

*Together,
we grow . . .*



*. . . in Truth
. . . in Community
. . . in Faith*



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

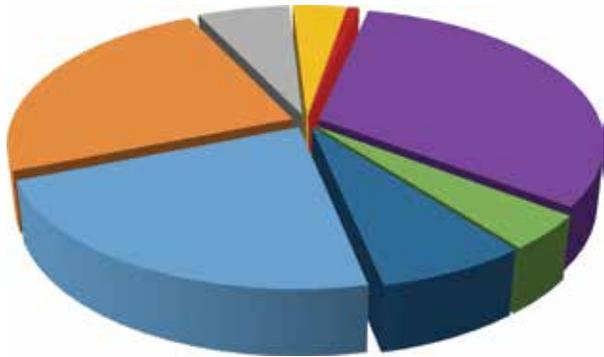
Together, we grow . . .

Financial Stewardship

October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

FUNDING SOURCES

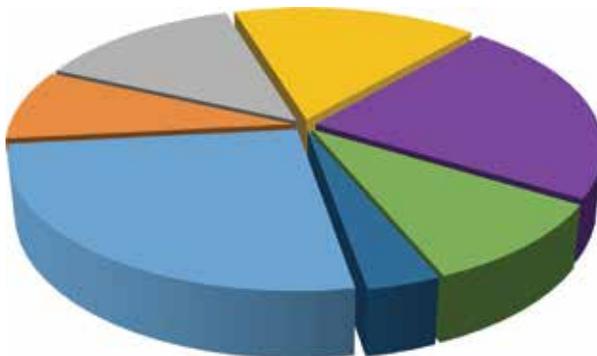
- Contributions from Individuals and Bequests \$521,282
- Contributions from Monthly and Yearly Meetings \$134,823
- Funds and Foundations \$77,576
- Campaign Gifts \$17,087
- Program Revenue \$692,686
- Investment Income \$90,710
- Program Reserves \$156,168
- General Reserves \$482,105



TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES

\$2,172,437

In addition, more than 300 volunteers contributed more than \$53,000 in unreimbursed expenses in 2016.



FUNDING USES

- FGC Gathering \$566,605
- Bookstore and Publications \$183,131
- Other Ministries (CIRC, CNM, Quaker Cloud, Spiritual Deepening, FMHF) \$293,116
- Development and Stewardship Services \$352,520
- Administration and Governance \$481,656
- Communications \$218,734
- Transfers to Reserves and Endowment \$76,675

TOTAL FUNDING USES

\$2,172,437

For more information about FGC's finances, please visit fgcquaker.org/finances



Message from the Presiding Clerk

Dear Friends,

In this moment Friends need to be deeply rooted in their faith, as Quaker practice and testimonies have much to offer the world.

The times in which we live are calling us into our traditional witnesses of upholding the equality of all people, building peace through mutual understanding, and listening with faith and integrity.

We have a sacred opportunity to live more deeply into the promise of **Blessed Community** by working together as the individuals, meetings, and yearly meetings that make up FGC. We have an opening to **deepen our faith** so that it can inspire us. **We can make our faith more accessible to new seekers** yearning for spiritual guidance and community. We have a responsibility to **listen to the bold truths** offered by voices of hurt in our meetinghouses, and to work toward the transformation that allows full engagement by all in our Quaker communities.

Grounded in Spirit and the experience of our diverse Oneness, we can **grow together in community, in faith, and in truth.**

In faith,



Frank Barch, Presiding Clerk

FGC Staff

Administration

Barry Crossno
General Secretary

Lee Meinicke
Fiscal and Property Manager

Susan Lee Barton
Administrative Associate

Communications

Brent Bill
Associate Secretary

Marta Rusek
Communications Manager

QuakerBooks

Samantha Wilson
Bookstore Manager

Terry Hauger
Bookstore Clerk

Spiritual Deepening

Rachel Ernst Stahlhut
Coordinator

Development

Traci Hjelt Sullivan
Associate Secretary

Musa Hamideh
Development Manager

Allison Letts
Database Manager

Gathering

Ruth Reber
Conference Coordinator

Elizabeth Piersol Schmidt
Conference Associate

Patsy Arnold Martin
Junior Gathering Coordinator

Ministry on Racism

Vanessa Juley
Coordinator

Lena Glickman
QVS Fellow

FGC's staffing is 13.2 full-time equivalents as of April 1, 2017

Together, we grow . . .

