

**Annual Report for 2012  
Membership Committee  
Friends Meeting of Washington**

Our Meeting Handbook calls for members of the Religious Society of Friends to be seekers of the truth as a member of Friends Meeting of Washington and the wider body of the Society of Friends. In this seeking, new members are asked to:

- Seek more fully to understand the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends and to express them in everyday living within one's family and community, the nation and the world.
- Use the queries frequently as a means of examining and directing oneself.
- Cultivate a quality of spirit and an approach to social problems based on principles of Friends.
- Develop an increasing understanding of religious truth through reading appropriate books and religious periodicals.
- Attend regularly the Meeting for Worship and the Meeting for Business in a spirit of devotion and love, seeking to participate in the life of the Meeting in accordance with Divine Guidance.
- Accept an appointment on Meeting committees and to serve faithfully on them.
- Be aware of Friends' projects and participate in them as there is opportunity to do so.
- Contribute generously to the financial support of the local Meeting and its commitments.

The Membership Committee urges all FMW members to seriously reflect on the importance of their contribution to the spiritual vigor of the Meeting. We, as individuals, *are* the Meeting, enjoined by the Divine Spirit to share and strengthen our service and spiritual development. All members are important in helping each of us grow in our faith and in support our Meeting.

**Guidelines for Membership** – The Meeting has available on the handout rack in the downstairs hallway a number of handouts that explain reviewing the membership process in an effort to assist prospective members as they write their letters of application. The Committee updated these handouts over the last few years and is currently reviewing and updating other documents to ensure they are helpful to new members.

Becoming a member in FMW is a process. In an effort to prepare the new applicant to fulfill their responsibilities as members, clearness committees, appointed by the Membership Committee, provide the applicant with information about the FMW committees they indicate they might like to join. They also ask whether the applicant has started to support the Meeting financially. Some applicants are requested to participate in aspects of the Meeting, (e.g. attend a Meeting for Business, Inquirer's Class, etc) if they have not already done so.

After the Meeting for Business approves a new member, at least two members of the Meeting are asked to serve as host to welcome the new member. This helps to bring the new member into the community. We seek volunteers from outside of the Membership Committee to serve as Welcomers and continue to coordinate the welcoming of all new members.

## **Membership Committee Business and Procedures**

As part of our responsibility to the Meeting, the Committee has continued two special projects this year:

- **Contacting Out of Touch Members** – Committee member Molly Tully, through several years of diligent labor, has contacted members we have not heard from in several years. We do not drop from membership anyone who has not been thoroughly researched and has not responded either to the annual "update" letter sent by the Meeting; or who has made a donation in the past five years; or who has responded to a letter from the committee with a questionnaire asking whether they would like to transfer, retain membership, resign, etc. If they have moved, we have sought to find them through Google or other means. Their names have appeared in the FMW Newsletter asking for information from anyone who knows them; and we have waited sometimes three years before dropping them. Those who responded in any manner have either been retained or reinstated.
- **Membership Decisions by Adult Associate Members** - With Hayden Wetzel providing the leadership, the Committee has continued reaching out to Associate members who joined as children and may be ready to request change of their status to regular members of the Meeting. The Committee hopes to be helpful in assisting Associate members in making this decision.

The FMW handbook asks children who were brought into membership in the Meeting as Associate Members by their parents to decide for themselves if they wish to become full members of the Meeting when they reach the age of 25. Parents are encouraged to prepare their children to make the decision whether they wish to request to convert their membership from associate to regular before they reach the age of 25. If the adult child wishes to remain in the Religious Society of Friends, but does not live near FMW, nor plans to return to the Washington area (as in the case of college students, Peace Corps volunteers, etc.), the Committee encourages them to transfer their membership to a meeting near where they live.

In 2012, FMW welcomed seven new Friends to our Meeting. A reception for new members, arranged by the Membership Committee, was accomplished on November 25, 2012.

Much of our Committee time and attention has been absorbed in correcting or updating erroneous or incomplete member records accumulated over many years. The Committee co-clerks have worked with the Personnel Committee to review duties of the Administrative Secretary in relation to maintaining complete, accurate membership files.

The Committee will lose the valuable presence of Molly Tully, who is resigning at the end of December. We especially appreciate her dedicated and patient "sleuthing" skills in researching and reaching out to Out of Touch members.

We have struggled with inconsistent attendance of committee members. This situation has left our committee strength at a low ebb, with fewer members shouldering tasks instead of tasks being shared by all. This has resulted in a slower processing of applications, inquiries, and other

procedures than we would like. We look forward to the pending addition of a new committee member, and would welcome others to join us to reinforce our numbers.

Submitted by: Jean M. Capps and Gerri Williams, Co-clerks  
Maurice Boyd Daniel Dozier Joan Gildemeister Andrew Lightman  
Molly Tully **Error! Bookmark not defined.**Hayden Wetzel

### **Membership Committee Report List for 2012**

#### Members/Approved by MfB/ Welcomers

Steve Brooks/January 2012/Martha Solt and Dan Dozier  
Justin Connor/June 2012/Marcia Reecer & Janet Dinsmore  
Kate Gould/January 2012/Virginia and Suren Avanesyan  
Erika and John Hurvitz/February 2012/ Welcome to be scheduled  
Patrick Marchman/April 2012/ Welcome to be scheduled  
Elizabeth Paxton/May 2012/ Welcome to be scheduled  
Jorge Sanchez/ September/Welcome to be scheduled

#### Associate Membership

Noura Connor, daughter of FMW Member Justin Connor and Attender Mohamad Olabi/October 2012

#### Transfers In/Approved by MfB

Marsha Holliday from Langley Hill Friends Meeting/May 2012  
Ken Orvis/West Knoxville (TN) Friends Meeting/December 2012  
Blair Forlaw from St. Louis Friends Meeting/December 2012

#### Transfers Out/Accepted by MfB

Alexandra Bosbeer/March 2012  
Amy Lear to Bethesda (Maryland) Friends Meeting/May 2012  
Lucia Elena Sanchez to Chattanooga (Tennessee) Friends Meeting/June 2012

#### Resignations/ Accepted by MfB

Susan Rose/September 2012  
James Stickler/December 2012  
James North Ramey/December 2012

#### Associate Members who have Resigned

February 2012: Russell Ricks, Masai McDougall  
April 2012: Hanna McDade, Jesse McDade, Robert Mays, Melissa Jones