

FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORT TO SAYMA JUNE 2023

Organizational priorities, determined by the FGC governing bodies, Central and Executive Committee, include representatives from each FGC directly-affiliated yearly or monthly meetings. These committees worked diligently for two years, listening to Friends through the U.S. and Canada to discern the greatest needs among FGC Quakers today.

The Five organizational priorities established are:

1. Nurturing spiritual vitality: The FGC Gathering
2. Moving toward wholeness: The Ministry on Racism
3. Supporting Meetings: Connecting and Communicating
4. Empowering multigenerational community and leadership: Young Adult and Youth Ministries
5. Feeding spiritual hunger: Religious Education and Spiritual Deepening

FGC seeks to create an endowment for the Gathering while increasing funding for all priorities to facilitate the vitality and growth of the Religious Society of Friends. This program is titled “Gathering Together”.

MISSION: FGC, with divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends by providing programs and services for Friends (Quakers), meetings, and seekers.

VISION: We envision a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends – a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds a supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world.

BIG WORK: In recent years, FGC has been examining its status as an institution where a majority of the members appear to be of European ancestry (in a world population where this is far from the case.) This is an important spiritual concern for everyone. An institutional assessment was carried out after the 2016 Gathering had several serious racial wounding incidents. There is full history and lots of support present on *fgc.org* for Friends wanting to know more. The evaluation of FGC as an institution in the continuum of racism/antiracism is one that served as a shocking wake-up call to Friends. In 2018, FGC’s governing body came to strong unity that we would commit to becoming an anti-racist organization. To that end, every minute or action that is considered is put to the test by the following query: **“How does this decision support FGC in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?”** SAYMA Friends are encouraged to read the history and current actions regarding this process on the FGC website under “Ministry on Racism”.

REPORT: It is very spiritually enriching to volunteer with FGC. SAYMA has only three spots on the governing board, but there are lots of opportunities to give in short, but meaningful ways. Kit Potter and Margaret Farmer are currently representing SAYMA and are looking forward to another Friend joining them this Fall. *Ask us what it’s like to attend FGC Central Committee.* Find FGC at this URL: www.fgcquaker.org There are so many opportunities to learn and grow using this site!