

1 V. Friends and Some of Their Organizations

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3 Rather than being a cloistered society, Friends have always tried to carry their work and witness
4 into the world. Such initiatives enable Friends to work with others, including Friends from
5 different branches of Quakerism, on issues of mutual concern.

6 Quakerism in the United States includes four major traditions or branches, all tracing their
7 lineage from earliest Friends in 17th century England. Monthly and yearly meetings and churches
8 affiliate with one or more of these traditions. These groups intersect and even overlap in their
9 mission and service work. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is primarily affiliated with Friends
10 General Conference.

11 **Friends General Conference** is an association of regional Quaker organizations in the United
12 States and Canada. Created in 1900 by seven yearly meetings intending to hold a general
13 conference periodically, Friends General Conference is now an association of fourteen yearly
14 meetings and various regional groups and individual meetings. Friends General Conference
15 continues to sponsor an annual Gathering of Friends and provides services and resources to
16 meetings and to individual Friends. Those affiliated with Friends General Conference emphasize
17 the authority of the Inward Light and include people who identify themselves as Christians and
18 those who do not. The Friends General Conference website lists all of its affiliates. fgcquaker.org

19 **Conservative Yearly Meetings** embrace the Christian beliefs and silent worship introduced by
20 the founders of the Religious Society of Friends. Some members practice plain dress and speech.
21 There are three main conservative yearly meetings and each has a separate website: Ohio Yearly
22 Meeting (Conservative) ohioyearlymeeting.org or quaker.us; Iowa Yearly Meeting
23 (Conservative) iymc.org; and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). ncymc.org

24 **Evangelical Friends Churches International** includes six yearly meetings/regions in North
25 America that are drawn together through a shared commitment to Jesus Christ and a common
26 desire to change the world for Christ. evangelicalfriends.org/north-america

27 **Friends United Meeting**, originally established as Five Years Meeting in 1902, includes thirty
28 yearly meetings in Canada, Cuba, Jamaica, Kenya and the United States. Friends United
29 Meeting's focus is on evangelism, leadership training, global partnership and communication so
30 that the power of the Holy Spirit is known, loved and obeyed as Teacher and Lord. fum.org

31 Over the years, many organizations have developed out of the impulses of Friends to address
32 problems in the community and the world. For some of these organizations, yearly meetings,
33 including Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, continue to name members to the organizations'
34 governing bodies. Other organizations appoint a broad group of Friends to identify and
35 recommend members for the governing board. Still others rely on the nominating committee of
36 the board to recommend new appointments. Since Friends seek to be led by divine guidance in
37 reaching decisions, the members of the governing body of a Friends organization engage in an
38 open discernment and decision-making process and do not represent a fixed position of the
39 yearly meeting or other body that appointed them.

40 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting appoints Friends to the governing boards of a number of these
41 groups and approves the Quaker members of the boards of George School and Westtown School:

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1 **George School**, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1893 and serves students in
2 grades 9-12. The school has incorporated separately from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting after an
3 extended period when it was ‘under the yearly meeting’s care.’ However, its Philadelphia Yearly
4 Meeting board members are still approved by the yearly meeting. georgeschool.org

5 **Westtown School**, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1799 and serves students in
6 grades pre-kindergarten-12. The school has incorporated separately from Philadelphia Yearly
7 Meeting after an extended period when it was ‘under the yearly meeting’s care.’ However, its
8 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting board members are still approved by the yearly meeting.
9 westtown.edu

10 For Friends called to board service in Quaker organizations, there is a very useful resource titled
11 *Principles of Good Practice for Boards and Every Trustee of Quaker Organizations*. (See
12 Section VIII.)

13 A. Alphabetical Listing of a Variety of Friends Organizations

14 **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** was founded in 1917 to relieve suffering during
15 and after the First World War and to provide conscientious objectors with alternative service
16 opportunities. Friends in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting were among the founders of the
17 organization. AFSC continues to develop and support programs in the United States and around
18 the world. Among its goals are to increase understanding among national, racial and ethnic
19 groups, to enable indigenous populations to improve their living conditions, and to relieve
20 suffering caused by economic and social dislocation as well as by war. afsc.org

21 **Bible Association of Friends in America**, established in the 1830s, distributes Bibles and hosts
22 an annual event in the Philadelphia area. (No website)

23 **Center on Conscience and War** continues work begun in 1940 to offer alternative service for
24 conscientious objectors to war. Currently, it supports conscientious objectors, including members
25 of the US military who seek discharge as conscientious objectors, and young men required to
26 register with Selective Service System. Along with AFSC, Quaker House in Fayetteville, North
27 Carolina and others, the Center on Conscience and War maintains a “GI Rights” hotline to assist
28 those in the military and provides training for counselors. centeronconscience.org.

