



## **American Friends Service Committee**

Dear Yearly Meeting Clerk,

The Annual Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee met during the first weekend of March, 2012. This gathering was grounded in worship, nurtured by the active engagement of Friends from 23 yearly meetings, and inspired by corporate reflection on the witness of Friend Bayard Rustin. Members of the AFSC – Friends Relations Committee (AFR) were gratified by the many Friends who expressed enthusiasm about their experience at the meeting.

Attached to this letter is a full list of all Corporation members by Yearly Meeting, whether they are yearly meeting appointees or members at large, and whether they were able to attend the Corporation Meeting this year. Please take a look and see who from your yearly meeting was able to be present.

In planning this meeting, AFR turned its attention to defining a more meaningful role for AFSC Corporation Members, developing a dynamic corporation meeting, and working to strengthen the engagement of Friends with the AFSC – all clear concerns articulated by Yearly Meetings in our 2010 dialogues.

We are excited to share with you and members of your Yearly Meeting some of the fruits of the work done both by AFR and by Corporation members at the meeting:

**A new position description for AFSC Corporation members** that we ask you share with your yearly meeting nominating clerk;

- **A set of queries for AFSC dialogues with Yearly Meeting s** that we are asking corporation members to lead; and
- **The results of the dialogues held with yearly meetings in 2010 on the future role and size of the AFSC Corporation.**

### **New Position Description for AFSC Corporation Members**

You will find attached a **new position description** that was affirmed by the Corporation. Please share this with your nominating committee clerk. This position description clearly outlines the governance and communications responsibilities for corporation members and invites them additionally to support ASFC program goals. We believe this clarifies the role for those considering Yearly Meeting appointments to the AFSC Corporation.

### **2012 Queries for AFSC dialogues with Yearly Meetings**

Corporation members agreed to engage their yearly meeting members around a set of queries. AFR will receive and compile the results of these discussions and report the synthesis at the 2013 Corporation Meeting. The results of these dialogues will inform the work of the AFSC General Secretary, the Board of Directors and AFR.

At the Corporation Meeting, each yearly meeting contingent assigned a convener who will shepherd this dialogue process. *We hope you will support their efforts.*

### **Results from the conversations with Yearly Meeting on the Role and Size of the AFSC Corporation.**

At the 2011 Corporation meeting, members discussed possible future options for the Corporation that arose from the 2010 yearly meeting dialogues mentioned above. Please find attached and share with others as appropriate, a report of this process. In addition to suggestions on the role and size of the Corporation, AFR clearly heard that the relationship between AFSC and Friends needs to be strengthened. Friends are interested in service opportunities, opportunities for Quaker youth, activating monthly meetings on AFSC issues, etc.

AFSC staff, the Board of Directors and its AFSC Friends Relations Committee have been working to address what we heard from Friends. Some highlights of this past year's work include:

From the staff side:

- A new Friends Liaison position was filled this past August. Lucy Duncan's work has included – among many things:
  - The initial development of program to recruit and support AFSC liaisons in all monthly meetings and Friends churches (a full description is attached), and
  - The development of a regular on-line dialogue "Acting in Faith". Go to [www.afsc.org/friends](http://www.afsc.org/friends).
- A new booklet which shares how Friends Testimonies underlie what AFSC does and how it does its work. <http://afsc.org/document/friends-testimonies-booklet>. Two physical copies of which are on the way to each monthly meeting with a survey to help us to stay connected most productively for the meetings and AFSC.

From the board and committee side:

- A clearer job description for Corporation members and a Corporation meeting agenda which supported that role.
- The addition of seasoning sessions at the annual meeting- where Corporation members seasoned issues and decisions facing the AFSC.
- The development of a process to support two-way communication between Friends and the AFSC.

We continue to be humbled by the active support of Friends for the work of the AFSC and to be challenged to meet the desire of Friends to be more engaged in service through the AFSC. We invite yearly meetings to help us develop new forms for this engagement as AFSC approaches its second century of witness to Quaker faith and values.

Yours in the Light,

Arlene Kelly  
Clerk, AFSC Board of Directors

Jeannette L. Raymond  
Clerk, AFSC Friends Relations Committee

Attachments: Corporation Member Job Description, Queries, Size and Role of the Corporation Report, Meeting Liaison Brochure Text

**NOTE: Attachments will be available at ILYM in the red session notebooks.**