

Expanding Our Quaker Circle



Friends General Conference
2009 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

It is downright exciting to consider how FGC has been opening up new “territory” and expanding our Quaker circle during 2009. We find these FGC initiatives and programs to be strong evidence of the vitality and dynamism moving through much of our North American Quaker community today.

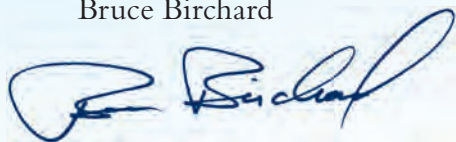
Areas of FGC growth include:

- Much stronger engagement with Friends of color and with Quaker youth
- An exciting and fully developed program of outreach to potential seekers
- New voices and relationships that open up new avenues for faith-based discourse
- And even geographical expansion, as we welcomed Intermountain Yearly Meeting into our family.

We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we both enjoy being part of this incredibly dynamic, Spirit-centered and joyful Quaker organization.

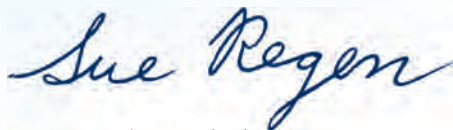
In the Spirit,

Bruce Birchard

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Birchard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

General Secretary

Sue Regen

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Regen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Presiding Clerk

Expanding our Understanding of Quakers and Race

Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice, was released by FGC to widespread acclaim on February 5, 2009.

Nearly two hundred people attended the release event in Philadelphia to hear the co-authors—FGC volunteer Donna McDaniel and FGC staff person Vanessa Julye—describe their seven years of work on this major study. The book describes the complex reality of Quaker slaveholders and Quaker abolitionists and, over several centuries, the visionary commitment to greater racial justice by some Friends and the resistance to change by many others.

Sales of *Fit for Freedom* have been strong and the authors have spoken at more than fifty venues in the first year since publication.

Many meetings have formed reading groups to consider the insights and lessons of this book. FGC has prepared a downloadable Study Guide, and volunteer facilitators have been trained to assist meetings and schools in considering this history and broader questions of race and racism among Friends.



photograph by Chris Pifer

The legendary status of Quakers in the struggle for Black freedom undergoes serious scrutiny and critique in this courageous and visionary book.

— Cornel West
Princeton University

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

— *Quaker Quest*
participant

Inviting Others to Consider Quakerism

Quaker Quest, our dynamic new program designed to introduce people to the faith and practice of modern Friends, is already a huge success—and we’re just getting started! Through Quaker Quest, we boldly proclaim that Quakerism is “Simple, Radical and Contemporary—A Spiritual Path for Our Time.” FGC has trained twenty-six Quaker Quest facilitators as it coordinates this program throughout the United States and Canada.

Hundreds of Friends and scores of meetings have become excited by the opportunities offered by Quaker Quest. Virtually all have found that the Quaker Quest process helps deepen the spiritual life of the meeting as Friends share their personal journeys in new ways.

By the end of 2009, twenty-seven monthly meetings in eighteen states and provinces had held full-day introductory Quaker Quest workshops. Seven of these meetings had completed a series of public Quaker Quest sessions to welcome visitors. Six meetings are already committed to holding public sessions during 2010.

For more information, contact Elaine Crauderueff (elainec@fgcquaker.org).



photograph by Joanne Clapp Fullagar

Nurturing Greater Diversity

FGC's **Weaving Sacred Wholeness** Conference brought together sixty-three Friends to explore responses to the question, "What would a diverse, vibrant, intergenerational Quaker community look like?" Organized jointly by FGC's Youth Ministries Program and the Committee for Ministry on Racism, this three-day conference was held in March 2009 at Penn Center on St. Helena Island just off the coast of South Carolina.



photograph by Seth Barch

Nearly half the participants were younger Friends, and one quarter were Friends of Color. They came from thirty-seven monthly meetings and sixteen yearly meetings. Friends explored issues of race, age, theology, class, gender, and sexual orientation. They considered how to create safe, welcoming spaces for both members and newcomers to Quaker meetings and communities.

