

Friends General Conference Annual Report 2024 to 2025

Friends General Conference (FGC) is an association of 16 affiliated yearly meetings and 12 monthly meetings that chose to affiliate to FGC directly. Representatives from each yearly and monthly meeting form the board of FGC, which is called "Central Committee". Lake Erie Yearly Meeting currently has four representatives and serving on this committee

The vision statement of Friends General Conference is:

*We envision a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends—a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world.
Through Friends General Conference, we see Quakers led by the Spirit joining together in ministry to offer services that help Friends, meetings, and seekers explore, deepen, connect, serve and witness within the context of our living faith.*

Representatives serving on Central Committee provide service by populating the administrative and program committees which continue the works of FGC.

Friends General Conference programs help Friends to nurture the spiritual life of meeting communities; transform relationships within meetings; enrich worship; learn together; welcome newcomers; and improve practice of Quaker processes. Programs include Young Adult & Youth Ministries; Ministry on Racism; The Gathering; Spiritual Deepening Program (including Spiritual Deepening eRetreats); QuakerPress Publishing; Quaker Communications; and Christian and Interfaith Relations

This year, Friends took another step beyond the pandemic to Gathering in-person. The Gathering in 2024 drew over 1,000 Friends to Haverford College. Haverford College is a liberal arts college in Haverford, Pennsylvania, founded in 1833 by members of the Religious Society of Friends. FGC successfully completed its 2025 Online Gathering "A Spring Whose Waters Never Fail." The 2026 FGC in-person Gathering will be held July 7-12, 2026, at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT.

FGC is launching a new Outreach & Visibility Committee to support FGC's staff-led invitational outreach initiatives and communications efforts. Invitational outreach is a direct and public invitation to non-Quakers to experience Quaker spiritual practice in community with Quakers. Invitational outreach events always include transparent pathways to learn more about Quaker Spiritual practices, to attend worship in the future, and to further experience Quakers and Quaker Spirituality.

In changing times, FGC led a Quaker response to pressing concerns regarding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This work is on-going.

Detroit Friends Meeting hosted FGC's Spring Executive Committee the last weekend in April, 2025 at their new meeting house. All participants enjoyed themselves and were uplifted by gracious hospitality.

Friends General Conference, FGC, Young Adult & Youth Ministries (YAY) Gathering taking place July 2-6, 2025 in Clarkston, Michigan. This intergenerational event centers children, youth, and young adults (ages 0-35) and registration is open. This gathering focuses on play, connection, spiritual practice, and learning with family members and volunteers of all ages.

The Ministry on Racism continues hosting weekly virtual Meeting for Worship for white Friends confronting racism and white supremacy, as well as worship spaces for Friends of Color.

FGC continues developing anti-racist practices through resources like "Anti-Racist Clerking Advices" and the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism programs.

Friends General Conference is actively balancing tradition with transformation, maintaining core Quaker values while addressing contemporary social justice issues. The organization provides opportunities for:

- Specialized programming for Youth, Young Adult friends and Friends of all ages.
- Expanding anti-racism initiatives as core spiritual work.
- Providing virtual and in-person community options.
- Publishing diverse voices within the Quaker tradition.