and an equal number (6) were willing to provide it.

Events during the usual week of CYM in Session (August 7-15, 2020)

Would you be interested in participating in on-line events during the usual week of CYM-in-session (August 7-15, 2020)?

107 responses



N	%	Option
66	62%	Study opportunities
61	57%	Meeting for Worship
48	45%	Worship Sharing Groups
48	45%	Special Interest Groups
36	34%	Discussion groups on particular topics
26	24%	Memorial Meeting
22	21%	Opportunities to play games and socialize on-line
12	11%	pre-CYM retreat
11	10%	Programming directed at younger children
8	7%	Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Counsel
7	7%	Programming for teens
6	6%	pre-CYM YF/YAF retreat
4	4%	Programming directed at middle school children
0	0%	Book sharing (book reviews, recommendations)
0	0%	Programming for families (parents, guardians, with children)
0	0%	Presentations from wider Quaker groups (like hallway display tables)

Programming outside of the usual week of CYM-in-session

Are you interested in CYM programming during 2020 outside of the usual week of CYM-in-session?

107 responses



N	%	Option
41	38%	Quaker Study Group
35	33%	Attending Special Interest Groups online
35	33%	Worship Sharing Groups online
27	25%	Online place to have written conversations with friends,
27	25%	Volunteering to call Friends who would like a call
27	25%	Quaker online learning course
23	21%	Volunteering to write and send a letter or card in the mail
14	13%	Receiving a letter or card in the mail
13	12%	Receiving a friendly phone call
12	11%	Family-oriented Fellowship opportunities
10	9%	More frequent publication
8	7%	Offering Special Interest Groups online
7	7%	Clearness Committees
6	6%	Quaker Children's Programming done offline
5	5%	Listeners
0	0%	Quaker Children's Programming (delivered online)
0	0%	Times for coffee and chat with Friends by video call (fellowship)

Technical Training Interests

N	%	Option
25	23%	Video tutorial of how to use quaker.ca, what is there and how to find it
15	14%	A description of different technologies that Friends have been using
10	9%	Join a discussion group with other Quakers about how they are using technology within their meetings
8	7%	Join a discussion group with other Quakers about how to support Canadian Friends who are not using technology during this pandemic
6	6%	I am willing to provide one-on-one support by phone or video call for particular technical questions.
5	5%	I would like to be able to access one-on-one support by phone or video call for particular technical difficulties

Other Comments (n=41)

I have checked many boxes above about things that would be "nice if they happen" - please do not feel pressured to do them if they are not sustainable; please let us know if there are high-request items you need help with! Thank you for this survey.

Do not schedule full days of zoom. Need breaks in the day. I could not do a week of zoom every day all day. I would be happy with worship Sharing and Quaker study and Family Night.

I presented a webinar on Ecological Restoration of Drastically Disturbed Sites the other day and it went very well (see <https://www.ser.org/page/WebinarLibrary>) so if there is ever an interest.

Given that I offered to provide support, you should know who I am - Dan Cooperstock!

We know we are challenged geographically as well as financially (as individuals, families and Yearly Meeting). I am hoping that we can use technology to help unite us and bring more Friends into the sharing. In many of the online Meetings for Worship on Sundays, I am seeing people who have not been able to get to meeting physically and/or who have felt estranged. This is a good thing which we need to build upon. I am thankful that we are having discussions to figure out our best way forward. In our previous discussions at YM in session about whether to continue meeting in person, many of us have stubbornly clung to the importance of meeting face-to-face. And YM provides a lovely opportunity for that, but have we been listening to all the dear Friends who cannot be there, yet want to be included? And in terms of Friends without technology, I am unsure what to suggest, but there must be a way. Perhaps Meeting buddies or small study groups with one person providing the technology for a small room where 2 or 3 are gathered? We know that so much of Quakerism prospers by networks of Friends who work, worship and gather together.

Can this survey sent out through email so I can distribute to my meeting members Query : Must we fill the space that the cancellation of cym has created ? What about advice 28 and " which may not be great busyness"

This is a great opportunity to offer programming throughout the year. I think packing it into one week is a big bad idea. Space it out. Make it manageable for everybody particularly programmers. Thank you!

Keep up the good work, even though you are few in number right now. It's appreciated.

I would like CYM leadership on setting up a year-long calendar of Quaker events that take place during the year in Regions, and through CYM -calendar to be on line and added to during the year.

I think it would be good to concentrate the activities within 2-3 days instead of trying to use the whole week.

Online WHYM experience is being documented. Will be shared with Clerk of IPASC.

wondercafe2.ca is a discussion site that would be open to Quakers having their own discussion threads, if there was one or two who would "supervise" the discussions with regards to correcting/answering Quaker specific information. Quaker could even set their own rules. The advantage of the site, compared to facebook, is that it has a much more discussion/ conversation friendly set up, so that people are more likely and able to write longer texts and respond to each other. I have been on this site for 10+ years and know many of the participants. I would be willing to take on some of the moderation and connect with the site council, if there was a second person to share the job who has Quaker specific knowledge so that he/she could respond to wrong statements about Quakers. I could make a commitment for 1-2 years.

thank you for all that you're doing!

Evening programming, please

Thank you for your work on this.

I answered this on a day when I realized that I am getting bad headaches from Zoom meetings. I would run to 6 Quakers in a park, properly distanced, any time over 6 Quakers in faraway countries or provinces on screen. I am a little more positive other days.

Hearing about what CYM committees and CFSC are doing.

A continuous online forum for discussion on a variety of subjects would be great. I would love to see that year-around. My schedule prevents me from meeting at specific times so forums work very well for me.

