

# Yes to the Joy of Love



**FGC**  
FRIENDS  
GENERAL CONFERENCE

2010

Annual Report



Bruce with three of the four clerks with whom he has served: (left to right) Sue Regen (Presiding Clerk, 2008–present), Marian Beane (Clerk, 2002–2008), and Janice Domanik (Clerk, 1996–2002). Not pictured: TylaAnn Burger (Clerk, 1990–1996).

*photograph by Rich Regen*

*Dear Friends,*

2010 was a year of discernment and growth for FGC, as we prepare for important transitions in 2011—a new General Secretary and a more nimble and responsive program committee structure.

Our programs continued to thrive, developing and sharing meaningful resources with Quakers and meetings across the United States and Canada. We welcomed Fairhope Friends Meeting in Alabama as our newest direct affiliate. We also developed a new logo, to represent our vision of serving Friends by cultivating and spreading the seeds of the Spirit.

We invite you to explore the accomplishments and future visions for Friends General Conference shared in this report. Blessings to you in your own growth and service!

*In the Spirit,*

Bruce Birchard  
GENERAL SECRETARY

Sue Regen  
PRESIDING CLERK



“Together we envisioned a Quakerism where Friends grow up knowing and loving one another, and the impact that would have on the Religious Society of Friends and the world.”

*from the report on the YAF Consultation*

*photograph by Sarah Bernstein*

## A Spotlight on Youth Ministries

FGC's Youth Ministries program works collaboratively both within FGC programs and with external organizations to nurture the vibrant spiritual life of Quaker young adults, to foster intergenerational community within meetings, and to build bridges between the different branches of the Religious Society of Friends. 2010 saw important steps forward in each of these areas.

- We partnered with QUIP (Quakers Uniting in Publications) to publish *Spirit Rising: Young Quaker Voices*, a compilation of writings and art from teenage and young adult Quakers across the theological spectrum and the world.
- We cosponsored a special consultation with Friends United Meeting to explore interest in cross-branch intervisitation. Twenty-five young adult Friends from eighteen yearly meetings gathered to explore possibilities for a more intentional program of intervisitation.
- For four years, Youth Ministries staff and committee members have gathered questions from Quaker meetings, developed and tested community-building activities, and explored how to build intergenerational community. These labors have coalesced into *Build It!*, a how-to manual for Quaker meetings.





photograph by Joya Manasseh

## Reflections from the General Secretary

FGC has been growing and changing, and so have I. A big change for both of us: after nineteen years of service as FGC's General Secretary, I will retire on July 15, 2011.

What a journey this has been. How much I have learned from hundreds and hundreds of Friends, both volunteers and staff, as I have grown into this work!

I began this service in 1992, when FGC's budget was \$1,000,000/year and we had ten staff people. Between committee service, the Annual Gathering, the bookstore and a few small programs, we had approximately 225 Friends volunteering through FGC. Now our budget tops \$3,000,000, we have twenty-five staff people, and all of this supports more than 600 volunteers working for a dynamic and growing Quaker faith community.

As I prepare to leave this work, FGC is moving forward into an exciting future. We are taking on important new services and projects, some for just a year or two, others for the long term. In order to do this, other projects or programs will be reduced or laid down. FGC's increased flexibility in responding to new opportunities and challenges within our religious society is critical to our ability to continue providing relevant service and leadership.

My heart brims over with gratitude and love for all of the Friends who have contributed in so many ways to this dynamic, Spirit-grounded organization. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Bruce Birchard

## Highlights during the past nineteen years include:

- 1997 Approval of FGC's first Long-Term Plan
- 1998 Started new "Traveling Ministries Program"
- 2000 Created new Committee for Ministry on Racism
- 2002 Nurturing Quakerism Campaign raises \$2.4 million
- 2006 Created new Youth Ministries Program
- 2006 First Gathering held on west coast (Tacoma, WA)
- 2008 Quaker Quest begins working with meetings
- 2008 "Faith & Play" for First Day Schools launched
- 2009 Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship published
- 2009 Intermountain Yearly Meeting affiliates with FGC
- 2011 Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism campaign set to raise \$6 million

In June 2011, FGC will welcome Barry Crossno as its new General Secretary. A member of Dallas MM, Barry brings to FGC a background in business, non-profit management and fundraising. He is committed to sharing the Quaker way. *"Spirit once shared a message with me, 'Quakerism is a doorway through which many will walk.' I believe that."*



Presiding Clerk Sue Regen and incoming General Secretary Barry Crossno.

