

Annual Meeting & Quaker Public Policy Institute

Choose Hope, Work for Justice
Keynote Address

Friends Committee for National Legislation

November 19, 2021

“For the most part, Thanksgiving itself is a day of mourning for Native people, not just Wampanoag people”

Tim Turner, Cherokee, manager of Plimoth Plantation's Wampanoag Homesite and co-owner of Native Plymouth Tours

Map of Lenni Lenape Territory



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/Delaware01.png>

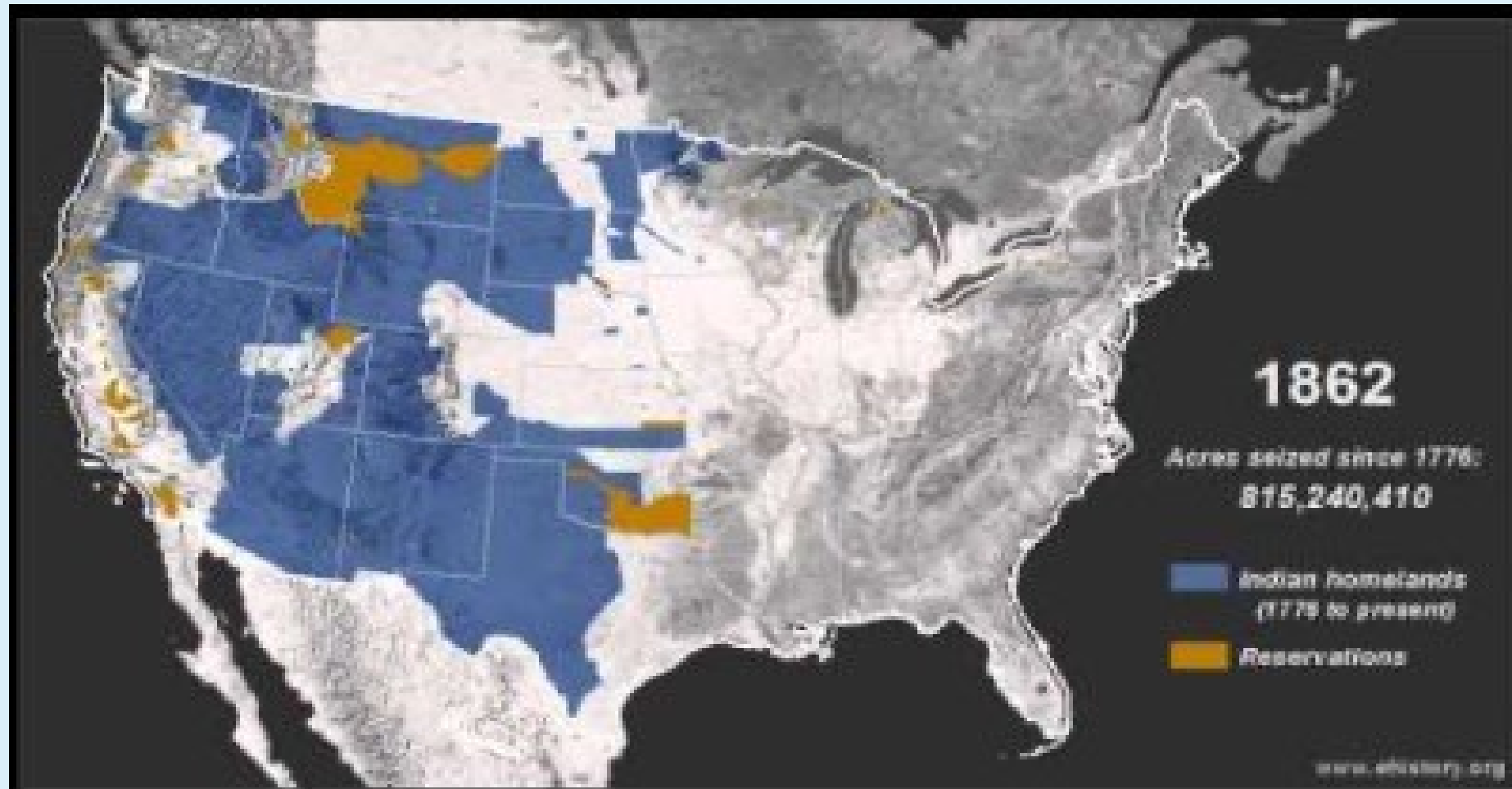


Land Acknowledgement

"The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-Lenape, called "Lenapehoking." The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, "as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine."

