Living Love

There is enough divine love to feed all who hunger.

2014 Annual Report

FGC
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE
Friends General Conference . . .

. . . envisions a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world.

Programs and Services:
- FGC Gathering
- Quaker Cloud
- Quaker Finder
- New Meetings Project
- QuakerQuest
- Ministry on Racism
- Clerks Training for Young Friends
- Religious Education curricula
- QuakerBooks
- QuakerPress and QuakerBridge Media
- Stewardship Services
- Traveling Ministries
- Couple Enrichment
- Faith & Play
- Friends Meeting House Fund

Dear Friends,

Thanks to you, and to the support of thousands of other Friends and seekers, hundreds of meetings, and many funds and foundations, FGC is creating and strengthening programs and services that transform, engage, and connect Friends across the US and Canada.

This report presents some highlights of the past year, as well as news of developing projects:

- Friends coming together to start 17 new Quaker communities with the support and nurture of the New Meetings Project
- A powerful Gathering where 1,241 Friends were invited to “Let Love be the First Motion” in their lives
- Opportunities for Friends challenging racism in their communities through the Ministry on Racism
- Over 100 meetings using the Quaker Cloud online toolkit
- Over 350 Friends empowered to financially support people and causes they care about through Stewardship Services
- An invitation to contribute to a new Spiritual Deepening program

With your strong support of volunteer time, gifts in ministry, and financial contributions, FGC is helping to build a Quaker way that is welcoming, inclusive, and a source of loving change in the world.

With gratitude,

Barry Crossno, General Secretary

Frank Barch, Presiding Clerk
New Meetings Project

Support and nurture for Friends growing new Quaker communities

Since the New Meetings Project began in September 2012, 17 new meetings and worship groups have started, and 19 more are in active discernment. We know that starting a new meeting or worship group takes lots of energy. The New Meetings Project offers mentor teams to walk alongside new groups for their first two years of existence. These mentors serve as companions rather than experts, connecting new groups to people and resources to help them move forward in their journey.

“I don’t think I would have progressed from the nudges of spirit to actually organizing a new meeting without the encouragement of the FGC New Meetings Project!”

— Susan Dickson-Smith, Schoodic Friends (Maine)

Quaker Cloud

An online toolkit for Quaker meetings including a website, minute manager, and member directory

In December of 2014, Kalamazoo Friends Meeting became the 100th meeting to join the Quaker Cloud. Friends meetings choose the Quaker Cloud because it includes high-quality support and tools that are tailored specifically for Quakers.

“I experienced just how amazed and delighted [my meeting was] that a [web]site of this quality and ease of use was coming together.”

— John Helding, Lopez Island Friends (Washington)
2014 FGC Gathering

A week of Quaker community, worship, and workshops for all ages

The 2014 FGC Gathering, “Let Love be the First Motion,” drew 1,241 Friends to California, PA, just outside of Pittsburgh. For the first time, all evening programming was made available online at fgcquaker.org/gath14stream. Nearly 700 Friends from around the world watched the videos in July! Friend in Residence Wade Wright invited Gathering attenders to share stories of times when they had let love be the first motion in their lives. One favorite feature in the center of the campus was a rhythmic spouting fountain. Sounds of laughter filled the air as Friends of all ages played and refreshed themselves all week.

“I was unprepared for the range and diversity of Quaker social justice work and organizations that I saw and learned about at Gathering…. The singular thing I saw above all was the difference that spiritual practice makes to activism: it grounds it in love, opening it to the limitless. I feel humbled by what I saw and experienced.”

— A 2014 Gathering Attender
Ministry on Racism

Support for Friends challenging racism in their communities

For the second year in a row, the pre-Gathering events included a *retreat for Friends of Color and their families*. This year’s event had a strong intergenerational focus with four high-schoolers, two young adults, and two children in addition to the 20 adults in attendance. The loving community that grew out of the pre-Gathering retreat carried throughout the week. Plans are in progress for a third retreat in 2015.

Outside of Gathering, the Ministry on Racism travels to meetings interested in challenging racism in their communities. This year, Coordinator Vanessa Julye visited Illinois Yearly Meeting Sessions, where she was a plenary speaker and led a workshop on race, gender, and privilege. The Ministry on Racism also recently organized 90 Quakers to attend the White Privilege Conference in Louisville, KY.

“A place for people to connect, find support, recharge, share stories and experience . . .”

— A Retreat Participant
Spiritual Deepening

An opportunity for individuals and meetings to go deeper in their exploration of faith

For years, FGC has heard a need for a program that will support Friends at all stages of their spiritual journeys to deepen their connection with Spirit and each other. FGC’s Spiritual Deepening program, which will be piloted this year, seeks to respond to that need. We are excited to invite Friends to contribute their experience and knowledge to the development of the program. Visit fgcquaker.org/deepeningfeedback to get involved.