. . . in Truth

The Need for Transformation within FGC and Among Friends

“I have experienced racism in my life in two major places. The first was when I was in college. The second place has been among Quakers.”

Twenty years ago, Paul Ricketts and other Friends of Color came together at the FGC Gathering. “The Spirit led us to come together and start sharing our experiences. When we realized that we were experiencing something that was unified, it bonded us.” This community is what kept Paul within the Religious Society of Friends. “If I hadn’t had other Friends of Color and white allies, I would have been out of this community long ago.”

Today, the confluence of Quakers of Color coming together and an awareness of the stumbling blocks of systemic racism has birthed a call for an **Institutional Assessment** to identify paths for transformation within Friends General Conference.

The aims of the assessment are to name the barriers to full participation in FGC, develop a vision for transformation, and articulate 3–5 year goals that will hold the organization accountable to change. Once funding is identified, the Assessment will begin as early as September 2017.

Paul was cautiously optimistic for this step.

“[T]here is a brokenness in our community, and this is a call to wholeness. It is about putting the Spirit back at the Center of our faith.” Paul continued, “God’s presence within is helping us to trust again, believe again, dream again of how we can build the Beloved Community among Friends.”





Transforming Quaker Privilege and Racism

FGC's Ministry on Racism program works with individual Friends and Quaker meetings to understand and address privilege, power and racism within the Religious Society of Friends and the wider world. The program works to cultivate faith communities that are genuinely welcoming and committed to racial justice. The Ministry on Racism provides opportunities for Friends of Color to gather for mutual support through an annual regional retreat and a pre-retreat at Gathering.

Learning together at the White Privilege Conference

In 2016, FGC helped host the White Privilege Conference (WPC) in Philadelphia. Over 500 Friends and people from Friends institutions attended — by far, the largest number of Quakers to attend the White Privilege Conference since its inception in 1999. FGC has promoted attendance at the WPC since 2011. It has also provided opportunities for Quaker worship, sharing, and connection during each Conference.



Together, we grow . . .

. . . in Community

A week full of Quakers and growth

Each year, Friends from all over the US and Canada convene at the FGC Gathering to engage their **faith** and **build community**. In 2016, the Gathering took place at the College of Saint Benedict, in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

The morning workshops provide opportunities for the leaders to deepen in their ministry, and the participants to create a community of trust and learning. The *Forgiveness as a Spiritual Practice* workshop provides a powerful illustration of the way the Gathering can change lives.

A participant in the workshop said that they gained a “deeper understanding of what forgiveness actually is, actions to consider in situations where harm has been done, and love from the community.” The building of community extends beyond Gathering. “I am taking home . . . a support network of F/friends from the workshop who are keeping in touch and supporting each other as we delve into our forgiveness work.”

Together, we **grow a deep, faith-led community**, and then take our learnings and leadings back to our lives at home.

“[I gained] the profound realization that forgiveness is something about which we can be intentional, there are tools for that work, and we can practice and get better at it.”





photograph by Sharon Gunther

Opportunities to Serve . . .

. . . at the 2017 FGC Gathering

Volunteer at the 2017 Gathering at Niagara Falls, NY, July 2–8. Especially:

Truck Driver to/from Gathering	High School Counselors
Info Desk	Junior Gathering morning support
Junior Gathering evening support	Junior Gathering Snack Coordinator
Bulletin Editor and Assistant	First Aid
Photographer	Pre-Gathering Office Support
Philly Truck Loading and Unloading	Book Store Go-fer

Partial or full fee waiver for most volunteers.

For a complete list and how to apply, go to
www.FGCgathering.org/workgrants

. . . with QuakerBooks of FGC

Bookistas

Consider becoming a QuakerBooks “Bookista” — someone who loves books and helps get them to other people who love books.

QuakerBooks is an online and walk-in bookstore located at Pendle Hill. Bookistas are offered a QuakerBooks t-shirt and a **20% discount** on QuakerBooks purchases.

Interested? Contact Samantha Wilson at samanthaw@fgcquaker.org

Gathering Bookstore Volunteers

Help QuakerBooks at the 2017 Gathering. Volunteers who spend time on sales or restocking are entitled to a **20% discount** on purchases from QuakerBooks.

Interested? Contact Samantha Wilson at samanthaw@fgcquaker.org

Opportunities to Engage . . .

