

The Mid-Winter GPQM Gathering

Represents Grand Rapids Friends' 50th consecutive year of gathering

February 24 and 25, 2012

Georgetown United Methodist Church

2766 Baldwin St., Jenison, MI 49428.

(For the direction see the map below.)

We have invited Dr. Philip Baisley of the Earlham School of Religion to present on matters of small-meeting envisioning processes. He will speak on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. Our plenary speaker is Laura Norlin of Atlanta Monthly Meeting. Laura was a long-time Grand Rapids Friends member, who grew up in our meeting and has maintained a presence among Friends, and pursued a life of faithful ministry in the manner of Friends. *(See the bios of Philip Baisley & Laura Norlin below)* The schedule is as follows:

February 24th Friday evening:

- 6:00 P.M.; Doors open; **Dinner** will be served.
- 7:00 ~ 9:00 P.M.; **Dr. Phillip Baisley** speaks of the “*Vitality in the Small Meeting/Church*”
(Evening schedule planned between 6 and 9 P.M.)

February 25th Saturday:

- 9:00 A.M.; Light **breakfast** will be served.
- 9:30 A.M.; **Worship**; followed by a brief report of the Nominating Committee. (Jeff Cooper)
- 11:00 A.M.; **Laura Norlin**, Plenary Speaker
- 12 noon; **Lunch** and discussion group with speakers
(concerning the themes of Dr. Baisley's topics of yesterday evening)
- 1:30 P.M.; **Dr. Philip Baisley**; “*Getting from Here to There*”: A Visioning Workshop.
- 3 ~ 4 P.M.; **Worship** and **Epistle** committee

Hospitality: Grand Rapids MM extends an invitation to all Friends, whom are welcome to stay in our homes as guests, and have additional needs met. You may direct all inquiries to:

- **Scot Miller**, co-clerk; Grand Rapids MM < r.scot.miller@gmail.com >
- **Mike Holaday** < mikeholaday@att.net >

Note: Optional per person/per meal donation for dinner, breakfast, and/or lunch would be appreciated.

— GPQM clerk —

About the speakers:

Phil Baisley teaches pastoral ministry at Earlham School of Religion (ESR). He holds a Doctorate of Ministry from Ashland Theological Seminary and an M.Div., from ESR. He lives in Richmond, Indiana, with two cats, a blue-tongued skink, and a tortoise. Phil has two grown children, Stephen who lives in Newberg, Oregon, with his daughter, Jaden (4), and Kellyn, who lives in Hagerstown, Maryland with her son Reece (11). He pastors the Williamsburg Friends Meeting in Williamsburg, Indiana. That leaves just enough time for songwriting and performing <<http://www.reverbNation.com/somebodysbrothers>>, active participation in community theater, and an occasional round of golf.

Laura Norlin was born into and grew up in the Grand Rapids Friends Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. She went on to Earlham College, and later participated in the School of the Spirit's Spiritual

Nurture Program, a Quaker program on deepening one's life in prayer and leadings. Laura has a calling to work with young people. She has followed this leading through her work as program coordinator for the Atlanta Friends Meeting and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting teen programs and in her current work at the Friends School of Atlanta. A member of the Atlanta Friends Meeting, she is clerk of the Care and Counsel Committee that offers pastoral care. Her partner and wife Hannah MacDermott, a life long Quaker, will be joining Laura to serve as her traveling companion and elder. Laura lives out of the insights that were born in her early years, and is led to nurture the Light and its potential growth in others, from our very youngest on up.

The nurturing Quaker fellowship of this meeting helped Laura's life form as a convinced Friend. In her teen years, the yearly meeting created a teen program that helped Laura develop her Quaker identity.

Scot Miller, *Co-clerk Grand Rapids Friends Meeting.*

— Direction from Grand Rapids —

- Take I-196 West
- Drive 7.6 miles, take exit 69-B for Chicago Dr. West (M-121).
- 1/3 miles, turn right onto Main St.
- 1/3 miles, turn left onto Baldwin St.
- 3.2 miles, arrive at GUM Church on your left.

