At the Growing Edges of our Faith

“The vision that you have is not meant to be kept to yourself, it’s meant to be expressed, to trouble some people, to push some people, to embrace some people, but for you to keep saying, ‘I see a Quaker community that does not yet exist and I am absolutely committed to its coming into being.’”

— Dr. Vincent Harding
2013 Gathering speaker

2013 Annual Report

photograph by Joanne Clapp Fullagar
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 that:

• Help meetings deepen Quaker worship and practice
• Support a loving Quaker community
• Support Quaker outreach

Programs and Services:
• Couple Enrichment
• Faith & Play
• FGC Gathering
• Friends Meeting House Fund
• Ministry on Racism
• New Meetings Project
• QuakerBooks
• Quaker Cloud
• Quaker Finder
• QuakerPress and QuakerBridge Media
• QuakerQuest
• Religious Education curricula and teacher support
• Stewardship Services
• Traveling Ministries
• Youth Ministries
Dear Friends,

We have many reasons to be grateful.

Thanks to you, and to the support of thousands of other Friends and seekers, hundreds of meetings, and a number of funds and foundations, FGC is providing an ever growing array of programs and services that deepen and inspire meetings, seekers, and Friends. As a result, many Friends are sharing their journeys more confidently with each other, as well as with seekers who walk through our doors. Together we’re transforming lives, awakening spiritual depth, and strengthening the interconnectedness of the broad Quaker community so we can all live at the Growing Edges of Our Faith.

Your support of FGC this past year helped us continue many important programs like Quaker Quest, Traveling Ministries, QuakerBooks, and Faith & Play, just to mention a few. Your support also resulted in some wonderful accomplishments and is helping to lay the foundation for greater things ahead.

This report presents some highlights of the past year and some news of developing projects:

❍ A remarkable Gathering in Greeley, Colorado
❍ Friends of Color Pre-Gathering retreats
❍ A pilot project to seed a new Quaker meeting
❍ A pre-FGC Gathering conference for Friends in Business
❍ A Spiritual Deepening Consultation and Anticipated Ministries

With your strong support of volunteer time, gifts in ministry, and financial contributions, FGC is helping to build a more visible, welcoming, and inclusive Religious Society of Friends. We are called to strengthen the Quaker way as a spiritual path to deep and transformed lives.

With tremendous appreciation for all that you give,

Barry Crossno
General Secretary

Sue Regen
Presiding Clerk
2013 FGC Gathering Rocked!

Quaker Teens Support Farm Workers

Creating Sacred Space in Community
The 2013 FGC Gathering Rocked!

FGC’s first Gathering held in the Colorado Rocky Mountain west and hosted by Intermountain Yearly Meeting was a tremendous success. An unprecedented 28% of the attenders came to the Gathering for the first time. The theme “At the Growing Edges of our Faith” wove through the week’s powerful events, workshops, and plenaries, calling Friends to deeper faithfulness and spiritual transformation. Thanks to the dry climate, many activities happened outdoors, including an evening concert where children (young and old!) danced along the edges of the crowd. Everywhere one looked, Quakers of all ages were gathered outside—playing, talking, singing, chatting, worshipping, resting, laughing. What a glorious sight!

Quaker Teens Support Farm Workers

*I joined the action at Wendy’s and was so empowered by the leadership of young Friends.*
— A Gathering attender

Months before coming to the 2013 FGC Gathering, teens from Southeastern Yearly Meeting learned about the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Campaign for Fair Food. In hearing about the conditions tomato pickers in Florida face daily, they felt called to do something, and they began to learn about Quaker process and how to take a leading to a wider audience.

Living in the growing edges of their faith, the teens led 150 Gathering attenders of all ages on a march to a local Wendy’s to encourage the signing of an agreement for fair working conditions for farmworkers. The young Friends inspired all they met, including the Wendy’s employees! Their efforts made the front page of the local paper, which also published an editorial in support of the farmworkers.

Creating Sacred Space in Community

Before the Gathering, a blessed community grew out of the first Pre-Gathering Retreat for People of Color. A participant wrote:

*As is often the case, I am the only person of color at my home meeting. I am so used to, and comfortable with being “the only one” that I really didn’t believe that this experience would be of much interest to me. I was very wrong! The People of Color retreat was extremely valuable to me . . . I found that I could . . . “be myself” more completely than I have ever been before.*

The Pre-Gathering Retreat created an environment where People of Color could form community in preparation for and as support during the Gathering. It also enabled them to create ongoing networks of support that continued afterward. FGC is holding another Pre-Gathering Retreat for People of Color in 2014.
Friends in Business: A Deep Yearning to Serve
Seeding a New Friends Meeting
Rekindling the Fire of Quakerism
Friends in Business: A Deep Yearning to Serve

*Have you found great personal and spiritual meaning in business? Do you believe that business can be a tool for good in the world?*

FGC will host a **Quakers and Business Conference** ([www.FGCgathering.org/quakers-and-business](http://www.FGCgathering.org/quakers-and-business)) which is taking place at California University of Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh) just before the FGC Gathering, **June 27–29, 2014**. Come to connect with other business people, explore ways to integrate our secular and spiritual selves, and consider how Friends can engage in commerce in ways that inspires good within the Society of Friends and the wider world.

Seeding a New Friends Meeting

... *I wish there were a Friends meeting here!*

That’s the sentiment behind a recent grant to FGC from the Marshall Reynolds Foundation for a pilot project **intentionally seeding a new Quaker meeting**.

The premise is that trained and supported “meeting seeders” may successfully plant large groups (15–20 at the beginning) since they will have training in outreach and inclusion, direct support, and time available for this spiritual endeavor.

For more information on this developing project, contact Brent Bill, FGC New Meetings Project, at [brentb@fgcquaker.org](mailto:brentb@fgcquaker.org).