*photograph by Rich Regen*

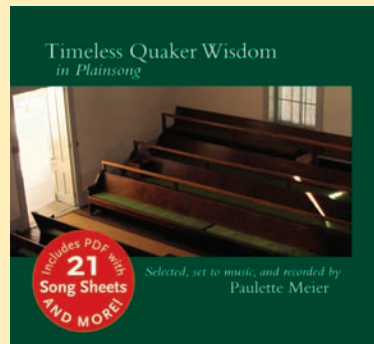
“As deep calls  
to deep, we all  
are invited to  
say ‘yes!’ to the  
joy of Love that  
God has written  
on our hearts!”

*excerpt from 2010  
Traveling Ministries  
retreat Minute  
of Exercise*



## Serving Friends . . .

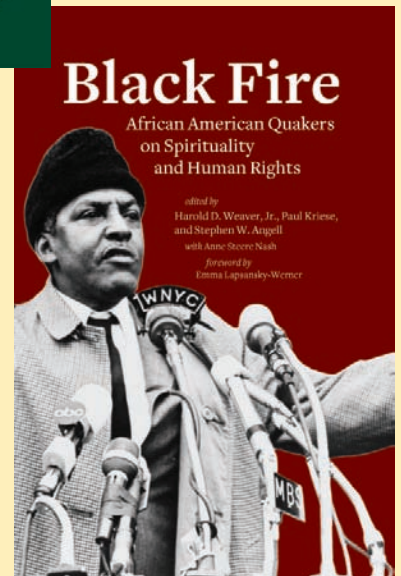
2010 saw the culmination of a process to enhance FGC's *Faith & Play* workshops, based on the Godly Play® model. *Faith & Play* Coordinator Michael Gibson and volunteer Melinda Wenner Bradley received advance training and certification from the Godly Play Foundation. This means that from now on FGC's Playing in the Light workshops will be recognized as core trainings, completion of which is the first and most important step in the Godly Play® teacher certification process.



2010 also saw preparation and publication of new QuakerPress offerings. *Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plain Song* is a CD of 21 songs of early Quaker texts.

*Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights* gathers together the voices of 18 remarkable individuals who spoke and wrote as African Americans from within the Quaker community.

The Traveling Ministries program held a retreat in Chicago, IL, bringing together Friends with significant experience traveling in the ministry and members of their support committees. The thirty-three Friends in attendance shared their journeys, worshipped deeply, and experienced God's call to faithful service.



## ... Throughout the Year

The 2010 Gathering drew 1,183 Friends to Bowling Green, OH for the weeklong annual conference. Friends overcame the intense heat and unexpected campus construction to support one another in Quaker community. Moving the evening plenaries to cooler, shady, side lawns brought a relaxed, small-town feel to the evening programs.

A \$300,000 grant from the Shoemaker Fund enabled FGC to expand Quaker Quest, a dynamic program of Spirit-centered meeting development and outreach to potential seekers. Our thirty volunteer facilitators and four staff support and train meetings to use the Quaker Quest program. In the past three years, 116 meetings have inquired about Quaker Quest, 53 have held full-day introductory workshops, and 16 have completed the process and held public sessions, where they have advertised and invited the public in to “explore the Quaker way.”

“... without the help of FGC, no such soul-searching and community sharing would have been possible.”

*Annapolis MM  
on FGC's Quaker  
Quest program*



A sudden and unexpected shower during the Gathering, at the close of one evening plenary, brought delight to the children as the adults moved chairs and sound equipment away from the sprinklers.

*photograph by Joanne Clapp Fullagar*

FGC is governed by a Central Committee composed of 149 Friends, 81 of whom are appointed by affiliated yearly and monthly meetings.

Officers	
<i>Presiding Clerk</i>	Sue Regen (NYYM)
<i>Assistant Clerk</i>	Rich Van Dellen (NYM)
<i>Recording Clerk</i>	Deborah Haines (BYM)
<i>Assistant Recording Clerk</i>	Kri Burkander (LEYM)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Stoph Hallward (SAYMA)
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Herb Haigh (SEYM)
Committee Clerks	
<i>Christian &amp; 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>	Karen Stewart (PFF)
<i>Nurturing Ministries:</i>	Becky Phipps (NEYM)
<i>Deepening Subcommittee</i>	Krists Estes (SAYMA)
<i>Growing Subcommittee</i>	Trudy Rogers (PHLYM)
<i>Transforming Subcommittee</i>	Jean-Marie Barch (PHLYM)
<i>Publications and Distribution</i>	Warren Wilson-Reiner (SCYM)
<i>Advisory</i>	Rich Van Dellen (NYM)
<i>Blue Book</i>	Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt (PHLYM)
<i>Communications</i>	Don Mick (NEYM)
<i>Development</i>	Merry Stanford (LEYM)
<i>Discernment, Planning &amp; Priorities</i>	Marian Beane (PFF)
<i>Finance</i>	Sally Weaver Sommer (LEYM)
<i>Nominating</i>	Ernie Buscemi (NYYM)
<i>Personnel</i>	Frank Barch (PHLYM)
<i>Property</i>	Tom Unkefer (PHLYM)

