

## Quaker Organizations (draft version 11/11, for ILYM Faith & Practice)

AFSC: The *American Friends Service Committee* was founded by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1917 to promote lasting peace with justice as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing upon continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, AFSC endeavors to nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.

FCNL: The *Friends Committee on National Legislation* lobbies the federal government of the United States to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. A nonpartisan organization founded in 1943 by the Religious Society of Friends, FCNL seeks to build relationships across political divides in order to promote policies that reflect Quaker values such as peace, integrity, and simplicity.

FGC: *Friends General Conference* is an association of United States and Canadian Yearly Meetings (including Illinois Yearly Meeting) and directly affiliated monthly meeting. FGC, which was founded in 1900 and has expanded considerably since then, sponsors an annual gathering of Friends, nurtures meetings and worship groups, and works to grow and sustain a vital and loving community of Friends based on a shared search for unity in the Spirit.

FLGBTQC: *Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns* is a Quaker organization that affirms that of God in all people regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Initially organized as a Committee of Concern in 1971, FLGBTQC developed into its current form in the intervening years. Members gather twice a year for worship and fellowship, drawing sustenance from each other and from the Spirit.

FPT: *Friends Peace Teams* develops long-term relationships with communities in conflict around the world, creating programs for peacebuilding, healing, and reconciliation. FPT was founded in the 1990s with the goal of making every Friends Meeting House and Church a center for peace-making, and builds on extensive Quaker experience in combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution.

FWCC: The *Friends World Committee on Consultation*, established in 1937, brings together Friends of varying traditions, beliefs, and cultural experiences in order to celebrate their common heritage and express the Quaker message to the world. FWCC sends representatives to the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), represents Friends at the World Council of Churches, and unites Quakers from all over the world.

QEW: *Quaker Earthcare Witness* is a network of people taking action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, one that emphasizes Quaker process and testimonies. Founded in 1987, QEW's primary calling is to facilitate transformation of the human attitudes, values, and worldviews that have resulted in environmental destruction in the modern world.