Rekindling the Fire of Quakerism

In March 2014, FGC brought together 65 Friends from the United States, Canada, and England to consider how **to help make the full depth, joy, and fire of Quaker faith and practice highly available, teachable, and experiential for all those who are or will become part of our faith communities**.

This special consultation on Spiritual Deepening was held by FGC in response to what many Friends see as a pivotal time in the Religious Society of Friends. Its goal was to discover seeds of ministry in numerous opportunities alive in our meetings today.

The fruits of this consultation are expected to help FGC and other Quaker organizations and meetings to develop program plans in the areas of spiritual deepening, spiritual formation, and religious education. Stay tuned for more information!
FGC is governed by a Central Committee composed of 145 Friends, 90 of whom are appointed by affiliated yearly and monthly meetings.

**Officers**
- **Presiding Clerk**: Sue Regen (NYYM)
- **Assistant Clerk**: Frank Barch (PHLYM)
- **Recording Clerk**: Deborah Haines (BYM)
- **Assistant Recording Clerk**: Christina VanRegenmorter (SAYMA)
- **Treasurer**: Stoph Hallward (SAYMA)
- **Assistant Treasurer**: Craig SanPietro (PHLYM)

**Committee Clerks**
- **Christian & Interfaith Relations**: Dorothy Day (PHLYM) and Tom Paxson (PHLYM)
- **Friends Meeting House Fund**: Herb Haigh (SEYM)
- **Long Range Conference Planning**
  - **Nurturing Ministries**: Karen Stewart (PFF)
  - **Deepening Subcommittee**: Janice Domanik (ILYM)
  - **Growing Subcommittee**: Frank Broadfield (PHLYM)
  - **Transforming Subcommittee**: Frank Barch (PHLYM)
  - **Publications and Distribution**: Janet Ballman (PHLYM)
  - **Development**: Martha Roberts (MYM)
  - **Discernment, Planning & Priorities**: Marian Beane (PFF)
  - **Finance**: Frank Perch (SEYM)
  - **Nominating**: Ernie Buscemi (NYYM)
  - **Personnel**: Interim, Frank Barch (PHLYM)

**FGC Staff**
- **Cheil Avery**: Publications & Distribution Coordinator
- **Susan Lee Barton**: Conference & Administrative Associate
- **Brent Bill**: New Meetings Project Coordinator
- **David Botwink**: Ministries & QuakerQuest Coordinator
- **Elaine Crenaudaff**: General Secretary
- **Barry Crossno**: Nurturing Ministries Associate
- **Deborah Fisch**: Associate Secretary for Ministries
- **Eric Evans**: Development Manager
- **Larry Jawowiec**: Director of Stewardship Services
- **Vanessa Julye**: Nurturing Ministries Coordinator
- **Allison Letts**: Development Associate
- **Patsy Arnold Martin**: Junior Gathering Coordinator
- **Ken Miller**: Fiscal & Property Manager
- **Maire Moriarty**: Ministry on Racism Support Specialist
- **Erin Mullaney**: Communications and Cloud Associate
- **Jeremy Pedersen**: Bookstore Operations
- **Chris Pifer**: Communications and Web Manager
- **Nicole Rayburn**: Administrative Associate
- **Janaki Spickard-Keeler**: Online Communications Intern
- **Traci Hjelt Sullivan**: Conference Coordinator
- **Michael Wajda**: Associate Secretary for Development & Interpretation

Our current staffing level represents 193.8 full-time equivalents.

**Friends General Conference Financial Statement / October 1, 2012–September 30, 2013**

**INCOME**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Revenue</th>
<th>US $</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gathering</td>
<td>667,111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bookstore and Publications</td>
<td>260,365</td>
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<td>Other Registrations and Reimbursements</td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>Monthly Meetings</td>
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<td>Yearly Meetings</td>
<td>71,679</td>
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<td>Funds &amp; Foundations</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,010,000</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Income</td>
<td>39,383</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and Other Income</td>
<td>834,437</td>
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<td>Bequests Received</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>Campaign Fund</td>
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<td>Cornell Fund</td>
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<td>Restricted and Designated Reserves</td>
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<td>Unrestricted Reserves</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<th>Campaign gifts (new gifts and pledge payments received)</th>
<th>US $</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,957,243</strong></td>
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**EXPENSE**

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<th>Expense</th>
<th>US $</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gathering</td>
<td>647,374</td>
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<td>Bookstore and Publicaitons</td>
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<td>Christian and Interfaith Work</td>
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<td>Friends Meeting House Fund</td>
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<td>Quaker Quest and New Meetings Project</td>
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<td>Other Programs for Nurturing Ministries</td>
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<td>Stewardship Services</td>
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<td>Transfer to Endowment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,957,243</strong></td>
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</table>

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- **General Secretary**: Elaine Crenaudaff
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- **Associate Secretary for Ministries**: Deborah Fisch
- **Development Manager**: Eric Evans
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- **Development Associate**: Allison Letts
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- **Conference Coordinator**: Traci Hjelt Sullivan
- **Associate Secretary for Development & Interpretation**: Michael Wajda

**Friends General Conference is an association of 15 yearly meetings and regional groups:**
- Alaska Friends Conference
- Baltimore Yearly Meeting
- Canadian Yearly Meeting
- Illinois Yearly Meeting
- Intermountain Yearly Meeting
- Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
- New England Yearly Meeting
- New York Yearly Meeting
- Northern Yearly Meeting
- Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
- Piedmont Friends Fellowship
- Southeastern Yearly Meeting
- Southern Appalachian YM & Assn
- South Central Yearly Meeting

Twelve 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
- Starkville Friends Meeting, MS
- Topeka Friends Meeting, KS
- Wyoming Friends Meeting, WY