Source: <https://nlltribe.com/land-acknowledgement/>

Theft of Indigenous homelands, 1776-present

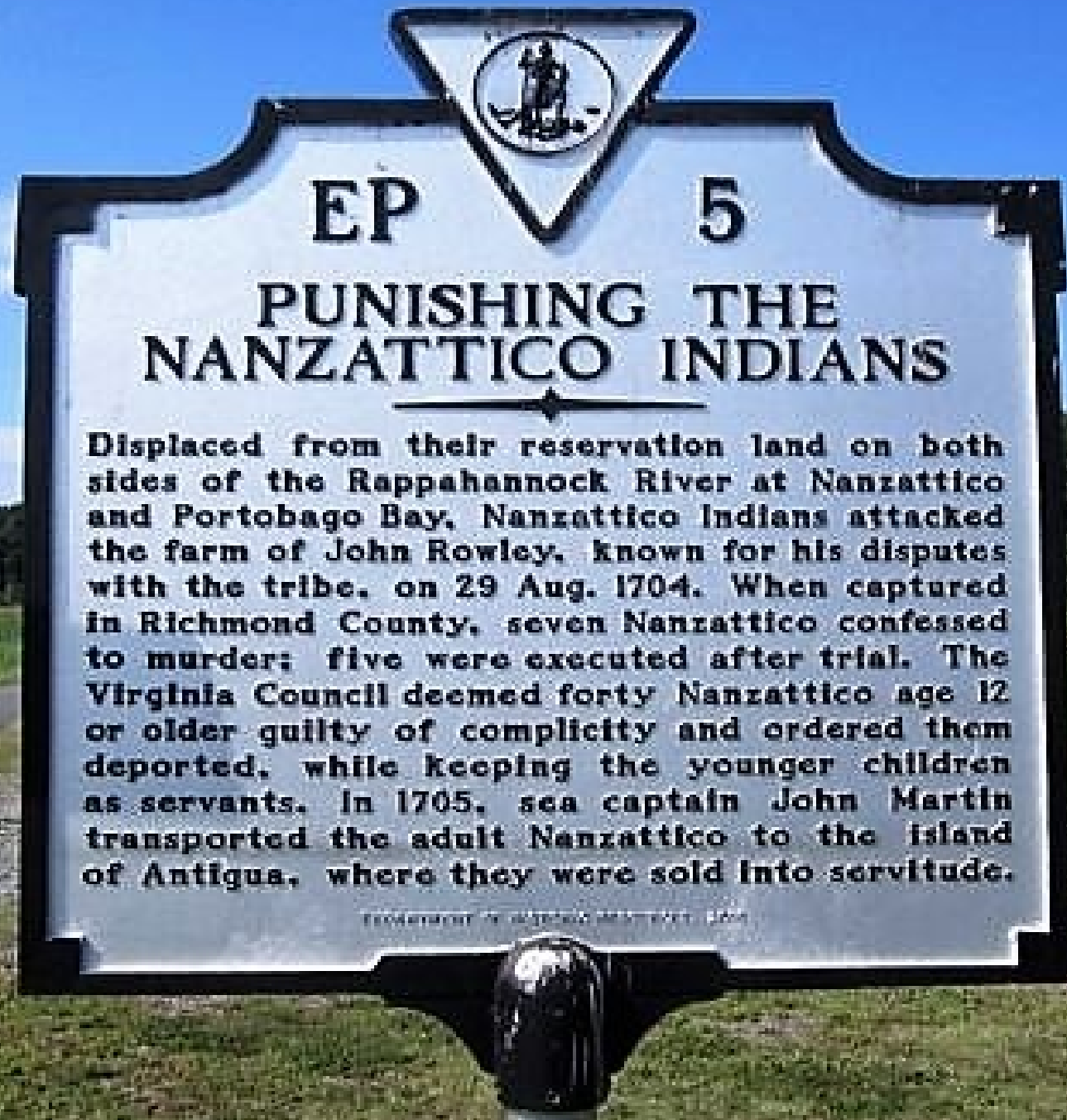


My Ancestors

- 7th great granddaughter of Thomas Pinn
- 7th great granddaughter of "Indian" Charles
- 3rd great granddaughter of Leah Warner



Locations of the Moorish tribes in Delaware, Eastern Maryland and Virginia in the 1600's. The following tribes are included: Accohannock, Accomack, Assateague, Pocomoke, Wicomico, Nanticoke, Choptank, Ozinies, and Tockwogh.