FGC Staff	
Chel Avery	<i>Publications Manager</i>
Susan Lee Barton	<i>Conference &amp; Administrative Associate</i>
Bruce Birchard	<i>General Secretary</i>
David Botwinik	<i>Publications Associate</i>
Elaine Crauderueff	<i>Ministries &amp; Quaker Quest Coordinator</i>
Lucy Duncan	<i>Associate Secretary for Communications</i>
Eric Evans	<i>Nurturing Ministries Associate</i>
Deborah Fisch	<i>Associate Secretary for Ministries</i>
Graham Garner	<i>Bookstore Co-Manager</i>
Michael Gibson	<i>Faith &amp; Play Coordinator</i>
Laird Holby	<i>Bookstore Assistant</i>
Larry Jalowiec	<i>Director of Stewardship Services</i>
Vanessa Julye	<i>Ministries Coordinator for Ministry on Racism</i>
Carrie Karhnak-Glasby	<i>Development Manager</i>
David Kosbob	<i>Communications Intern</i>
Joya Manasseh	<i>Communications/Quaker Quest Intern</i>
Patsy Arnold Martin	<i>Junior Gathering Coordinator</i>
Ken Miller	<i>Fiscal and Property Manager</i>
Jeremy Pedersen	<i>Associate Bookstore Manager</i>
Chris Pifer	<i>Web and Online Communications Manager</i>
Nicole Rayborn	<i>Administrative Associate</i>
Bill Sanderson	<i>Computer Systems Manager</i>
Kathy Stepkovicz	<i>Development Assistant</i>
Traci Hjelt Sullivan	<i>Conference Coordinator</i>
Michael Wajda	<i>Associate Secretary for Development and Interpretation</i>
Keira Wilson	<i>Quaker Quest Associate</i>

*Our current staffing level represents 23.25 full-time equivalents.*

## Friends General Conference Financial Statement October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010

INCOME	US \$	EXPENSES	US \$
Gathering	572,299	Gathering	605,035
Bookstore	336,195	Bookstore	396,604
Publications	32,493	Traveling Ministries	75,035
Contributions	616,958	Youth Ministries	56,966
<i>Individuals</i>	395,955	Quaker Quest	117,987
<i>Monthly Meetings</i>	67,830	Publications	78,438
<i>Yearly Meetings</i>	105,295	Development	297,767
<i>Funds and Foundations</i>	47,878	Communications	232,845
Bequests	7,093	Administrative Program Support	316,894
Interest & Other Income	41,292	Other Programs	193,358
Transfers	791,463	Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign	38,737
<i>From Unrestricted Reserves</i>	19,106	Transfer Campaign Income to Appropriate Funds	707,062
<i>From Restricted and Designated Reserves</i>	117,246	Transfer to Designated Reserves	26,864
<i>From Campaign Fund</i>	364,421		
<i>From Endowments</i>	50,322		
<i>From Cornell Fund</i>	240,369		
Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism Campaign: gifts and pledge payments received	745,799		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3,143,592</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,143,592</b>

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

Alaska Friends Conference (185)  
 Baltimore Yearly Meeting (4,742)  
 Canadian Yearly Meeting (1,148)  
 Illinois Yearly Meeting (1,056)  
 Intermountain Yearly Meeting (983)  
 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (830)  
 New England Yearly Meeting (4,001)  
 New York Yearly Meeting (3,441)  
 Northern Yearly Meeting (1,475)  
 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (764)  
 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (10,467)  
 Piedmont Friends Fellowship (1,030)  
 Southeastern Yearly Meeting (912)  
 Southern Appalachian YM & Assn (1,133)  
 South Central Yearly Meeting (750)

*Numbers in parentheses indicate yearly meeting membership.*

Eleven 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  
 Fairhope Friends Meeting, AL  
 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  
 Joanne Clapp Fullagar



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