

COMMITTEES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE of FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE

(Modified 03/2020)

Friends General Conference (FGC), 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 of our staff and the representatives appointed by our member yearly meetings (15), fellowship (1) and independently affiliated monthly meetings (12), these programs and services are made possible. The committees of Central Committee (CC) (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 (EC) 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) is responsible for the ecumenical and interfaith work of FGC, including participation in the World Council of Churches, other ecumenical bodies, & wider Quaker circles. It works toward building greater understanding across religious divisions, both among Christians and among those of diverse faith traditions. It also sponsors dialogues and workshops, to encourage Friends to be active and involved in ecumenical, interfaith, and inter-Quaker activities.

Committee for Nurturing Ministries (CNM)

The Committee for Nurturing Ministries develops and offers opportunities, resources, programs and services to encourage, support, facilitate 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 Friends on working groups in the areas of religious education for seekers and Friends of all ages, enhancing racial diversity, integrating youth into the life of the meeting, deepening Friends' spiritual lives and building bridges between and among FGC constituent meetings.

Currently, there are working groups concerned with:

- developing print and electronic educational and outreach resources for seekers and Friends of all ages
- helping Friends continue to transform our meetings into the blessed faith community
- envisioning and nurturing various spiritual opportunities to enhance racial diversity within our meetings

- working on building dynamic intergenerational faith communities
- developing materials for the Spiritual Deepening Program which are 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.

Working Groups, 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. Working group members need not all be members of FGC Central Committee, though at least one member of each working group must be a member of the CNM.

Task groups may be formed at the request of a working group to provide guidance or to accomplish part of a project or service which requires particular expertise or training. These groups may or may not include a member of the CNM.

Long Range Conference Planning (LRCP) establishes on-going policy and procedures for the annual Gathering. LRCP selects sites, selects Gathering clerks, approves the budget, provides support and evaluates the event. LRCP also provides support for small conferences.

Publications and Distribution (P&D) ministers to Friends by publishing varied resources on topics identified by the committee as serving FGC's goals through QuakerPress of FGC. P&D makes these and hundreds of other Quaker materials available through a large mail, phone and internet-order bookstore: QuakerBooks of FGC.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES and INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT ON RACISM IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

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.

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

Communications Policy Strategy and Infrastructure (CPSI) develops and holds the vision for FGC communications; develops communications policy, strategy and offers communications guidance to assist staff, program committee members, working group members and other volunteers as they communicate with FGC's various constituencies. CPSI also guides the development and maintenance of the communications infrastructure necessary to empower the work - i.e. websites, databases, social media tools, and vision documentation.

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.

Friends Meeting House Fund (FMHF) makes mortgage loans or grants to Meetings for the purchase, construction, renovation or expansion of meeting houses. Committee members serve as Directors of this legally autonomous Pennsylvania not-for-profit organization. FGC's Central Committee is the designated body for naming Directors.

Institutional Assessment Implementation Committee

Nominating through consultation and prayerful 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.