Nanzattico is pronounced (Nantaughtacund)



Leah Ruth-Warner



The Sale

A painting of Leah's account of being sold on the auction block on Robert Ruth's farm done by her granddaughter Ida Ella Ruth Jones.

After the Sale

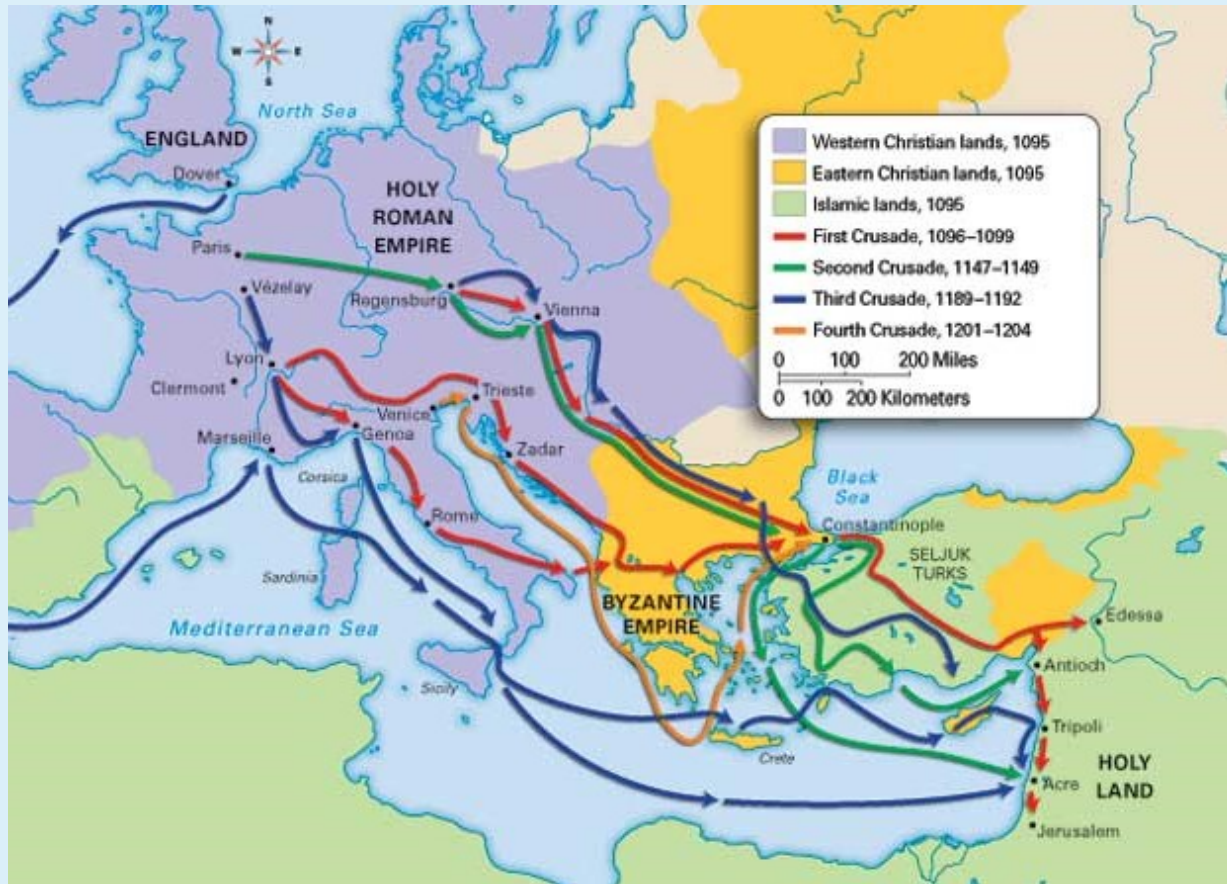


A painting of Leah's account of her children being taken away done by her granddaughter Ida Ella Ruth Jones.

Tonight's Intentions

Talk about White Supremacy's effect on our planet, economy
and The Religious Society of Friends

The Crusades



- ▶ A series of religious wars initiated by Pope Urban II between Christians and Muslims started primarily to secure control of holy sites considered sacred by both groups.
- ▶ Eight major Crusade expeditions occurred between 1096 and 1291.
- ▶ Muslim Moors were called less human than the Christian soldiers.