As little bureaucracy or administrative committees as possible. We are Spiritual community. Enough already with the mind numbing committees and ridiculous long discussions. Pray. Sing. Support each other. If people do not have a good time at CYM (online or in-person) they will not come back. The attendance is falling. Get the message - bring back God. Bring back enjoyment. The Business Meeting should not last more than 1.5 hours.

Doing this would enable those of us who cannot, for various reasons, attend CYM to participate. I cannot due to cost, distance, family care giving role where there is no substitute, and the simple fact that I am a lone Quaker in a remote area. It would be good to be able to attend CYM however "Attendance" is seen to happen.

I think we may be witnessing a fundamental shift in Quaker practice that allocates a larger share of our time and energy to online activities and collaboration. My guess would be that we evolve toward being essentially an online "Quaker channel" or learning/practice facility that offers learning and spiritual practice opportunities on a regular schedule to both Friends and visitors alike. While my guess may be off base, I honestly can't see us sustaining our traditional approach to spiritual fellowship in the face of the changes that are coming--COVID or no COVID. If we think we are already stressed by the changes involved in responding to the COVID pandemic, just wait until we start taking climate change seriously.

Book sharing during year thank you for the possibilities!

This pandemic can be viewed as a different kind of "fallow year" which provides some easing of busyness. I am reluctant to try to fill my time with activities that "compensate" for CYM in Session. However, I'd be interested in a book that we all read, followed by a presentation or discussion group- a sort of "Canadian Quaker Reads." However, I have no title in mind.

In planning for CYM 2020, I ask Friends to consider continuing to use online opportunities for isolated Friends once the global pandemic has ended. I am a long time Attender and live remotely from any meeting, on the BC Coast, having previously attended Allowed Meeting in Nanaimo for many years, occasional attend meeting at Fern St, in Victoria, as well as many WHYM and a few CYMs when in the West. The pandemic has ironically brought me back to Friends via Zoom, for which I'm very grateful as I miss the community a great deal. I am now able to regularly attend, via Zoom, Sunday meeting for worship with Vancouver Island MM, Wednesday noon worship sharing, and I recently attended WHYM over the Victoria Day weekend. The outreach that is available with Friends using Internet technology has also brought others, who otherwise are unable to attend in person, to gather for meeting for worship on Sundays and to WHYM. "Therefore for the grace of God go I".

For me staying connected to Friends during this difficult time is crucial. So grateful CYM.

I think this is a wonderful opportunity to grow our community.

I am concerned about isolated Friends.

it's so hot now, and my energy level is not high, so i'm sorry i'm just not too interested in more zooms or interacting with groups. Just want to get through the hot summer! Blessings to you in your work though!

- good to have online learning for newcomers thinking of membership or early in membership process. - many good ideas here, that if they went forward would be fine with me (as long as resources weren't too stretched). I didn't check them because I would be unlikely to use them due to time constraints. - technical difficulties in relation to a specific access situation would be useful. The option as written sounds very open ended and perhaps difficult to fulfill.

I glad that this is an experimental year with the "on-line" gathering, but it does not hold with my heart or ways of worshipful gathering. If others get benefit, joy, and healing, I'm glad for that.

Can we get together in a physically distant way in small groups to view CYM in session?

I wasn't sure how to answer some of these questions. For example, for the question "What would you like to see offered during the annual gathering week?" I wasn't sure if you wanted to know if I'd participate personally in these things or if I'd just like to see that they were offered (I'm particularly thinking of the questions for age categories that I'm not a part of). For simplicity I just put what I'd be likely to personally participate in. However, if youth want events targeted to them I'd LOVE to see it happen!

Thanks to the organisers for all the thought and hard work!!

I am intimidated by the idea of a SIG/discussion group online in case I can't hear. However, I might be willing to try since I can hear Zoom calls very well.

It would be nice to post some things on YouTube in case someone can't join and also as outreach

I would appreciate hearing guidance from CMMC on the presence of Spirit during these times and how to remain open to that - just general spiritual guidance. Also, I've heard nothing from CYM level, it's hard to feel part of the community.

I'm an American Quaker who lives and works in Canada. My CYM connections are broad enough that those reading this survey might recognize my name if I were to provide it. During the pandemic lockdown, I've Zoomed into my home Meeting in the States, the one I attend here in Canada, and one in another town in the States where I have longstanding ties. Attendance at online Meeting for Worship is heavily geared toward either those over sixty or, in a minority of cases, youngish adults without children. All three Meetings have had problems with programming for young people during this crisis. I'd be surprised if other Meetings in CYM have done much better; if I'm wrong, CYM should take advice from them. Although it is important to ensure that people who are older, ill, and isolated, or who have difficulty accessing technology have their needs met during the current crisis, these groups are sufficiently large in number that they are less likely to be neglected than people with children. Finally, there are two other groups CYM should consider: inquirers and those who have fallen on hard times financially. re inquirers: religious curiosity and attendance is up during the pandemic. How do we as Friends meet the needs of inquirers in virtual space or in a hybrid setting without jeopardizing our computer security? In terms of Friends who have lost their jobs and possibly their living space, is there a place for CYM to provide information for those who wish/need to move to another area (and thus another Meeting)? Will any listeners be good at dealing with those encountering financial reverses?

Keep it simple, provide a way to connect and people will take from it what they can. I'm MORE likely to participate virtually in one or two activities than if I had to travel and attend it all

I think that I am going to make forays into parks and green spaces this summer and fall. I am drawn to nature and worshipping in the wide open spaces to counter computer fatigue.

I really don't think one can replace face to face gatherings; we'll have to wait until there is a safe and effective vaccine to meet again.

this all sounds wonderful. Anything that helps me feel closer to the larger family of Friends is welcomed with the proviso that I know I tend to get very busy sometimes and might be negligent!