29 **Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)**, established in 2009, is a grassroots, nonviolent direct
30 action group founded by Quakers to address climate change and the integrity of the earth. EQAT
31 is governed by an independent board. eqat.org

32 **Friends Association for Higher Education (FAHE)**, formed in 1977, creates opportunities for
33 fellowship among all who share Quaker ideals in higher education whether on Quaker or non-
34 Quaker campuses. It enhances appreciation of Friends religious heritage, encourages scholarly
35 research and supports Friends colleges and universities in their efforts to affirm their Quaker
36 heritage. FAHE sponsors an annual meeting and a variety of publications. quakerfahe.com

37 **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)** was formed in 1943 by members of the
38 Religious Society of Friends who gathered at Quaker Hill in Richmond, Indiana. FCNL is the
39 oldest registered lobby representing a faith community in Washington, DC. It seeks a world free
40 of war and the threat of war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every
41 person’s potential may be fulfilled and an earth restored. Working in collaboration with other
42 organizations, it coordinates and enhances the efforts of Friends across the country to convey
43 their concerns to the executive and legislative branches of national government. fcnl.org

1 **Friends Council on Education** (FCE), founded in 1931, helps Friends schools maintain their
2 Quaker identity and ethos, and their relationship with the Religious Society of Friends. FCE
3 strengthens the network of support among Friends schools; promotes professional growth for
4 trustees, administrators and faculty; promotes Friends education through consultations, programs
5 and publications; and assists in the establishment of new Friends schools. friendscouncil.org

6 **Friends Fiduciary Corporation** (FFC), established in 1898, is a Quaker non-profit organization
7 providing cost effective, professional, socially responsible investment management services
8 exclusively to Friends meetings, churches, schools and organizations. The investment philosophy
9 and shareholder activities reflect the importance of the environment, human rights, just wages,
10 safe working conditions and good corporate governance. friendsfiduciary.org

11 **Friends Historical Association** (FHA) was formed in 1873 to study, preserve and publish
12 material relating to the history of the Religious Society of Friends. It is international in
13 membership and interests and is open to all. FHA hosts an annual meeting in the fall and
14 conducts an historical pilgrimage in the spring to an area associated with the history of
15 Quakerism. FHA publishes a semi-annual journal, *Quaker History*, with articles on Quaker
16 contributions to issues such as social justice, education and literature. The journal also includes
17 book and article reviews. quakerhistory.org

18 **Friends Peace Teams** (FPT), founded in the mid-1990s, works around the world to develop long
19 term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing
20 and reconciliation. Programs build on extensive Quaker experience, combining practical and
21 spiritual aspects of conflict resolution and reconciliation. friendspeacetams.org

22 **Friends Services for the Aging** (FSA), formed in 1991, is an association of Quaker-affiliated
23 organizations and programs united by their Quaker values and continuing efforts to serve older
24 adults on the basis of Friends' belief in the dignity of all people. fsainfo.org

25 **Friends World Committee for Consultation** (FWCC) originated in 1937, at the Second World
26 Conference of Friends, "to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among
27 Friends the world over." Four cooperating offices throughout the world cover Africa, the
28 Americas, Asia, the West Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. FWCC's World Office is in
29 London. The Section of the Americas has staff and an office in Philadelphia. Through visitation
30 and periodic gatherings, FWCC offers opportunity for religious fellowship among Friends
31 throughout the world. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the
32 Americas, maintains a list of all active yearly meetings and their affiliations on its website.
33 fwcc.org

34 **National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund**, begun in 1971, has a single purpose: to encourage
35 Congress to pass a bill allowing individuals as a matter of conscience to redirect the portion of
36 their federal taxes that goes to war, so as to fund non-war -related federal budget items. Friends
37 in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting were instrumental in forming this organization. peacetaxfund.org