Weaving Sacred Wholeness represents just one part of FGC's work to open up our religious society to greater diversity. In recognition of this commitment, our governing body approved a new major goal for FGC that encompasses this work for greater diversity.

Transform
our
awareness
so that our
corporate
and
individual
attitudes and
actions fully
value and
encompass
the blessed
diversity of
our human
family.

— *One of FGC's major goals approved in 2009*

Affiliation
with FGC is
about
broader
deeper
opportunities
for
exploring
our faith.

— *Andrew Banks*
a new IMYM
representative to
Central Committee

Growing Westward

Intermountain Yearly Meeting and FGC concluded a two year discernment process in 2009 as IMYM became the fifteenth yearly meeting to formally join Friends General Conference. This follows by one year our welcome to **Wyoming Friends Meeting** (which includes four worship groups scattered throughout the state) as a directly affiliated monthly meeting.

During the past decade, FGC has provided more and more services to Friends in the three independent western yearly meetings: Pacific, North Pacific and Intermountain. For example:

- At the invitation of North Pacific Yearly Meeting, the 2006 FGC Annual Gathering was held in Tacoma, Washington.
- Approximately 20% of our bookstore orders come from the ten western states.
- In the past ten years, our Friends Meeting House Fund has helped four western meetings to buy, build or renovate new meetinghouses.
- FGC volunteers and staff have made at least thirty-seven visits to western meetings through our Traveling Ministries Program in the past decade.
- FGC staff members Bruce Birchard and Lucy Duncan have each given plenary addresses to Intermountain Yearly Meeting.
- Young Friends from the western meetings receive financial assistance from a special scholarship fund to help them attend FGC Gatherings and other FGC events each year.



photograph by Kathy Hyzy

Expanding Old Boundaries of Theology and Faith

FGC has opened up spaces for exploration of faith experiences that extend beyond the old limits that often constrained FGC Friends during earlier decades. Much of this has been led by young adult Friends (YAFs), initially through two FGC-sponsored YAF conferences in Burlington, New Jersey (2007) and at Earlham (2008).

During the past year, new steps to enlarge the area of discourse and connection included:

- Participation by two YAFs (including FGC's Youth Ministries Program Coordinator Emily Stewart) in the triennial conference of the *Young Quaker Christian Association—Africa* conference in Kenya.
- A plenary address at the 2009 Gathering by Shaine Claiborne, a Christian “preacher, writer and circus performer,” author of *The Irresistible Revolution* and *Jesus for President*, and a founder of *The Simple Way*, a Christian faith community serving the poor of inner city Philadelphia.
- A two-week trip to Kenya by General Secretary Bruce Birchard to help lead the board of the *Young Quakers Christian Association* in developing a new long-term plan for their innovative work among the Quaker communities of Africa.

While it can be difficult for FGC Friends to find unity on theological definitions, our openness to discussion and exploration, to hearing one another's experiences and beliefs, enriches our faith and our experience of God.



photograph by Joanne Clapp Fullagar

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

Officers

Presiding Clerk Sue Regen (NYYM)
 Assistant Clerk Rich Van Dellen (NYM)
 Recording Clerk Julia Isaacs (NYM)
 Assistant Recording Clerk Kri Burkander (LEYM)
 Treasurer Stoph Hallward (SAYMA)
 Assistant Treasurer Herb Haigh (SEYM)

Committee Clerks

Advancement and Outreach
 Christian & Interfaith Relations

Trudy Rogers (PHLYM)
 Virginia Driscoll (PFF)
 and Dot Walizer (BYM)
 Dick Steele (SCYM)
 David Miller (PHLYM)
 Charlotte Basham (AFC)
 Miyo Moriuchi (BYM)
 Warren Wilson-Reiner (SCYM)

Friends Meeting House Fund
 Long Range Conference Planning
 Ministry & Nurture
 Ministry on Racism
 Publications & Distribution