Source: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/crusades-1096-1291>

The Doctrine Of Discovery

- A series of Papal Bulls in the 15th Century which gave European Christian explorers the right to take land and convert or kill the Non-Christian inhabitants.
- There were three Papal Bulls that occurred between 1452 – 1493.
- Non-Christians were considered enemies of the Catholic faith and, as such, less than human. Pope Nicholas directed King Alfonso to "capture, vanquish, and subdue the Saracens, pagans, and other enemies of Christ," to "put them into perpetual slavery," and "to take all their possessions and property.
- 1845 Manifest Destiny grew out of, and was based on, the Doctrine of Discovery.

Friends used the Doctrine of Discovery to build their empire

A variety of Quaker merchants built their foundation of wealth in the United States of America on the seizure of these lands and the industry of the enslavement of Africans and African Americans

“The largest community of Quakers outside of the British Isles was in the slave and sugar rich island of Barbados.”

In 1655, Ann Austin and Mary Fisher were the first Quaker missionaries to arrive in Barbados

Friends were involved in all aspects of the system of enslavement

- Quakers contributed to the seizure of land from Indigenous tribes.
- Invested their money in banks, and insurance companies supporting ships that transported enslaved Africans as cargo to the Caribbean and Turtle Island.
- Friends also profited from the shipping industry that carried enslaved Africans from Africa to the Caribbean and Turtle Island.
- A variety of Quaker merchants built their foundation of wealth in the United States of America on the seizure of these lands and the industry of the enslavement of Africans and African Americans

“There was this sense that white people were
God’s chosen instruments to civilize the U.S.
and the world”

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

THE DELAWARE NATION,
Petitioner,

v.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, *et al.*,
Respondents.

**On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the
United States Court of Appeals
for the Third Circuit**

**BRIEF IN OPPOSITION BY
GOVERNOR EDWARD G. RENDELL**

BENJAMIN S. SHARP *
GUY R. MARTIN
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607 14th Street, NW
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* Counsel of Record

*Counsel for
Governor Edward G. Rendell*

Walking Purchase

- William Penn's sons' (John, Thomas and Richard) illegally expanded their father's territory
- Tricked the Lenni Lenape into giving up a large portion of their territory
- Created fraudulent documents
- Court recognized in its ruling the illegitimacy and fraudulency
- Court ruled Indigenous peoples or "Savage Native" had the legal right to occupy land, but no right to own land

Roots of African Descendants in American Quakerism

- Friends owned, sold, traded and captured enslaved Africans.
- English Quakers considered enslavement necessary for their economic development.
- Friends' establishment of regular meetings for worship for people of African descent who they enslaved in 1675 in the West Indies.
- In Haddonfield, New Jersey, a meeting was established that had almost 200 people of African descent attending in 1799.
- Initially Africans and people of African descent were not allowed to become members of the Religious Society of Friends until 1784.
- Worship took place in separate meetinghouses, or if they were invited to worship in a meetinghouse with people of European descent, they were placed in segregated sections in the 18th & 19th Centuries.

Congregationalist minister, an abolitionist,
writer, an editor, & well known lecturer



“[The Quakers] will give us good advice. They will aid in giving us a partial education--but never in a Quaker school, beside their own children. Whatever they do for us savors of pity, and is done at arm's length.”

Samuel Ringgold Ward

“It would not be unusual for white slave owners to bring enslaved people to church with them on Sunday morning. Whites would sit in the front and enslaved people would sit in the back. That context certainly shapes the way Christian theology and practices form. You’re not going to preach a lot of liberation, freedom and equality from the pulpit. You’re going to preach more about obedience to the master and fulfilling your roles, those kinds of things. I think that fundamentally distorted American white Christianity from the beginning.”

Robert P. Jones author of *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*

“There’s this tension between doing nothing to upset anyone, which is what white churches have often done, and having the skill and leadership to lead people on a journey. Christianity is supposed to be a journey, and it’s not supposed to be a comfortable journey. Christian life is supposed to be a challenge. Part of that challenge is how we’ve let our conceptions of race and racism seep into our theology and infect it.”

