



*Fruits
of
Faithfulness*

Friends
General
Conference

2008
Annual
Report

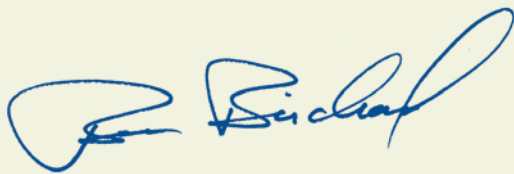


The Spirit is moving through the Religious Society of Friends, teaching us, opening new possibilities, expanding our understanding of how God can work in our lives.

FGC brings Friends together to discover where the Spirit might be leading the community of Friends and to act together in responding to those leadings. We have had many moments during this past year when our work felt like a gathered meeting — centered, energized, and filled with the Spirit.

We are pleased to bring you this annual report of our work, featuring five vignettes of the fruits of Friends working faithfully together.

Friends have a message that is simple, radical, and contemporary to bring to a world that is thirsting for meaning and for the shalom that can come through a community of faith.



Bruce Birchard
GENERAL SECRETARY



Sue Regen
PRESIDING CLERK

*“I could feel the glory
within me, and I saw it on
many faces.”*

— Quaker Quest participant



photo by Joanne Clapp Fullagar

Quaker Quest is an outreach program, a way to invite new people to the Religious Society of Friends which also draws the members of participating meetings into new and deeper connections with each other. “We were filled with love and excitement each week as we worked together. . . .”

The Meetings participating in Quaker Quest begin with a day-long workshop for the whole meeting. Members have deep conversations about how they experience the Spirit in their lives and about the core beliefs of the meeting. They look at the meeting with fresh eyes and fall in love all over again. After a period of discernment, the meeting may then undertake to carry out a series of public meetings inviting others to discover Quakerism as a simple, radical, and contemporary spiritual path for our time.

Funded in part by a \$100,000 grant from the Thomas H. and Mary Williams Shoemaker Fund, this young program is gaining momentum. In 2008 the first meeting completed the full cycle of workshops and public meetings; four more will complete the public meetings in the spring of 2009. Over twenty more meetings across the U.S. and Canada have begun the process. The goal is for seekers from the wider community to learn about our Quaker path and to come to know a meeting that is filled with God’s Spirit and ready to welcome them.

Is this a project that would enrich your meeting? Find out more at www.quakerquestfgc.org.

New life and power are emerging from a growing community of young adult Friends who are gathering across the divisions of Quakerism—exploring their experiences of the Divine and what it means to live our faith.

With strong support from FGC's **Youth Ministries Program**, more than 100 young adult Friends from across the Quaker spectrum gathered in May 2008 at Earlham College for "Living as Friends, Listening Within" to build relationships with one another as they explored their experiences of faith.

In this past year the Youth Ministries Program has also helped plan and support a weekend training workshop for adults who work with Quaker youth, a Consultation for Friends Called to Travel in the Ministry, and a Consultation on Quaker Volunteer Service for youth.

Find out more about FGC's Youth Ministry Program at www.fgcquaker.org/qy

“If Friends are faithful to the spirit they found here . . . there shouldn't be any fear that Friends' love and ministry won't continue for a long, long time.”

— “Living as Friends, Listening Within” YAF conference participant



photo by Emily Stewart

“If we accept the notion that Quakerism really speaks only to certain kinds of people, then we have totally denied its religious validity, universal spirit . . .”

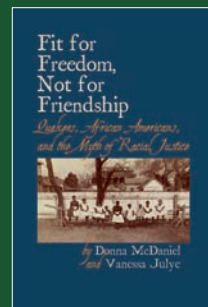
— Alison Oldham, as cited in
Fit for Freedom



photo by John Meyer

Friends like to think that our Quaker forebears opposed slavery throughout our history, but the more complex truth is that while some Friends have worked for racial equality most Friends have reflected the dominant culture in their attitudes toward African Americans. The wonderful news is that knowing the good and the bad of our past liberates us, black and white Quakers together, to create the community we long for.

After years of painstaking work the book *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice* is now available.



