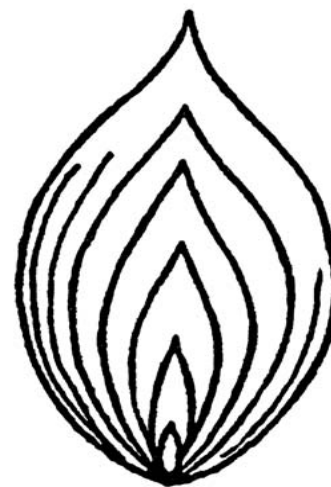


A Quaker Ministry of Prayer and Learning  
devoted to

*the School of the Spirit*



The Way of Ministry

2008 – 2009

*a program of prayer, study,  
experience, and reflection*

A Ministry of the Standing Committee on Worship and Care of  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends

# ***THE WAY OF MINISTRY***

*a program of prayer, study, experience, and reflection...  
for Friends called to public, gospel, and traveling ministries.*

We invite you to read this prospectus so that you may learn more about the purpose, structure, and themes of The Way of Ministry program. We hope it will help you discern whether you are being led to apply to this program.

You will find an application form at the end of this document. Please feel free to contact any of the core teaching staff (see below) for further information and discussion.

The core teaching staff:

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**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS is JUNE 1, 2008**

*All applications will be considered after this date,  
not as they are received.*

□ [www.quakerinfo.com/sos.shtml](http://www.quakerinfo.com/sos.shtml) □

Persons drawn to **THE WAY OF MINISTRY** program will have discerned a clear call to ministry in the manner of Friends. Your practice of ministry may be uniquely shaped by your gifts, your life situation, and your call. **The forms of ministry may be as varied as the variety of gifts:** prophetic ministry (vocal and in writing); traveling in the ministry under a concern; gospel ministry\*; inter-visitation; leadership for meetings and organizations; teaching and religious education; facilitating retreats, groups, and workshops; eldership and traveling as a companion in the ministry; peace making, seeking justice, and environmental witness.

**Over nine months, including four residencies,** we will receive mutual support in reflecting upon our experiences of carrying out such ministries. Through worship together, scriptural and devotional reading, and prayer with and for one another, we will seek to root ourselves more deeply in divine Truth and Love. Readings, presentations, and reflection on our experiences in ministry will help us grow in awareness of the movement of the Spirit and our capacity to respond faithfully.

During the program we will explore the diversity among Friends that we may encounter in the ministry and learn how our individual calls serve the larger Quaker spiritual body. We will practice forms of peer support and accountability amongst ourselves while learning ways to anchor ourselves more deeply in our home meetings and communities.

**Essential elements of the program include:** a peer group process to aid in discerning God's guidance; individually appropriate experience in the field of ministry; readings on historical and contemporary understandings and practices of Quaker ministry; experiential exercises; and reflection papers.

\*We use the following definition of gospel ministry from Brian Drayton's *On Living with a Concern for Gospel Ministry*: "The gospel ministry is ministry that speaks under obedience, from living experience of Christ's Spirit in its struggles to be brought forth in each of us, for the refreshment of its life in those that hear." (2006, xiii)

## **THE WAY OF MINISTRY** program:

- balances the study of the biblical and traditional foundations of Quaker ministry with contemporary practices and supports for ministry;
- considers what binds Friends together in a shared religious identity, with common theological concerns, in response to the call to participate in God's work in the world, as members of a corporate body: The Religious Society of Friends;
- offers opportunities to explore the many individual and corporate challenges experienced in equipping contemporary Friends for ministry;
- provides an experiential vocabulary for the Quaker way of ministry for public Friends—Friends who are called to travel under a concern, in prophetic ministry, in the gospel ministry. Acquaintance will be made with a variety of Quaker ministers from the past and the ways that their ministry was shaped by the Inward Teacher, the Bible, and Quaker community;
- participants will actively practice ministry, in some manner, and will receive support for ministry through a peer process among participants;
- necessitates that each participant have a support or care committee at the monthly, quarterly, or yearly meeting level. Friends are encouraged to undergo the process of asking for minute of travel from their meeting if they have not already;
- aids participants in forming a broad network of peer support and accountability with one another, creating opportunities to further experience the corporate dimensions of Quaker ministry, eldering, and community.

