Associations of Yearly Meetings

Conservative Friends
Conservative Friends are comprised of three yearly meetings: Iowa Friends Conservative, Ohio Friends Conservative, and North Carolina Friends Conservative. Although there is no official umbrella organization for Conservative Friends, Ohio Yearly Meeting hosts a gathering of the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends once every other year, which all Friends are welcome to attend. Conservative Friends do not have a publications program. They do host Quaker Spring, a gathering where people explore Quaker History and share meaningful dialogues. Their worship is unprogrammed but strongly Christ-centered.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting is descended from Friends who left Iowa Yearly Meeting to come to California, and we recognize these historic ties that we share with Conservative Friends. There has been interest, especially among younger Friends, in learning from Conservative Friends about Quaker heritage and our shared roots. We found on our committee interest in closer ties with Conservative Friends, but could see no easy way to do this. We discussed having people from the Quaker Spring leadership come to visit our Annual Session or our local meetings. The only other avenue we can find is simply to send an observer or representative to each of the three Conservative yearly meetings and/or to the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends.

Evangelical Friends Church International
Evangelical Friends Church International is the organization that represents evangelical Friends throughout the world. They are decentralized, with regions and yearly meetings operating autonomously. There are five regions: in order of size, Latin America, Africa, North America, Asia, and Europe. EVCI has a Council that consists of the five Regional Directors and a Council Director. The Council meets face to face once every four years. The association holds regional conferences that are open to Friends of all branches. Their publications arm is Barclay Press. NPYM uses some of their materials in our education programs. Evangelical Friends Mission, a ministry of Evangelical Friends Church North America, accepts applications from all Friends who want to participate in mission trips.

Recognizing that EFCI-affiliated Northwest Yearly Meeting represents the liberal edge of this association, we feel most comfortable connecting with EFCI through Northwest Yearly Meeting (see under Closely Related Yearly Meetings, below). We recognize that most Friends in our yearly meeting have some discomfort with positions held by EFCI; however, we also wish to hold space for individual NPYM participants who maybe led to reach out to or travel among Evangelical Friends.

Friends General Conference
Friends General Conference provides services and resources to liberal, unprogrammed Friends and Meetings to nurture the Quaker Faith. It is composed of yearly meetings, regional groups and monthly meetings. All of its member meetings are in North America. Some Quakers in yearly meetings that are members of FGC consider themselves Christian, and some do not. The goal statements of FGC do not refer to Jesus Christ. One of the functions of FGC is to nurture meetings and worship groups. Resources provided by FGC include Quaker Quest and the week-long Annual Gathering, which attracts liberal Quakers from the United States and Canada. FGC also provides services to build new meetings, a Meeting House Fund, traveling ministries, a program on racism, and a program on youth relations; and it runs QuakerFinder and Quaker Cloud.
NPYM has had close but informal ties with FGC since our founding. FGC has usually stocked our Annual Session bookstore, and many meetings in our yearly meeting use FGC materials for both children’s and adult education. At least one monthly meeting in NPYM (Olympia) belongs to FGC, and others have considered or are considering this step. Many individual NPYM Friends attend the FGC Gathering. When the Gathering was held in Tacoma in 2006, we shortened our Annual Session and dovetailed it with the Gathering so that more NPYM Friends could attend. We have sometimes sent official observers to the FGC Central Committee, it’s governing body.

**Friends United Meeting**
Friends United Meeting is an association of programmed or pastoral Friends meetings within the United States. They hold tri-annual sessions, which anyone led to may attend. They publish Quaker Life Magazine, and sponsor Friends United Press, which produces educational materials. FUM has a popular “40 Days of Prayer” program. They host ministry trips to four countries. They also have oversight over Earlham School of Religion and Earlham College. Some monthly meetings, especially in east coast yearly meetings, are affiliated with both FUM and FGC.

We do not currently have an active relationship with FUM. Friends within our Yearly Meeting are uneasy with their policy for employees as it applies to LGBT people, but appear to be open to exploring more ties.

**Closely related Yearly Meetings**

**Northwest Yearly Meeting**
NWYM is the yearly meeting of evangelical Friends that covers the same geographic area as our own yearly meeting. We recognize the value our yearly meeting places upon our relationship with NWYM and want to keep it strong. We want to continue to send representatives to their Annual Sessions at George Fox University. We would like our representatives to report on their experiences and what they learn.

There are many opportunities for exchanges between NPYM and NWYM, one of the most notable being the Quaker Women’s Theological Conference, currently held every two years (the next one is in 2014). Friends also mentioned visits between Camas Friends Church and Multnomah Meeting, exchanges between University Friends Meeting and the Seattle Friends Church, and a “Pan-Quaker Picnic” attended by both NPYM and NWYM Friends in southern Oregon. It was noted that NWYM sent representatives to our last Annual Session and that we provided fee waivers for them. It is suggested that more information about opportunities to attend NWYM be given out, and that reports from our representatives be more widely distributed.

**Pacific and Intermountain Yearly Meetings**
PYM and IMYM are our sister “Beanite” yearly meetings. Our three yearly meetings are all direct descendants of the College Park Association of Friends, founded by Joel and Hannah Bean in San Jose, California, in 1889. PYM’s territory is California, Nevada and Hawaii; IMYM covers Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. The theology and structure of both of these yearly meetings largely mirror NPYM’s.

NPYM and IMYM were each part of the original territory of Pacific Yearly Meeting, and we split off from PYM at roughly the same time, in the early 1970s. The three yearly meetings retain close ties. We jointly publish the magazine *Western Friend*. We have also cosponsored projects, such as the (currently dormant) Brinton Visitor and Friend in the Orient programs. IMYM has recently joined Friends General Conference; PYM, like NPYM, continues to be independent.