

2007 FGC ANNUAL REPORT



“We have also been reminded that all spiritual gifts, including those we might be stewarding, are gifts of and for the Body—our meetings, yearly meetings, and this aching world.”

— Epistle from FGC consultation of Friends with emerging gifts of gospel ministry



Sarah Richardson

Sowing Seeds Among Friends

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE



Sowing Seeds . . .

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.”

— LUKE 8: 5–8 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)



Joanne Clapp Fullagar

Like the sower in the Gospels, FGC sows seeds among Friends. We cannot know for certain when and where our seeds will take root, but we do know that the fruits from these seeds will eventually nourish the Religious Society of Friends.

We offer this report of seeds we’ve sown during the past year. We look forward to the harvests for years to come.

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One of FGC’s greatest gifts is its ability to gather Friends from many places (geographically, spiritually, etc.) for Spirit-centered work and sharing. In building communities

among yearly meetings and in sponsoring events for exploration of specific topics, FGC helps Friends to sow seeds in their own monthly and yearly meetings. In 2007, FGC sponsored or supported many events, each of which served many yearly meetings.

- 100+ Young Adult Friends (YAF) from all branches of Quakers traveled to Burlington, NJ for a special **Gathering of Young Adult Friends** in February 2007. FGC is working on a second YAF conference for May 2008 in Richmond, IN.
- 27 Friends representing 15 yearly meetings gathered near Pittsburgh, PA for a **special outreach consultation** in March 2007.

- 21 current and former clerks of 12 yearly meetings traveled to Nashville, TN in April 2007 for a **biennial consultation on clerking**.

- In May 2007, 25 Friends from 7 yearly meetings participated in an FGC-sponsored **workshop on “Being a Friendly Adult Presence”** at Pendle Hill.

Pendle Hill and FGC offered the same workshop again in February 2008 with 32 participants.

- 1,410 Friends from 27 yearly meetings attended the **Gathering of Friends** in River Falls, WI during July 2007. The theme “. . . but who is my neighbor?” spoke to people of many ages and permeated the Gathering at all levels, leading to many rich and wonderful experiences.
- 20 high-schoolers from 6 yearly meetings gathered in Poughkeepsie, New York to explore the theme “Living a Revolutionary Faith” at the 2007 **Young Quakes Conference**.
- 56 Friends from 18 yearly meetings participated in a joint Traveling Ministries-Youth Ministries **consultation of Friends with emerging gifts of gospel ministry** near Pittsburgh, PA in November 2007.
- 32 Friends representing 6 yearly meetings gathered at Pendle Hill in January 2008 for FGC’s **first regional consultation** on launching a nationwide “Quaker Quest” program.



Joanne Clapp Fullagar



. . . *Among Friends*

FGC also sows seeds by sending traveling ministers and visitors to particular meetings. Each of these visits affords precious opportunities for seeds to be planted through planned programs and workshops, conversations, and the simple ministry of listening.

- The Traveling Ministries Program (TMP) coordinated **24 visits** of seasoned Friends to monthly meetings and yearly meetings or conferences. Many other meetings consulted with the TMP without arranging a visit.
- FGC created the **Margaret Fell Fund**, administered by the TMP, to help meetings support their members in extended travel in the gospel ministry. FGC thanks the



Emily Stewart

Shoemaker Fund for providing the first \$15,000 of support to the Margaret Fell Fund.

- FGC sent designated visitors to **16 yearly meeting sessions** to listen deeply to the gathered Friends and to report on the work of FGC.



FGC's Committee for Ministry on Racism.

Julia Isaacs

- **16 monthly meetings in 11 yearly meetings** hosted meetings of 12 different FGC committees. We are deeply grateful for Friends' generous hospitality.
- Much of the Committee for Ministry on Racism's work involves traveling to meetings and other gatherings. CMR Coordinator Vanessa Julye facilitated workshops and conversations in **4 yearly meetings and 5 Quaker conferences** in 2007 to share the work that she and others are doing to help heal the wounds of racial injustice that still afflict our religious society.

"[The consultation] was a wonderful chance to connect deeply with folks quite different from myself, and it afforded me the opportunity to explore some of the growing edges in my own faith life. . . . As in the parable of the Sower, I cannot know which of my actions will bear fruit and which will fall on rocky places. I just have to trust that being faithful to what I have been given will be enough."