Written by Friends Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel, and published by FGC, this carefully researched volume opens a big door to discussion, healing, and new beginnings.

Friends General Conference's **Committee for Ministry on Racism** has trained twenty-six Friends from twelve yearly meetings to assist meetings in considering the issues examined in *Fit For Freedom, Not for Friendship*. If your meeting is interested in inviting an FGC facilitator, contact Wren Almitra, 215-561-1700, ext. 3055, for more information.

Children of all ages along with adults, joined in holy wonder and worship, praying with fingers and eyes, considering big questions and not needing to have the answers . . . this is the experience of meetings with the Montessori-inspired *Faith & Play* materials that help our children find words and images for expressing their experience of holy mystery and wonder in their lives.

Faith & Play materials are the fruit of a collaboration between FGC's **Religious Education Program** and the Children's Spiritual Life Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. *Faith & Play* is based on the Godly Play® Bible study materials that are used by many meetings. The material is designed for children three to twelve and works splendidly in mixed age groupings and multigenerational settings. First Day School teachers receive training in working with this program that is deeply respectful of children and their spiritual lives. *Faith & Play* employs visual storytelling and open ended questions in mutual sharing and creative play. The first volume of the *Faith & Play* series contains six stories: "Listening for God," "Prayer and Friends Meeting for Worship," "Gifts," "Queries," "George Fox's Big Discovery," and "The Mary Fisher Story." For more information about using *Faith & Play* in your meeting and about how to get the teacher training, go to www.faithandplay.org.

"I feel close to God."

— Seven-year-old child participating in *Faith & Play*



photo by Sallie Welte

We see a profound spiritual fire burning within Quakerism, calling us to a greater faithfulness”

— Janice Domanik, clerk
Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign
Steering Committee



The life of the Spirit and the practicality of providing financial resources converge as FGC responds to a call to *Stoke the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism*. This convergence has led FGC to conversations all over North America—meeting together as Friends to explore a vision of a vital 21st century Quakerism, and to discern together how to provide the resources for stoking this spiritual fire.

Even in these challenging economic times Friends are responding with commitment and generosity to FGC's *Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign*, sharing the fruits of their labors to maintain FGC's programs that enliven our meetings, embrace seekers, and respond to the leadings of the Spirit. The \$7.25 million campaign has already raised more than \$3.25 million. To bring this conversation about finding the resources to stoke the spiritual fire of Quakerism to your meeting, go to www.fgcquaker.org/spiritualfire or contact Michael Wajda in the FGC Development Program, 215-561-1700, ext. 3004.

*Stoking the
Spiritual Fire
of Quakerism
Campaign*



FGC is governed by a Central Committee composed of 168 Friends, 106 of whom are appointed by affiliated yearly and monthly meetings.