38 **New Foundation Fellowship** (NFF) exists to preach the Christian message that was proclaimed
39 by the early Friends: "Christ has come to teach his People himself." Beginning with important
40 scholarship by Lewis Benson, the work of these Friends continues, as Friends share from study,
41 worship and inter-visitation. nffquaker.org

1 **Pendle Hill** (PH) has been a center for spiritual retreat and engagement since 1930. Located
2 in Wallingford, Pennsylvania, it offers hospitality, study, worship and other interaction. Not
3 affiliated with any branch of Friends, it brings together the broad spectrum of Friends, as well as
4 people of other religious affiliations. pendlehill.org

5 **Quaker Earthcare Witness** (QEW), formed in 1987, is a network of members of the Religious
6 Society of Friends in North America and other like-minded people who are taking Spirit-led
7 action to address ecological and related social crises. QEW emphasizes Quaker process and
8 testimonies, continuing revelation and a deepening sense of spiritual connection with the natural
9 world. quakerearthcare.org

10 **Quaker House**, in Fayetteville, NC, established in 1969, manifests the Friends peace testimony
11 and provides counseling and support to members of the armed forces who question their role in
12 the military. While its work provides the Fort Bragg community a place to address some of the
13 challenges military families face, its service extends beyond the local area, partnering with other
14 organizations that provide conscientious objection support to military personnel.
15 quakerhouse.org

16 **Quaker Information Center** (QIC) offers a website gateway to Quaker heritage and modern
17 Quakerism. It serves both the Quaker community and the general public in its effort to increase
18 awareness of Friends and Quaker institutions. QIC began in Philadelphia, and relocated to the
19 Earlham School of Religion in 2010. quakerinfo.org

20 **Quaker Initiative to End Torture** (QUIT), formed in 2005, is a collaborative effort to end
21 torture as a practice, a tradition and a policy of governments. QUIT recognizes this work as the
22 next great abolition movement in the United States. quit-torture-now.org

23 **Quaker Religious Education Collaborative** (QREC) is a grassroots network, begun in 2012, of
24 Friends holding a sense of stewardship for life-long Quaker faith formation through religious
25 education. The network includes Friends from all branches of Quakerism brings together those
26 involved in religious education to think anew about how to sustain such education among
27 Friends. quakers4re.org

28 **Quaker United Nations Office** (QUNO) maintains houses in Geneva and New York to provide
29 meeting places where UN diplomats, staff and nongovernmental partners can work on difficult
30 issues in quiet diplomacy. Friends and other Friends organizations make use of the New York
31 Quaker House facilities to learn about and participate in UN activities. quano.org

32 **Quakers Uniting in Publications** (QUIP), begun in 1983, is a network that supports Quaker
33 publications and authors through annual meetings, cooperative marketing, publishing and
34 assistance to Friends outside the United States. quakerquip.org

35 **Quaker Universalist Fellowship** (QUF), formed in 1980, is a gathering of Friends who work to
36 foster understanding among Quakers and people from the diverse spiritual cultures which
37 flourish in our globalized human community. It publishes a blog, pamphlets and other material.
38 It is governed by a steering committee and is open to all interested people. universalistfriends.org

39 **Quaker Voluntary Service** (QVS) was formed in 2012 to support young adults as they develop
40 leadership and other skills for the present and future of Friends through working in established
41 service and social justice organizations. QVS partners with Friends meetings or churches in
42 establishing Houses of Service in different cities in the United States. Fellows live together in

1 community and have in-service opportunities to learn about Quakerism and social justice issues.
2 quakervoluntaryservice.org

3 **Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)**, established in 1967, is a Quaker micro-credit
4 organization that supports grassroots income-generating projects led by women, in developing
5 countries. It began as a project of Friends World Committee of Consultation, but became a
6 separate non-profit organization in 1999. rswr.org

7 **School of the Spirit (SoS)**, created in 1991, offers a ministry of prayer and learning devoted to
8 strengthening participants as they listen and respond faithfully to the inward work of Christ. Its
9 programs are rooted in the Quaker contemplative tradition. Begun as a project of Philadelphia
10 Yearly Meeting, it now has an independent board of Friends from across the United States.
11 schoolofthespirit.org

