

Report to Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting from the ad hoc study group for the Relationship between the Quarter and Friends School in Detroit, April 28, 2015

As we reported at the September 2014 Quarterly Meeting, our study group had as its mission “If the care relationship between the Quarter and the School were functioning in a healthy way, what would it look like? How would it work?” At that meeting, we presented a draft document entitled “Guidelines for the Care Relationship of Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting with Friends School in Detroit.” GPQM approved our proposal that we contact the board of Friends School in Detroit (FSD) and ask that they appoint representatives to meet with us and discuss these guidelines. In response, a committee of FSD board members was formed, comprising Joan Sampieri, Kineret Gable, Mark Hoover, Patrick Padgett, and Kurt Spieles. That committee met and reviewed and discussed the proposed guidelines. It shared some notes from their meeting, with a few ideas for changes, with our study group.

A combined meeting of the study group and the FSD committee was held by conference call on April 28, 2015. All members of both groups participated in the call. We decided that, given the current uncertain state of FSD, we would not focus on fine-tuning the guidelines at this time, but would try to reach agreement in principle to the concepts discussed in the guidelines. FSD representatives expressed thanks for our initiating this process and general support for the concepts outlined in the guidelines. Parents on the committee particularly expressed the importance to them of a Quaker presence in the school.

The group reached unity that the guidelines are generally a good expression of how the relationship between GPQM and FSD should function. We agreed that before the guidelines are finalized and accepted by both GPQM and FSD, the following changes need to be addressed:

- The introductory paragraph needs to be drafted.
- A section needs to be added that details the process for dealing with concerns or problems that may arise if expectations under the guidelines are not met or if other issues arise between FSD and GPQM
- A few sections will need minor changes. We discussed some of these that were raised in the notes from the FSD Committee. These included modifying section A.7. to reflect the need for GPQM to approve continuing terms for trustees who are named by the FSD Board to fill vacancies; switching the order of Sections A.6. and A.7.; clarifying expected communication between FSD and the various monthly meetings and yearly meeting (Section A.10.); and adding an expectation to Section B. that GPQM will provide email addresses to FSD to assist in communication.

We agreed that if way opens for FSD to continue operations, the combined group will reconvene to address these changes and additions, and bring a proposed draft to both FSD and GPQM.

Although we have not adopted a specific policy or language at this time, it is our hope and recommendation that FSD and GPQM will follow the spirit of the guidelines by maintaining regular and transparent communication and using Quaker business practice and principles during the coming months.

Members: Susan Hartman, Ellerie Brownfain, Jeff Cooper, Mike Holaday, Linda Mills