Each **PROGRAM COMPONENT** is a means to strengthen your ability to undertake the ministry to which you are called, to enhance your understanding of the practices of ministry, and to encourage mutual accountability among those called to ministry as well as those supporting the ministry.

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE.** Our experience is that faithful ministry requires the on-going practice of spiritual disciplines. These practices provide the foundation for a life in God and the expression of that life through ministry. It will be helpful to reflect on your practices with a spiritual friend, your care committee, and your peer group (see p. 5).

**READINGS AND REFLECTION PAPERS.** We approach study as a spiritual practice. Assigned readings will average 100 pages per month. Four reflection papers, to be shared with your peers, will provide an opportunity to reflect your own growth, understanding, and sense of call as the program progresses.

**PRACTICE OF MINISTRY.** Participants are expected to engage in the practice of ministry during the term of the course, or to draw from recent experience. This practice will be appropriate to your call and could include: prophetic ministry within or beyond one's meeting or church; travel in the ministry; teaching and facilitating courses, retreats, or workshops; serving Friends or others beyond one's monthly meeting, yearly meeting, or church; service within an organization or other employment; writing for publication.

**CARE/SUPPORT/ANCHOR COMMITTEE.** This committee usually comprises members from your meeting or church. It is an essential link between your participation in this program and your home faith community. It provides encouragement, guidance, discernment, and accountability for you and supports the ministry. You should plan to meet with this committee monthly. The committee will be asked to respond to queries from the core staff. We strongly recommend that you establish this committee before the program begins.

**RESIDENCIES.** A typical day in a residency follows a rhythm of corporate worship, teaching, free time, and meetings in peer support groups.

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30	Worship
9:30	<i>Teaching session</i>
12:30 p.m.	Lunch, followed by free time
2:45	Prayer with partner
3:30	Peer Group Practice
6:00	Dinner
7:00	<i>Teaching session</i>

The first day of each residency begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the residency closes with lunch at 12:30 PM. The dates of the residencies are:

- I. Wed. Aug. 27 – Mon. Sept. 1, 2008
- II. Wed. Dec. 3 – Sun. Dec. 7, 2008
- III. Wed. Mar. 18 – Sun. Mar. 22, 2009
- IV. Thurs. May. 21 – Mon. May 25, 2009

**PEER GROUP PRACTICE.** All participants will be assigned to a *peer support group*, consisting of 5-6 persons. The practice provides peers with ongoing support and help with discernment in carrying out a ministry or following a leading. The format allows for a two-hour session in which two people each have the focus of the group for about one hour. Each focus person presents something about her/his experience in carrying out a ministry or leading. In rotation, each member of the group has a regular opportunity to be the focus of the group's prayerful attention. The role of the group is to prayerfully listen and, as prompted by the Spirit, to ask questions after the presentation is over that can help presenters explore more deeply their relationship to, awareness of, and response to the Divine in the carrying out of their service. A peer group session is more like group spiritual nurture for the presenter than like a clearness committee within your meeting or church.

## THE CURRICULUM IN FOUR RESIDENCIES:

### 1. Quaker Foundations of Friends' Ministry

The Quaker charism and what binds us together; worship in Spirit and Truth; gospel order; forms of ministry among Friends; gospel ministry; eldering and companions in ministry; opportunities; intervisitation; traveling with a concern; building one's relationship with one's meeting/church; support and accountability; sensitivity and skills in discernment.

### 2. Inner and Outer Challenges of Prophetic Ministry

Called by God to the way of ministry; ministry as a corporate concern; building the life of the meeting community/church; spiritual practices in support of call; discernment of spirits; sensing, naming, and speaking to the shadow in self and others; the refiner's fire; nuances and pitfalls in ministry.