Stewardship Services

Creating a culture of giving among Friends

Quakers have a long tradition of building their lives around their values. It has never been enough simply to profess belief in an ethical or moral philosophy—beliefs are to be rooted in love and lived through our actions.

FGC Stewardship Services has helped nearly 100 Friends across the nation to apply Quaker values to their financial matters with free, confidential financial evaluations and fee-for-service financial planning. Our process pays particular attention to estate planning, so that end-of-life transitions to the next generation are well discerned. FGC is doing this work with the help of Everence, a faith-based financial organization. More than 350 Friends have already participated in our free workshops on socially responsible investing, and financial and estate planning. Stewardship Services has helped facilitate more than $5 million in future charitable giving that will benefit 26 organizations, both Quaker and non-Quaker.

“I feel enabled to be generous.”
— A Stewardship Services Client
Transitions

After 19 years of exceptional service to Friends General Conference, Michael Wajda, our Associate Secretary of Development and Interpretation, will retire in July. During Michael’s tenure—and thanks to your generous support—FGC’s Annual Fund has tripled and FGC has completed two major fundraising campaigns. Your support has anchored our ability to offer numerous exciting programs and projects to meetings, seekers, and Friends. We’re extremely grateful to you and Michael. I hope you’ll take a moment to reach out and thank him for his service and take a moment to welcome his successor, Traci Hjelt Sullivan!

Many of you know Traci as FGC’s Conference Coordinator. For nine years, Traci has done an amazing job with the Gathering and we’re blessed to have her transitioning into this new role. Her official start date was March 30th. On that day, she became the new Associate Secretary for Development and Michael Wajda moved into his new role as Development Advisor, a position he will hold until his retirement. We’re incredibly fortunate to have this four-month overlap so we can make a smooth transition and continue to serve Friends to the best of our ability.

FGC Staff

Our current staffing level represents 17.5 full-time equivalents.

Susan Lee Barton
Conference and Administrative Associate
Brent Bill
New Meetings Project Coordinator
David Botwinik
Publications Associate
Barry Crossno
General Secretary
Eric Evans
Nurturing Ministries Associate
Deborah Fisch
Associate Secretary for Ministries
Graham Garner
Bookstore Distribution
Musa Hamideh
Development Associate
Larry Jalowiec
Director of Stewardship Services
Vanessa Julye
Nurturing Ministries Coordinator
Sonali Kumar
Ministry on Racism Support Specialist
Allison Letts
Development Manager
Patsy Arnold Martin
Junior Gathering Coordinator
Ken Miller
Fiscal and Property Manager
Erin Mullaney
Communications and Cloud Associate
Jerimy Pedersen
Bookstore Operations
Chris Pifer
Communications and Web Manager
Nicole Rayborn
Administrative Associate
Ruth Reber
Conference Coordinator
Marta Rusek
Communications Intern
Traci Hjelt Sullivan
Associate Secretary for Development and Interpretation
Michael Wajda
Development Advisor
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 and Association
- 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

Friends General Conference Financial Statement
October 1, 2013–September 30, 2014

**INCOME** US $

**CONTRIBUTIONS** 839,425

- Individuals 471,791
- Monthly Meetings 70,818
- Yearly Meetings 64,833
- Funds and Foundations 231,983

**OTHER INCOME** 140,519

- Endowment Income 57,825
- Interest and Other Income 33,713
- Bequests Received 48,981

**TRANSFERS** 854,159

- From Program Sustaining Fund 207,968
- From Cornell Fund 319,872
- From Designated and Restricted Reserves 299,447
- From Unrestricted Reserves 26,872

**CAMPBELL GIFTS** (new gifts and pledge payments received) 86,376

**TOTAL INCOME** 2,799,362

**EXPENSE** US $

**GATHERING** 588,230

- Bookstore and Publications 363,153
- Christian and Interfaith Work 11,466
- Friends Meeting House Fund 31,575
- Quaker Quest and New Meetings Project 255,710
- Other Programs for Nurturing Ministries 245,589
- Stewardship Services 129,495
- Administration 359,419
- Communications 208,331
- Development 288,782
- Campaign Expenses 540
- Transfer to Campaign Reserves 40,177
- Transfer to Designated and Restricted Reserves 231,236
- Transfer to Endowment 45,659

**TOTAL EXPENSE** 2,799,362

**FUNDING SOURCES**

- Gathering
- Bookstore and Publications
- Program Fees
- Contributions
- Campaign Pledge Payments
- Transfers (Unrestricted Reserves)
- Transfers (Designated/Restricted Reserves)
- Other Income

**FUNDING USES**

- Gathering
- Bookstore and Publications
- Programs for Nurturing Ministries
- Stewardship Services
- Friends Meeting House Fund
- Administration
- Communications
- Development
- Transfers to Reserves and Endowment