



Playing in the Light: Godly Play®/Faith & Play™ Training for Quakers with Melinda Wenner Bradley

An approach to religious education grounded in deep respect for children, using wonder, play, and stories from the Bible and Quaker faith, practice, and witness. More than a workshop on storytelling, "Playing in the Light" is also an opportunity to gather in community and consider how we approach spiritual formation and support for children and families in our meetings. The experiential approach has tools that can be used with other resources, and meetings are finding ways that the stories can anchor intergenerational worship. Those who have previously attended a training will find they go deeper in their practice. And for some Friends, the weekend is a personal spiritual retreat more than preparation for service to a religious education program. Come spend a weekend full of stories, centering children and welcoming all of us into a bigger story of faith in community!

Presentations/discussions include:

- nurturing the spiritual lives of children
- exploring the "unspoken" lessons of spaces and pedagogy
- supporting children and families in the meeting community
- working with multiage groups and diverse needs
- adapting Godly Play for Friends and weaving stories into a children's program

The training is a blended workshop that includes both online sessions + the weekend gathering.

Two Online Sessions:

Introduction: Sunday, May 3, 5-6pm

Final Plenary: 60 minutes TBD

Weekend at Powell House:

Friday, May 8 to Sunday, May 10



Materials for "Love's Way" and "Ways of the Spirit" from Faith & Play Stories

Trainer: Melinda Wenner Bradley is a member of West Chester Meeting in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She is a co-author and the editor of Faith & Play: Quaker Stories for Friends Trained in the Godly Play Method. Since 2010, Melinda has been a licensed Godly Play Trainer and has traveled in the ministry to facilitate trainings and share stories in children's religious education programs, intergenerational worship, Friends school classrooms, teacher workshops, and international gatherings of Friends. Her ministry among Friends weaves together interest in children's spiritual lives, support for families and teachers in faith communities and schools, and the intersection of religious education and outreach. She is a co-founder of Faith & Play Stories, Inc. and the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative.

Playing in the Light: Hybrid Core Training Schedule

Reading/Reflection (completed before first online session)

Asynchronous reading assignment will be excerpts in the Faith & Play Stories publication and additional PDFs provided by the trainer.

Online Sessions (both required)

Introduction Session: Sunday, May 3, 5-6pm ET

Final Penary: Supporting the Circle of Children and their Families

Date TBD with participants; 60 minutes

Onsite Sessions (at Powell House)

Friday, May 8 — 7:00p – 9:00p* (Dinner)

Saturday, May 9 — 8:00a – 9:00p* (B/L/D)

Sunday, May 10 — 8:00a – 4:00p (B/L)

*includes optional material-making in the evening