12 B. Friends Affinity Organizations

13 **Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FoFAD)** was founded in 1990 to provide for the
14 nurture of Friends of African descent, their families and friends. Like a family reunion, its face-
15 to-face gatherings provide fellowship, nurture, support and spiritual renewal.
16 facebook.com/pages/Fellowship-of-Friends-of-African-Descent/177537062247

17 **Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (FQA)**, created in 1993, is a membership organization “to
18 nurture and showcase the literary, visual, musical and performing arts within the Religious
19 Society of Friends, for purposes of Quaker expression, ministry, witness and outreach.”
20 fqa.quaker.org

21 **Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)**,
22 founded in the 1970s, is a North American Quaker faith community within the Religious Society
23 of Friends. Originally called FLGC, it was founded to provide support and nurture to the lesbian
24 and gay community. Honoring that of God in all people, members seek to express God's truth,
25 offering support and nurture within the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transsexual/transgender
26 communities, in a faith- based context. flgbtqc.quaker.org

27 C. Quaker Periodicals

28 ***The Friend***, established in 1843, is published weekly in Britain. *The Friend* is owned by The
29 Friend Publications Ltd, a charity that also publishes the Friends Quarterly. The trustees are
30 appointed from members of Britain Yearly Meeting. thefriend.org

31 ***Friends Journal***, created in 1955, is a national journal, which succeeded the periodicals of the
32 two separate branches of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Hicksite and Orthodox—see section IV).
33 *Friends Journal* is published by Friends Publishing Corporation. Its goal is to serve the Quaker
34 community and the wider community of spiritual seekers through the publication of articles,
35 poetry, letters, art and news that convey the contemporary experience of Friends.
36 friendsjournal.org

37 ***Quaker Life***, started in 1960, is published by Friends United Meeting. Its purpose is to inspire
38 through devotional articles, photos, essays and spiritual journeys of Friends; inform through
39 news of Friends around the world, book reviews, classifieds, Passages and a meeting directory;
40 and teach through regular columns and numerous other articles. fum.org/quaker-life

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1 **QuakerQuaker**, begun in 2005, is an online community of Quaker bloggers, video producers,
2 photographers and readers reaching across divisions and out into the world to talk about ministry
3 and renewal. quakerquaker.org

4 **Quaker Religious Thought**, begun in 1959, is a journal of Quaker theology spanning the
5 differences in theology, with Friends from all theological traditions represented.
6 qtdg.wordpress.com

7 **Quaker Theology**, begun in 1999, is a progressive religious journal and forum for discussion and
8 study published by QUEST: Quaker Ecumenical Seminars in Theology. quest.quaker.org

9 **Western Friend**, begun in 1929, is the official publication of Quakers in Pacific, North Pacific
10 and Intermountain Yearly Meetings. Its mission is to build practical and spiritual connections
11 among Western Friends in print, online and face-to-face. westernfriend.org

12 **What canst thou say?** (WCTS), formed in 1994, is an independent quarterly publication
13 cooperatively produced by Friends who have felt the movement of the Spirit and wish to deepen
14 their understanding of it by interacting with others who also have had experiences of the Divine.
15 Issues contain stories of mystical experiences and the growth that comes through contemplative
16 practice. Retreats are offered occasionally. whatcanstthousay.org

17 D. Ecumenical and Interfaith Work

18 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is represented in the World Council of Churches through the
19 Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee of Friends General Conference. In addition,
20 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is identified as a “member communion” of the National Council of
21 Churches. Many Friends meetings maintain formal and informal relationships with local
22 ecumenical and interfaith bodies. These affiliations enable meetings to engage in projects and
23 programs with various denominations and to be reminded of our historic roots in the Christian
24 tradition. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting names representatives to **state councils of churches** in
25 Pennsylvania and New Jersey and is open to assist in other states where such interest arises.

26 Friends also seek opportunities for spiritual fellowship with neighbors from the Jewish, Muslim,
27 Buddhist and other religious traditions. Continuing dialogue with such groups and with the
28 various Christian denominations is especially important if Friends are to balance our distinctive
29 witness with a willingness to learn from others.

30 As Friends seek to live lives that speak in the world, work with others of faith is a powerful
31 means to bring about understanding and reconciliation.

32