. . . with Spiritual Deepening

Spiritual Deepening eRetreats

Newcomers and Friends can participate in a Spiritual Deepening experience online through an 8-week eRetreat led by a trained facilitator.

June 4–August 4 Beloved Community eRetreat

September 24–November 17 Silence and Light eRetreat

Learn more: www.fgcquaker.org/spiritualdeepening

Spiritual Deepening Small Groups

Spiritual Deepening program participants share their spiritual stories, explore how Quaker thought and spiritual practices can transform lives, and go deeper together into the life of the Spirit. Learn more about how you can form or join a Spiritual Deepening group in your meeting.

Learn more: www.fgcquaker.org/spiritualdeepening

Spiritual Deepening Facilitator Training

FGC provides orientation and ongoing support for small group leaders to use the Spiritual Deepening process and materials to lead deep and meaningful small group experiences within your home meeting.

For more information, email spiritualdeepening@fgcquaker.org

. . . at the FGC Gathering

Explore where Spirit is moving in your life, at this year's Gathering. Immerse yourself in a community of Friends to be renewed and to be challenged.

2017 FGC Gathering

July 2 to 8, 2017 • Niagara University
Niagara Falls, New York



art by Larry Clarkberg



Ripples start
where spirit moves

Visit www.FGCgathering.org for more information.



photograph by Mike Goren

Together, we grow . . .

. . . in Community

Engaging with Ecumenical and Interfaith Communities

FGC provides a Quaker voice and perspective at ecumenical and interfaith events through the work of the Christian Interfaith Relations Committee (CIRC). In this work, FGC is able to collaborate on issues of import with the wider faith world. We are excited that for the first time, a Friend (Ann Riggs) will participate in the Assembly Planning Committee for the World Council of Churches gathering in 2021. Ann is a deeply seasoned Friend with a prophetic voice. We look forward to hearing how she is used as planning proceeds for the 2021 meeting.

Websites Serve and Build Quaker Community

More than 150 Meetings currently use FGC's Quaker Cloud Services for creating clean and easy-to-use websites. Each website provides opportunities for meetings to connect to members, to other meetings, and to seekers.

The homepage is specifically designed to share key information with people thinking about worshipping with your meeting.

The Quaker Cloud is a valuable communication tool to **grow Meeting communities, both from within and without.**



Together, we grow . . .

. . . in Faith

Spiritual Deepening among Friends

Deric Young of Olympia, Washington, was questioning his relationship with his faith. After serving in several leadership positions within his Quaker community, he noticed he was experiencing “Quaker burnout,” and was looking for something to rekindle his relationship with the Divine. That’s when he opened an FGC Vital Friends eNewsletter and learned about **FGC’s new Spiritual Deepening eRetreats**.

“It was exactly what I needed to reconnect to the central part of Quakerism that brought me [here] in the first place. That is, the power and leadings of that still small voice of God. . . . To re-cultivate that direct connection was what I needed.”

The aim of the Spiritual Deepening Program is to deepen the life, worship, and witness of Quaker meetings, individual Friends, and newcomers. Aiming to **tend the roots of our faith and practice**, the Spiritual Deepening program encompasses online eRetreats and meeting-based small groups.

For Deric, it was a boon to his spiritual life. “It was easy to want to give the ‘right’ answers that we all talk about; the sayings of George Fox or Thomas Kelly. The primary benefit for me was to really get down and explore and connect with what they are saying in the context of my own day-to-day life.”

Both eRetreats and in-person groups also provide opportunities for those curious about Friends. They can start with an eRetreat and be referred to a meeting, or start at a meeting and be included in a group or referred to an eRetreat.





Inviting Children into Spiritual Exploration

FGC works with the Faith & Play™ working group to promote **Faith & Play™**, a program used by First Day School teachers throughout the US and Canada. Faith & Play™ is a story-based curriculum focused on building spiritual community with children and offering images and language to express their wonder and experience of the Divine. Thanks to a grant from New England Yearly Meeting's Obadiah Brown Fund, QuakerBooks will publish four new Faith & Play™ stories and their Spanish translations in 2017.

The **Spiritual Deepening Program** provides options for intergenerational and children-only groups. Meetings can mix it up, having some age-specific activities, and some intergenerational ones.

Sparkling Still provides lesson plans for picture books on a wide variety of topics, and supports inexperienced teachers to create their own lesson plans, too.