— excerpts from guest blogger Callid Keefe-Perry's "Reflections on the Emerging Gifts of Gospel Ministry Consultation." To read more of Callid's powerful reflections, visit www.quakeryouth.org

Looking at Seeds from Years Past

Ten years ago (1997) . . .

- FGC approved the creation of the Traveling Ministries Program.
- The new *Worship in Song* hymnal sold out its initial print run.

Twenty years ago (1987) . . .

- Field Secretaries traveled through SAYMA, PFF, and SCYM.
- FGC began work on the new hymnal (published in 1996).

Thirty years ago (1977) . . .

- FGC did *not* hold an annual Gathering of Friends. Instead, FGC organized and registered Friends for the Conference of Friends in the Americas, an event jointly sponsored by FGC, FUM, EFA and FWCC.

Forty years ago (1967) . . .

- Advancement and Outreach prepared to launch a Communications Test Program in five geographically diverse meetings to test new advertising and inquirers' literature.



FGC staff in front of the office, 1964. Back row, left to right: Paul Goulding, Joseph Vlaskamp, Larry Miller. Front row, left to right: Mary Middleton, Ruth Leppman, Hebe Bulley.

“Our members very much appreciate the QuakerBooks bookstore with its comprehensive collection of materials for our library, our First Day School, and our members’ personal use. We also rely on the Religious Education materials and ideas as well as the Religious Educators’ Institute (our RE clerk went in ’04).”

— note of appreciation from Chester River Monthly Meeting

FGC's New Spaces



FGC staff in the newly renovated bookstore, 2007.

Emily Stewart

Since purchasing our present space in 1989, FGC's staff has tripled and sales of books and materials by QuakerBooks of FGC have increased tenfold.

Our newly renovated office includes a beautiful new space for the bookstore, renovated conference rooms, an increase in offices/work stations from seventeen to twenty-three, a third bathroom, an improved kitchen, and new carpeting, paint, and decorations. These changes

have created a workplace environment that is both more efficient and more aesthetically pleasing. *We warmly invite all Friends who find themselves in Philadelphia to visit us in our newly renovated home!*



FGC also renovated its web home by initiating a major rebuild of its websites, adding interactive features and new content. We are excited by the potential of the web for connecting meetings and sharing resources.

- QuakerBooks of FGC reorganized www.quakerbooks.org and began including "Author Interviews" and "Reading Guides."
- Quaker Press of FGC launched a new site, www.fitforfreedom.org, with advance material and supplemental resources for its forthcoming publication, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*.
- www.quakeryouth.org continues to build community and consolidate information of interest to young adult Friends. The addition of guest bloggers this year has been a big hit!

Friends General Conference Financial Statement

October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

INCOME

2007 Gathering	\$832,719
Bookstore	\$446,750
Publications	\$38,909
Contributions	\$601,973
Individuals	\$356,978
Monthly Meetings	\$64,145
Yearly Meetings	\$109,534
Funds & Foundations	\$71,316
Bequests	\$31,000
Interest & Other Income	\$60,860
From Restricted Reserves	\$37,841
From Designated Reserves	\$227,444
From Campaign Fund	\$310,400
From Undesignated Endowment	\$21,000
From Travel Support Endowment	\$21,000
Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism	
Income: cash & pledges received	\$587,142
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,217,038

EXPENSES

2007 Gathering	\$845,440
Bookstore	\$538,396
Ministry & Nurture (includes Traveling Ministries Program)	\$98,332
Religious Education	\$57,277
Youth Ministries	\$63,296
Publications	\$131,323
Development	\$164,870
Interpretation	\$141,504
Administrative Program Support	\$380,697
Other Programs	\$133,432
Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign	\$119,681
Transfer Campaign Income to Appropriate Funds	\$467,460
Transfer to Restricted Reserves	\$200
Transfer to Designated Reserves	\$50,050
Transfer to Unrestricted Reserves	\$25,080
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,217,038

Friends General Conference is an association of 14 yearly meetings and regional groups:

Alaska Friends Conference (185)
 Baltimore Yearly Meeting (4,699)
 Canadian Yearly Meeting (1,175)
 Illinois Yearly Meeting (1,068)
 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (796)
 New England Yearly Meeting (4,164)
 New York Yearly Meeting (3,529)
 Northern Yearly Meeting (1,475)
 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (707)
 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (11,681)
 Piedmont Friends Fellowship (1,030)
 Southeastern Yearly Meeting (570)
 Southern Appalachian YM & Assn (1,058)

South Central Yearly Meeting (422)

Listed in parentheses are the yearly meeting membership numbers.

