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Fwd: A Faith & Practice That Will Include Friends of Color

1 message

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To: Spee Braun <speebraun@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 25, 2024 at 9:34 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Helen Garray Toppins <office@nyym.org>
Subject: A Faith & Practice That Will Include Friends of Color
Date: July 25, 2024 at 9:10:22 PM EDT
To: Helen Garray Toppins <office@nyym.org>, Ernestine Buscemi <erniebuscemi@verizon.net>

To: **70 Friends, from 31 monthly meetings, who have signed up for the *Transforming White Organizational Culture* anti-racist training**

FROM: Ernestine Buscemi <erniebuscemi@verizon.net>, Helen Garay Toppins <HGTPeaceNow@gmail.com>, Inclusive Faith & Practice Working Group conveners

SUBJECT: Request for outreach help to NYYM People of Color who want to join the Inclusive F&P WG

Background – The New York Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice does not include the voices of Black women, Black men, Friends of Asian Descent nor other Friends of Color. As Black Quaker women reading the extensive inclusion of non-White Quakers; and seeing our exclusion as Black Quaker women in our YM's foundational document, we were called to protest negativity with positive action.

Consequently, we have convened an Inclusive Faith & Practice Working Group. As the White voices in NYYM F & P honor European voices – our F & P will include voices from our cultures. In our Inclusive F & P we will not include racist enslavement "overseer" language.

We are asking Friends invested in *Transforming White Organizational Culture* to spread the word that we are seeking Friends of Color to join our writing team. We realize that this will not be a NYYM document, and that we will have to find our own funds to publish. We are confident that the way will open and that we will find the funds to publish an inclusive Faith & Practice that we can be proud of.

Below is a sample of what is in the New York Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice

30 quotations from white men
9 quotations from white women
1 quotation from a bi-racial man
Zero quotations from black men
Zero quotations from black women
No quotations from Friends of Color

Whites that are quoted include:

Anselm (1033-1109) was an Italian Benedictine monk, abbot, philosopher and theologian of the Catholic Church, who held the office of Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093 to 1109. After his death, he was canonized as a saint; his feast day is 21 April.

Virginia W. Apsey – author *Worry, Trust and Faith* (1987).

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection (c. 1614 – 1691) served as a lay brother in a Carmelite monastery in Paris.

Lucretia Coffin Mott (1793-1880) was an abolitionist, a member of the women's movement, and a Recorded Minister. She helped organize the first Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women in NYC; attended the World Anti-Slavery Conference in London; helped, organize the first American women's rights convention in Seneca Falls; advocated votes for women; and was a gifted public speaker.

Parker Palmer - author, educator, and activist who focuses on issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change.

William Penn (1644-1718) King Charles "**granted**" the present-day states of Pennsylvania and Delaware to William Penn. Penn enslaved Africans and benefited from their labor. After complaining about his problems with European indentured servants, Penn wrote that he preferred those of African descent because "**then a man has them while they live.**" When Penn died "**his**" enslaved people were passed on to his widow, Hannah.

Jane P. Rushmore (1864-1958) served as General Secretary and Clerk of Philadelphia YM. She was clerk of the Race Street Meeting for many years - where she was sometimes referred to as the "pope" of Race Street. She wrote *Footprints along the Quaker Way*.

Francis de Sales (1567-1622) was the Bishop of Geneva and a saint in the Catholic Church. He wrote the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and the *Treatise on the Love of God*.

Job Scott (1751-1793) described as both a Unitarian and as a Rhode Island Friend, traveled widely in the ministry in North America.

Douglas V. Steere (1901-1995) member of Philadelphia YM; received a Ph.D. from Harvard; was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford; professor of philosophy at Haverford; professor at Union Theological; authored many books on Quakerism.

Nathan Jean Toomer (1894-1967): was a member of Philadelphia YM. His father was born enslaved in North Carolina. Toomer considered himself to be of multi-ethnic ancestry. He was a poet and a novelist. *Cane* is his best known novel.

Elizabeth G. Watson (1914- 2006): Quaker minister, curator, and feminist theologian.

Roger C. Wilson author of *Authority, Leadership and Concern: A Study in Motive and Administration in Quaker Relief Work* (1949).

John Woolman (1720-1772) was a mystic and an abolitionist; he traveled in the ministry in order to abolish enslavement among Quakers. Woolman's journal is still read by Friends today.