Ministry of the Word

Online and in-person, **QuakerBooks of FGC** helps Friends and seekers explore spirituality, Quaker history, and the practice of our faith.

In June 2016, the QuakerBooks website underwent an update that brought improved customer service response time and reliability, clearer navigation, and an easier check-out process.

QuakerBooks has now enjoyed a full year at its new location at Pendle Hill. QuakerBooks provides a service to our sister institution, while events on Pendle Hill's campus bring intrigued individuals into the bookstore and help spread the ministry of the word.



Together, we grow . . .

Who Represents You on Executive Committee?

Alaska Yearly Meeting
David Bantz

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Linda Goldstein

Canadian Yearly Meeting
Linda Foy

Illinois Yearly Meeting
Janice Domanik

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Helen Hebben

New England Yearly Meeting
Chelle Riendeau

New York Yearly Meeting
Anne Pomeroy

Northern Yearly Meeting
Ellie Greenler

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
Paul Kriese

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Carl Stanton

Piedmont Friends Fellowship
Karen McKinnon

South Central Yearly Meeting
Jan Michael

Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Ed Lesnick

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Elaine Ruscetta

Intermountain Yearly Meeting
David Nachman

At Large
Arthur Boyd (BYM)
Karen Snare (NYYM)

Governance

Central Committee

Friends General Conference is a **forum for yearly meetings to collaborate** and nurture a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends.

Central Committee is the governing body of FGC, and is made up of 121 Friends from 17 yearly meetings across the US and Canada, 15 of which are directly affiliated with FGC. Most Central Committee members are engaged in year-round subcommittee work, and they gather once a year to make governance decisions about the direction of FGC's work. **Are you interested in representing your yearly meeting within FGC?** Get in touch with your yearly meeting's nominating committee.

Message from the General Secretary

Dear Friends,

We're in a challenging time that gives us many opportunities for witness, dialogue, and reconciliation.

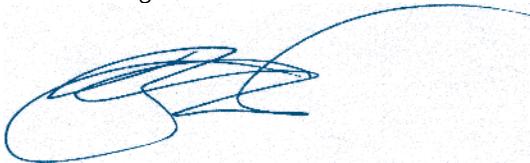
In order to be open and loving as we speak and act, we need to be grounded in Spirit, nurtured by community, and receptive to new revelations. In other words, we need to follow the wisdom of the Quaker path. We need our meetings, our yearly meetings, and FGC to sustain our journey on that path.

With your support, FGC will continue to provide programs and services that embolden our walk with Truth, deepen our worship, and strengthen our Quaker communities. By firmly grounding ourselves in Quaker belief and practice, we can help create a world where conflict, injustice, and hopelessness can be answered powerfully with love and integrity.

Please give generously today using the enclosed envelope or online at FGCquaker.org/give.

I am grateful for all that we accomplish together. It is a blessing to share this journey with you.

In the Light,



Barry Crossno, General Secretary

Central Committee Clerks and Officers

Officers

Frank Barch (PHLYM)
Presiding Clerk

Marvin Barnes (LEYM)
Assistant Clerk

Rebecca Haines Rosenberg (BYM)
Recording Clerk

Mathilda Navias (LEYM)
Assistant Recording Clerk

Craig SanPietro (PHLYM)
Treasurer

Clerks

David Bantz (AFC)
Communications Policy and Infrastructure Committee

Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch (PHLYM)
Committee for Nurturing Ministries

Carol Bartles (ILYM)
Friends Meetinghouse Fund

Marian Beane (PFYM)
Committee on Discernment, Planning and Priorities

Joan Broadfield (PHLYM)
Publications and Distribution

Dorothy Day (PHLYM)
and Dot Walizer (BYM)
Christian and Interfaith Relations

David Haines (NEYM)
Long Range Conference Planning

Constance Lezenby (PHLYM)
Property

Douglas Mertz (AFC)
Development

Frank Perch (PHLYM)
Finance

Bill Seltzer (PHLYM)
Personnel

Sally Weaver Sommer (LEYM)
Nominating



Friends General Conference
1216 Arch Street, 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-561-1700 | development@fgcquaker.org | www.fgcquaker.org

NonProfit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PHILADELPHIA PA
PERMIT NO. 610



Composition & Design by
David Botwinik

PHONE +44 (0)20 8346 8996
MOBILE +44 (0)7547 333 157
davidbotwinik@gmail.com

cover photograph by David Botwinik

Opportunities calendar inside!