Ten monthly meetings have direct affiliation with FGC:

Central City Friends Meeting, NE
 Davis Friends Meeting, CA
 Five Rivers Monthly Meeting, SC
 Heartland Friends Meeting, KS
 Manhattan Friends Meeting, KS
 Olympia Monthly Meeting, WA
 Oread Friends Meeting, KS
 Sacramento Friends Meeting, CA
 Topeka Friends Meeting, KS
 Wyoming Friends Meeting, WY

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

FGC is governed by a Central Committee composed of 169 Friends, 109 of whom are appointed by affiliated yearly and monthly meetings.

Officers

<i>Presiding Clerk</i>	Marian Beane (PFF)
<i>Assistant Clerk</i>	Sue Regen (NYYM)
<i>Recording Clerk</i>	Julia Isaacs (BYM)
<i>Assistant Recording Clerk</i>	Kri Burkander (LEYM)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Byron Sandford (BYM)
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Stoph Hallward (BYM)

Committee Clerks

<i>Advancement and Outreach</i>	Jane Berger (NYYM)
<i>Christian & Interfaith Relations</i>	Virginia Driscoll (PFF) and Dot Walizer (BYM)
<i>Friends Meeting House Fund</i>	Dick Steele (SCYM)
<i>Long Range Conference Planning</i>	David Miller (PHLYM)
<i>Ministry & Nurture</i>	Charlotte Basham (AFC)
<i>Ministry on Racism</i>	Janice Domanik (ILYM)
<i>Publications & Distribution</i>	Warren Wilson-Reiner (SCYM)
<i>Religious Education</i>	Gail Thomas (NEYM)
<i>Traveling Ministries</i>	Becky Phipps (NEYM)
<i>Youth Ministries</i>	Robin Greenler (NYM)
<i>Advisory</i>	Sue Regen (NYYM)
<i>Blue Book</i>	Rex Sprouse (OVYM)
<i>Development</i>	Sue Regen (NYYM)
<i>Discernment in Long Term Planning</i>	Judy Purvis (PFF)
<i>Finance</i>	Sally Weaver Sommer (LEYM)
<i>Nominating</i>	Liz Yeats (SCYM)
<i>Personnel</i>	Lois Forrest (PHLYM)
<i>Property</i>	Tom Unkefer (PHLYM)

FGC STAFF

Bruce Birchard	<i>General Secretary</i>
David Budmen	<i>Publications Associate</i>
Angelina Conti	<i>Publications Assistant</i>
Elaine Crauderueff	<i>Advancement and Outreach Coordinator</i>
Lucy Duncan	<i>Associate Secretary for Programs and the Bookstore</i>
Eric Evans	<i>Bookstore Associate: Customer Service</i>
Deborah Fisch	<i>Associate Secretary for Programs and Traveling Ministries</i>
Graham Garner	<i>Bookstore Co-Manager</i>
Michael Gibson	<i>Religious Education Coordinator</i>
Carrie Glasby	<i>Development Manager</i>
Naman Hampton	<i>Conference Associate</i>
Ellen Helmuth	<i>Administrative and Traveling Ministries Associate</i>
Laird Holby	<i>Bookstore Assistant</i>
Vanessa Julye	<i>Committee for Ministry on Racism Coordinator</i>
Patsy Arnold Martin	<i>Junior Gathering Coordinator</i>
Barbara Mays	<i>Publications Manager</i>
Ken Miller	<i>Fiscal and Property Manager</i>
Jeremy Pedersen	<i>Bookstore Associate: Inventory Control</i>
Sherry Register	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Anne Ruckdeschel	<i>Development Assistant</i>
Bill Sanderson	<i>Computer Systems Manager</i>
Julia Sibley-Jones	<i>Planned Giving and Major Gifts Manager</i>
Emily Stewart	<i>Youth Ministries Coordinator</i>
Traci Hjelt Sullivan	<i>Conference Coordinator</i>
Michael Wajda	<i>Associate Secretary for Development and Interpretation</i>



Cover: "The Sower" by Fritz Eichenberg "The Sower" has been the colophon used on FGC religious education publications for nearly fifty years. This image also appeared on the cover of FGC's annual report forty years ago. Fritz Eichenberg was a well known Quaker artist and headed the Department of Art at the University of Rhode Island.

Friends General Conference

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