Quakers in Barbados

- “Nursery of Truth”
- 80 percent of Quakers in Barbados owned enslaved Africans.
- In 1671, George Fox traveled to the island where he urged Quakers to consider manumission, but he did not call for an end to the practice of enslavement.
- Fox commended Friends to worship with the enslaved people in their households and to introduce them to Quakerism.
- Colonists relocated their wealth, enslaved Africans, and pro-enslavement ideologies to William Penn’s new American colony when they settled in Pennsylvania.

Reminder

- Whiteness was created in order to legalize and justify inequality.
- We are actively erasing Quaker complicity in, and support for, enslavement not only in Barbados but also in Philadelphia and elsewhere in the North.
- This is an uncomfortable past, but it's a past that needs to be brought into the light.
- We must be critically engaged with the past to understand the influence it continues to exert in the present.

“Normal” is Damaging

What is Happening Now?

“In the midst of such despair and turmoil, our collective trauma, exhaustion, sadness, and anger have increased. Friends of Color are finding it harder to be in predominantly White environments including our Quaker meetings. As we checked in with each other after worship that week, and up to the writing of this article, more Friends of Color have expressed the importance of the People of Color spaces FGC is providing. Many have stopped worshipping with their meetings. They are no longer feeling nurtured in those environments.”

“The transformation of sight is often a painful process, just as all true growth is. White people tend to confuse comfort with safety...But it is rare that these situations are actually unsafe, they’re uncomfortable because we aren’t accustomed to that level of discourse...When you engage with difficult topics, as [we] are doing right now, you develop a more muscular approach to staying engaged.”

Daniel Hill’s book *White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to be White*

“An increased understanding of our present and of our history ushers in new levels of discomfort. Learning to respond in a healthy way to the internal chaos aroused by our awakening is an important step forward. American culture tends to hide the stories of guilt and shame and seeks to elevate stories of success...which result in amnesia about a tainted history”

Daniel Hill's book *White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to be White*

Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship

*Quakers, African Americans,
and the Myth of Racial Justice*



by Donna McDaniel
and Vanessa Julye



QUAKERPRESS

Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship

*Quakers, African Americans,
and the Myth of Racial Justice*



Study Guide

created by Friends General Conference
Committee for Ministry on Racism
edited by Wren Almitra

FGC
QUAKERPRESS PHILADELPHIA, PA



eBook

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QUAKERPRESS

How do we examine ourselves?

- Have the vision to see things differently.
- Be open to listening in new ways.
- Prioritize flexibility.
- Step outside of your white cultural boundaries.
- Test yourself constantly
- Take the risk of making a different choice.
- Focus on how your actions have impacted others.

Our Quaker Testimonies

- SIMPLICITY
- PEACE
- INTEGRITY
- COMMUNITY
- EQUALITY/EQUITY
- STEWARDSHIP

Friends General Conference's Query

“How does this decision support FGC in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?”

Friends General Conference Support Funds for People of Color to Participate in FGC Events:

The Bayard Rustin Fund

A Travel Support Fund for People of Color

Provides travel support for People of Color to attend the Gathering and Pre-Gathering retreat, regional retreats for Friends of Color, Committee Meetings, and the White Privilege Conference.

The Mahala Ashley Dickerson Fund

A Registration Fee Support Fund for People of Color

Provides broad support for anti-racism work, including defraying the cost of People of Color's registration fees for FGC-sponsored meetings and other activities, as well as supporting program development and staffing.

Contributions will make it possible for us to build and replenish both these funds.

Ministry on Racism Program Continuous Offerings

Virtual Worship for Friends of Color - Wednesdays 1:00 PM EST & 8:00 PM ET
Third Sunday of each month at 8:00 PM ET

Virtual Worship Sharing - Tuesdays at 5-6:30 PM ET

Virtual Open House - every other Friday from 7-9 PM ET

Virtual Worship for White Friends Confronting Racism - Fridays at 12 PM ET

Registration Link:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/help-your-meeting-challenge-racism>

Green Street Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

- Reparations is economic and spiritual repair for the intergenerational harms of slavery, Jim Crow, and their afterlives. It is spiritual work intended to address the theft and pillaging of Black wealth for 400 years.
- A project of the Green Street Meeting Reparations Committee
- Devote \$50,000/year for a total of \$500,000 over ten years toward reparations for the Black community of Germantown.
- This 2022 legal clinic project is about protecting and securing Black wealth and redistributing Green Street Meeting's resources to stabilize Black homeownership. We hope it is one step on our pathway to offer and work for reparations to and with the Black Germantown community.

Thank You!

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