### 3. Transformational Encounters and Surrendering to God

Eclectic theologies and practices in Quaker meetings; the movement from pseudo-community to true community; dark night and spiritual dryness; surrendering willfulness; faithfulness, not success; integrity; transformed lives and transformed communities.

### 4. Members of One Body and Hope for the Future

How to work with and be supported by the web of Quakerism; reflections on travel in the ministry; being liminal and responsive to s/Spirits while staying in one's truth; hope and the Lamb's War; challenges facing the Religious Society of Friends in terms of prophetic ministry.

## PRACTICE OF MINISTRY AS CURRICULUM

- ☐ Extended periods of worship.
- ☐ Learning and practicing a peer group process
- ☐ Sharing leadings in ministry with each other; praying for each other; discernment of faithfulness and blocks.
- ☐ Testing leadings with peers and care committees.
- ☐ Practice of ministry between residencies.
- ☐ Reflections on providing religious service.

**Marcelle Martin** is a member of Chestnut Hill (PA) Meeting. She completed the School of the Spirit's program in Contemplative Living and Prayer in 1997, as well as the Shalem program in Spiritual Guidance. She is the Quaker Studies teacher at Pendle Hill and author of two Pendle Hill pamphlets. Her meeting has minuted her ministry of spiritual nurture, which includes traveling in the ministry to facilitate gatherings, retreats, and workshops to support the spiritual life of individuals and meeting communities

**Laura Melly** is a member of Chestnut Hill (PA) Meeting. Since completing the School of the Spirit's Spiritual Nurturer program in 2006, she has been a student at Earlham School of Religion. She serves in teaching and nurture roles with Pendle Hill and FGC's Traveling Ministries Program. Laura has worked with numerous Quaker organizations on governance, planning, and stewardship issues. She is especially drawn to deepening and strengthening the corporate life of Quakerism.

**Beckey Phipps** is a member of Fresh Pond (MA) Meeting. She completed the School of the Spirit's Spiritual Nurturer program in 1994, has a graduate degree in theology, and clerks the FGC Traveling Ministries Committee. She has served as a summer term teacher and short-course leader at Pendle Hill. Her meeting has minuted its support of the ministry she undertakes in adult religious education, spiritual nurture, and traveling among Friends as a workshop and retreat leader.



**Residencies will be held at PENDLE HILL**, a Quaker center for study and contemplation, southeast of Philadelphia, PA, and about 20 minutes from the Philadelphia International Airport. Each participant is assigned to a single room, most with shared bathrooms. Pendle Hill meeting facilities are fully accessible. Directions and transport possibilities to Pendle Hill will be sent upon acceptance into the program.

**THE FEE** for the one-year program, \$3,000, covers your tuition, room and board for the 17 residential days. The fee also includes a \$400 non-refundable payment that is due on acceptance into the program. The fee does not include the application fee (\$35), books (up to \$200), and your travel to and from Pendle Hill in Wallingford, PA.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** If you feel drawn to the program, please do not let the cost keep you from applying. We strongly encourage you to apply for grant support from your monthly meeting or your local church, and your quarterly and yearly meetings. You may also be eligible to apply to other grant sources; please contact us for a list of potential grantors. You may also request from us a form to apply to our needs-based *Sandra Cronk Memorial Scholarship Fund*. We can also work with you to arrange a payment plan.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT QUAKER:** This program has been specifically created to strengthen the ability of Friends' called to ministry to answer that call, both as individuals and in service to the Religious Society of Friends, as a corporate body. Those who are not Quaker, but who are drawn to learn more about the Quaker way of ministry, may find this course of particular benefit to answering their call in the service of their own faith tradition.

**All applicants to the program should be able to respond affirmatively to the following statements:**

- ☐ I am actively engaged in and devoted to a life in service to God and the Religious Society of Friends, or another tradition.
- ☐ I have discerned and am engaged in answering a clear call to a ministry.
- ☐ I am a member of a meeting or church and am experienced in its faith and practice.
- ☐ I have sought clarity in my leading to enter this program with a group that includes members of my meeting or church.
- ☐ I am able to make the space and time in my life to undertake the components of this program.