Officers		FGC STAFF	
<i>Presiding Clerk</i>	Sue Regen (NYYM)	Wren Almitra	<i>Ministry on Racism and Publications Intern</i>
<i>Assistant Clerk</i>	Rich Van Dellen (NYYM)	Bruce Birchard	<i>General Secretary</i>
<i>Recording Clerk</i>	Julia Isaacs (BYM)	David Budmen	<i>Publications Associate</i>
<i>Assistant Recording Clerk</i>	Kri Burkander (LEYM)	Elaine Crauderueff	<i>Advancement and Outreach Coordinator</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Stoph Hallward (BYM)	Lucy Duncan	<i>Associate Secretary for Programs and Communications</i>
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Herb Haigh (SEYM)	Eric Evans	<i>Quaker Quest Assistant</i>
<i>Immediate Past Clerk</i>	Marian Beane (PFF)	Deborah Fisch	<i>Traveling Ministries Associate</i>
Committee Clerks		Graham Garner	<i>Ministry and Nurture Staff Person</i>
<i>Advancement and Outreach</i>	Jane Berger (NYYM)	Michael Gibson	<i>Associate Secretary for Programs and Traveling Ministries</i>
<i>Christian & Interfaith Relations</i>	Virginia Driscoll (PFF) and Dot Walizer (BYM)	Carrie Glasby	<i>Bookstore Co-Manager</i>
<i>Friends Meeting House Fund</i>	Dick Steele (SCYM)	Travis Green	<i>Religious Education Coordinator</i>
<i>Long Range Conference Planning</i>	David Miller (PHLYM)	Laird Holby	<i>Development Manager</i>
<i>Ministry & Nurture</i>	Charlotte Basham (AFC)	Vanessa Julye	<i>Gathering Associate</i>
<i>Ministry on Racism</i>	Miyu Moriuchi (BYM)	Patsy Arnold Martin	<i>Quaker Quest Assistant</i>
<i>Publications & Distribution</i>	Warren Wilson-Reiner (SCYM)	Barbara Mays	<i>Bookstore Assistant</i>
<i>Religious Education</i>	Anne Collins (SCYM)	Ken Miller	<i>Committee for Ministry on Racism Coordinator</i>
<i>Traveling Ministries</i>	Becky Phipps (NEYM)	Chris Pifer	<i>Junior Gathering Coordinator</i>
<i>Youth Ministries</i>	Jean-Marie Barch (PHLYM) and Maia Carter Hallward (BYM)	Nicole Rayborn	<i>Publications Manager</i>
<i>Advisory</i>	Rich Van Dellen (NYYM)	Sherry Register	<i>Fiscal and Property Manager</i>
<i>Blue Book</i>	Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt (PHLYM)	Anne Ruckdeschel	<i>Associate Bookstore Manager</i>
<i>Development</i>	Sandra Beer (NYYM) and Jim Perkins (GPYM)	Bill Sanderson	<i>Web and Online Communications Manager</i>
<i>Discernment in Long Term Planning</i>	Judy Purvis (PFF)	Emily Stewart	<i>Administrative Associate</i>
<i>Finance</i>	Sally Weaver Sommer (LEYM)	Traci Hjelt Sullivan	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>
<i>Nominating</i>	Mary Anna Feitler (BYM)	Michael Wajda	<i>Development Assistant</i>
<i>Personnel</i>	Frank Barch (PHLYM)		<i>Computer Systems Manager</i>
<i>Property</i>	Tom Unkefer (PHLYM)		<i>Youth Ministries Coordinator</i>

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

Alaska Friends Conference (185)
 Baltimore Yearly Meeting (4,784)
 Canadian Yearly Meeting (1,160)
 Illinois Yearly Meeting (1,120)
 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (786)
 New England Yearly Meeting (4,164)
 New York Yearly Meeting (3,472)
 Northern Yearly Meeting (1,475)
 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (755)
 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (11,617)
 Piedmont Friends Fellowship (1,030)
 Southeastern Yearly Meeting (512)
 Southern Appalachian YM & Assn (1,044)
 South Central Yearly Meeting (402)
Numbers in parentheses indicate yearly meeting membership.

Ten monthly meetings have direct affiliation with FGC either because they do not belong to any yearly meeting or because their yearly meeting is not affiliated 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 Financial Statement October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008

INCOME	US \$	EXPENSES	US \$
2008 Gathering	897,033	2008 Gathering	918,041
Bookstore	430,447	Bookstore	543,295
Publications	32,389	Traveling Ministries Program	96,370
Religious Educator's Institute	19,302	Religious Education	65,564
Contributions	705,314	Youth Minsitries	92,121
Individuals	355,448	Publications	131,335
Monthly Meetings	63,981	Development	173,121
Yearly Meetings	106,138	Interpretation	170,462
Funds & Foundations	179,747	Administrative Program Support	385,208
Bequests	28,864	Other Programs	193,971
Interest & Other Income	16,383	Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign	151,410
From Restricted Reserves	41,560	Transfer Campaign Income to Appropriate Funds	464,217
Transfer from Unrestricted Reserves	31,482	Transfer to Restricted Reserves	126,000
From Designated Reserves	363,212	Transfer to Designated Reserves	47,591
From Campaign Fund	339,093	TOTAL EXPENSES	3,558,706
From Undesignated Endowment	19,000		
From Travel Support Endowment	19,000		
Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign: gifts and pledges received	615,627		
TOTAL INCOME	3,558,706		

Cover photograph by
 Joanne Clapp Fullagar

Friends General Conference

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