

COMMITTEES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE of FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

(Modified 2011)

Friends General Conference, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers. Through the work our staff and the representatives appointed by our member yearly meetings (15), fellowship (1) and independently affiliated monthly meetings (11), these programs and services are made possible. The committees of Central Committee (the governing body of FGC) have come into being through discernment of needs and leadings and continue to evolve and transform as those needs change. Recently we have gone through some major committee structure changes, while the work of various committees continues, the structure of how it has been carried out has changed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Central Committee between annual sessions and reports to the Central Committee. It also seasons major issues in preparation for Central Committee consideration and action. The officers of FGC, clerks of the committees of CC and one representative member named by each member body of FGC make up EC. In addition, five at-large members are recommended by Nominating Committee and approved by CC.

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Any member of Central Committee who has the gifts and talents needed by these committees is welcome to serve on one of these committees.

Christian and Interfaith Relations (CIRC) sponsors dialogues and finds other ways for Friends to be active and involved in ecumenical and broader Quaker activities. This committee is responsible for FGC participation in the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical bodies.

Long Range Conference Planning (LRCP) oversees the creation of the annual Gathering of Friends, selects sites, selects Gathering clerks, and helps find

subcommittee members each year. LRCP also establishes on-going policy for Gatherings and provides support for small conferences.

Publications and Distribution (P&D) ministers to Friends through publishing books and pamphlets on specific subjects. This committee makes these and hundreds of other Quaker materials available through a large mail, phone and internet-order Quaker bookstore known as QuakerBooks of FGC.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES and COMMITTEE FOR NURTURING MINISTRIES

These committees seek specific gifts of their members – appointment to these committees is through consultation and discernment with Nominating Committee and approval by Central Committee or Executive Committee.

Advisory meets for clearness and consultation with the Presiding Clerk and the General Secretary.

Blue Book prepares recommended changes to the “Organizational Blue Book of Objectives, Goals, Program Purposes and Functions with Operational Details” – our official guide of our organization.

Committee for Discernment, Planning and Priorities (CDPP) coordinates our process of discernment and long-term planning and makes recommendations to Executive and Central Committee regarding organizational priorities. In this role, it works closely with the Development and Finance Committees.

Development is responsible for fund-raising to support the program activities of FGC and works to communicate with and promote our services throughout our affiliated yearly and monthly meetings.

Finance recommends fiscal policy, develops investment policy, prepares the annual budget for approval by Central Committee, and considers longer-range financial trends and projections.

Nominating through consultation and discernment, brings forward for approval by Central Committee/Executive Committee names of Friends with gifts to undertake

the many responsibilities within the FGC structure. (A Naming Committee, appointed by Central Committee, brings forward nominations for members of this committee.)

Personnel takes responsibility for personnel practices within FGC and has special care for the welfare of all staff members.

Property oversees all aspects of building and property management of the FGC property.

Committee for Nurturing Ministries develops and offers a wide variety of opportunities, resources, programs and services to encourage, support and nurture spiritual growth, transformation and deepening among Friends, meetings and seekers. The committee fulfills this goal through discerning, coordinating and integrating the work of three focused subcommittees (below) and their working groups.

Subcommittee for Growing is concerned with education for seekers and Friends of all ages, which includes outreach to seekers, religious education programming, and developing print and electronic educational resources. Current major projects under their care include Quaker Quest, Sparklers Still (pre-kindergarten curriculum), and Faith & Play/Godly Play ®.

Subcommittee for Transforming is dedicated to helping Friends continue transforming our meetings into the blessed faith community Quakers believe we are called to be. The subcommittee envisions and nurtures various spiritual opportunities to help advance this goal. Currently the focus is on projects developed to enhance racial diversity within our meetings and leading to the full integration of youth into dynamic intergenerational meeting communities. Major projects include workshops on white privilege and racism, regional retreats for Friends of Color, workshops on intergenerational community building, and support for developing clerking abilities among Young Friends and Young Adult Friends._

Subcommittee for Deepening our Work and Life in the Spirit guides and supports programs and services focused on enhancing Quaker worship experiences, the discernment of gifts and leadings, ministry and eldering, clerking, meeting for business and pastoral care in the manner of Friends. Major programs and projects include traveling in the ministry, support of yearly meeting

clerks, and retreats for Friends engaged in various kinds of ministry, as well as providing spiritual care for FGC Central Committee.

Working Groups under each subcommittee, generally three to six Friends, have care of specific projects or services of FGC with a particular time frame. Some working groups may only exist for one year or less (e.g. to plan and hold a particular retreat or consultation). Others may continue for several years in order to care for much longer-term projects (e.g. Traveling Ministries, Quaker Quest). Working group members are appointed to the appropriate subcommittee of the Committee for Nurturing Ministries. They need not all be members of FGC Central Committee.