

SAYMA Outreach Committee

Report to SAYMA YM 52, Annual Sessions

At YM 51 Outreach conducted a hybrid workshop that presented theological foundations and practical methods for supplementary religious interactive practices of “active worship” in Friends’ meetings for worship that might arouse interest in persons unfamiliar with and perhaps not especially inclined toward the traditions of Friends. The goal was to find ways “to meet people where they are” that encouraged awareness of Spirit’s agency in daily life and so encourage habits of openness to being led by Spirit in the activities of daily life.

That workshop generated enough interest at the time to move us to devote this past year to developing a broader program that is being presented in a three-part workshop in the upcoming Yearly Meeting. While this program still offers monthly meetings interesting possibilities for Friends’ institutional outreach, it has evolved a more activist central focus on awakening spiritual unity as a general Quaker witness in our sad context of intensifying social and cultural conflict, forthright politics of marginalization, and the steady devolution of democratic institutions toward autocracy.

For the Outreach Committee,

Wood Bouldin and Hank Fay