

Introductory Letter for Annual Sessions Retreat July 26-27, 2022

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for the Annual Sessions Retreat, organized by PYM's Spiritual Formation Collaborative. Clinton Pettus, a member of the Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), will lead the program. Clinton has a PhD. in personality psychology, worked in academe for more than 30 years in various roles, including president of the college, and, after his retirement, served in several capacities for AFSC.

Embracing the Yearly Meeting theme of "Across the Generations," Clinton looks at generations as different periods in our history. He will begin by asking us to reflect on Part Two of the book, *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* (2020), where Isabel Wilkerson talks about the American caste system with "...those at the top, European Americans, who have been its primary beneficiaries, and those at the bottom, African-American, against whom the caste system has directed its full powers of dehumanization." The relevant section has been attached to this e-mail.

The retreat will also explore what Clinton refers to as the "Equal Rights Generation," "The Anti-Racism Generation," and the "The Mindlessness Generation." Finally, he will call upon us to give birth to a new generation or to "Prospect a New Generation." Prospecting encourages us to focus less on who we think we were or are and be more intentional in thinking about and living out who we want to become "across generations."

The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, July 26, 2:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday morning, July 27, 9:00 a.m. and close at 10:50 a.m.

During the workshop, we will be working in small discussion groups.

We are excited to be with you!

The Spiritual Formation Retreat planning group