Religious Education
 Traveling Ministries
 Youth Ministries

Advisory
 Blue Book

Development
 Finance

Nominating
 Personnel
 Property

Anne Collins (SCYM)
 Beckey Phipps (NEYM)
 Jean-Marie Barch (PHLYM) and Maia
 Carter Hallward (SAYMA)
 Rich Van Dellen (NYM)
 Elizabeth Piersol
 Schmidt (PHLYM)
 Merry Stanford (LEYM)
 Sally Weaver Sommer (LEYM)
 Mary Anna Feitler (BYM)
 Frank Barch (PHLYM)
 Tom Unkefer (PHLYM)

FGC Staff

Bruce Birchard
 David Botwink
 Elaine Crauderueff
 Lucy Duncan

Eric Evans

Deborah Fisch

Graham Garner
 Michael Gibson
 Carrie Glasby
 Travis Green
 Laird Holby
 Larry Jalowiec
 Vanessa Julye

Patsy Arnold Martin
 Ken Miller
 Jeremy Pedersen
 Chris Pifer

Nicole Rayborn
 Bill Sanderson
 Kathy Stepkovicz
 Emily Stewart
 Traci Hjelt Sullivan
 Michael Wajda

General Secretary
 Publications Associate
 Advancement and Outreach Coordinator
 Associate Secretary for Programs
 and Communications
 Quaker Quest Associate
 Traveling Ministries Associate
 Ministry and Nurture Staff Person
 Associate Secretary for Programs
 and Traveling Ministries
 Bookstore Co-Manager
 Religious Education Coordinator
 Development Manager
 Conference Associate
 Bookstore Assistant
 Planned Giving Coordinator
 Committee for Ministry on
 Racism Coordinator
 Junior Gathering Coordinator
 Fiscal and Property Manager
 Associate Bookstore Manager
 Web and Online Communications
 Manager
 Administrative Associate
 Computer Systems Manager
 Development Assistant
 Youth Ministries Coordinator
 Conference Coordinator
 Associate Secretary for
 Development and Interpretation

Our current staffing level represents 20.68 full-time equivalents.

Friends General Conference is an association of 15 yearly meetings and regional groups:

Alaska Friends Conference (185)
 Baltimore Yearly Meeting (4,781)
 Canadian Yearly Meeting (1,160)
 Illinois Yearly Meeting (1,120)
 Intermountain Yearly Meeting (1,083)
 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (786)
 New England Yearly Meeting (4,012)
 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

Cover photograph by Kathy Hyzy, editor for *Western Friend* magazine. Visit westernfriend.org for more photos.

Friends General Conference

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www.QuakerFinder.org

Bookstore: www.quakerbooks.org

**Friends General Conference Financial Statement
 October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009**

INCOME	US \$	EXPENSES	US \$
2008 Gathering	686,493	2008 Gathering	698,161
Bookstore	383,182	Bookstore	473,631
Publications	38,113	Publications	109,413
Weaving Sacred Wholeness conference	14,165	Weaving Sacred Wholeness Conference	16,928
Contributions	615,413	Quaker Quest	103,069
Individuals	400,833	Traveling Ministries	79,766
Monthly Meetings	61,205	Youth Ministries	77,731
Yearly Meetings	96,116	Religious Education	65,864
Funds & Foundations	57,259	Ministry on Racism	80,726
Bequests	28,827	Other Programs	73,471
Interest & Other Income	35,703	Communications	188,882
Transfers	799,973	Development	183,190
From Campaign Fund	481,934	Administrative Program Support	402,483
From Cornell Fund	141,117	Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign	119,570
From Endowments	42,000	Transfer Campaign Income to Appropriate Funds	331,517
From Unrestricted Reserves	11,483	Transfer to Designated and Restricted Reserves	48,554
From Restricted and Designated Reserves	123,439		
Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign: gifts and pledge payments received	451,087		
TOTAL INCOME	3,052,956	TOTAL EXPENSES	3,052,956