



a ministry of prayer and learning devoted to
the School of the Spirit

*is dedicated to helping all who wish to be more faithful listeners
and responders to the inward work of Christ.*

BOARD AND TEACHERS

Angi York Crane
New York Yearly Meeting

John Carle
Baltimore Yearly Meeting

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New York Yearly Meeting

Matt Drake, treasurer
Piedmont Friends Fellowship

Nancy Fennell
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Mike Green,
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Piedmont Friends Fellowship

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Conservative

Carolyn Moon,
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Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Anne Pomeroy
New York Yearly Meeting

Carole Treadway, teacher
North Carolina Yearly Meeting
Conservative

Michael Wajda
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Annual Report
Eighth Month 2010

For 20 years now *A Ministry of Prayer and Learning devoted to the School of the Spirit* (*The School of the Spirit Ministry* for short) has been instrumental in transforming the lives of individual Friends, revitalizing meetings, and assisting in the spiritual renewal of the Religious Society of Friends. Our purpose is to help all who wish to be more faithful listeners and responders to the inward work of Christ. Prayer is the basis of our practice together—as a board, as teachers, and within the programs that we offer.

In this past year, we:

- Began a new class of our two-year program *On Being a Spiritual Nurturer*;
- Held a fully subscribed first *Spiritual Renewal Weekend* for past participants of our programs;
- Continued to offer silent retreats at Powell House, New York Yearly Meeting's retreat center;
- Published a guide for care committees;
- Saw the publication of Sandra Cronk's journal and selected writings by the Quaker Press of FGC under the title *A Lasting Gift*;
- at the initiative of the last *Spiritual Nurturer* class, established the *Transformed Lives Scholarship Fund*, initially in memory of Louise Harris; and
- Funded the new *Teacher Renewal and Enrichment Fund* as a way to encourage our teachers to seek out ways to nourish their call to the ministry of teaching.

The year was not without its challenges, particularly as it became clear that we were to release after only one class the one-year program *The Way of Ministry*. Nevertheless, throughout the year we have been aware of the depth of support among Friends for this ministry.

In September 2009 the eighth *Spiritual Nurturer* class began its residencies in North Carolina, the second class to be located there. The 21 Quaker participants from nine yearly meetings, including Alaska Friends Conference and Northwest Yearly Meeting, are joined by two Episcopalians. The class has been drawn deeply into the school of the Spirit.

With a concern for supporting the ministry of all our past program participants, we held in November 2009 a *Spiritual Renewal Weekend* with Dan Snyder as the featured presenter. We were amazed by how quickly the 37 attendees from so many SotS programs over so many years recognized a common experience in the life of the Spirit. Dan drew us into his theme of Spiritual Restlessness and, as was our intent, presented material to stretch us in our daily lives.

In this year we renewed our commitment to care for and support a ministry of silent retreats. This is currently expressed through the January and June retreats at Powell House under the prayerful facilitation of Linda Chidsey and Carolyn Moon. Our call is to expand this ministry to a world so noisy that the presence of Christ in everyday life can be hard to discern. We have committed to offer a silent retreat in the Philadelphia area in September 2011 with an invitation to all who may feel God's nudge toward silent retreat facilitation. We are excited by this leading.

An important element in the Spiritual Nurturer program is the care committee for the program participant. The care committee generally comprises members of the participant's home faith community. It supports the participant and serves an important bridging role between the participant's ministry and the faith community. We have observed over the years that some care committees are successful while others struggle. We felt called to reflect deeply on the care committee and on what might be helpful to its work. The result is a document that will help committees understand and carry out their responsibilities. The guide has been shared with all current participants and their care committees, and it is now freely available on our website (www.schoolofthespirit.org).

In 2009-10, the one-year program *The Way of Ministry* completed its first offering. This was an intense, deepening, and growing experience for all of the 20 participants. After much prayer and deep reflection, we were clear to release the program back to its founders, Laura Melly and Marcelle Martin, recognizing that it was our condition that we could not be the container for the program in its current form.

In addition to expanding our silent retreat offerings, we anticipate in the year ahead:

- preparations for the next *Spiritual Nurturer* class to begin in Philadelphia in the fall of 2012, including a search for a new core teacher upon the retirement of Carole Treadway and *Testing the Waters* retreats at various venues across the country;
- planning for a second *Spiritual Renewal Weekend* in the fall of 2011 (again at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA);
- continued conversation with Friends on the west coast to support their leading for a program there; and
- the completion of a visioning process by the SotS board to discern our priorities for the near term.

We are pleased to report that the School of the Spirit Ministry is in sound financial shape. The attached financial statement (ending June 30, 2010) shows a balance of \$104,834.80. Our programs and work are sustained from program fees and the support of our constituency. We are grateful for the continued support of the PYM Accounting Office in helping us to process our revenue and expenses, and for their care in holding our monies.

Currently, eight Friends serve on the board of the School of the Spirit Ministry. We recently welcomed on to the board Angi York Crane (New York Yearly Meeting) and John Carle

(Baltimore Yearly Meeting). In the past year we saw the stepping off the board in good order of Linda Chidsey (New York Yearly Meeting), Katharine Jacobsen (Ohio Yearly Meeting Conservative), and Janis Ansell (North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative). These Friends brought a particular spiritual depth that we will miss.

If you wish to stay in touch with our work as it unfolds, we encourage you to visit our website at www.schoolofthespirit.org. At that site you can sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter as well as be spiritually nourished by various essays on our “Gifts of the Spirit” page. Please note our new home address upon the move of our administrator, Mike Green, from Chapel Hill to Durham (1010 Wells Street, Durham, NC 27707).

It is our sense that the breath of God continues to fill our sails. We seek to ground all our meetings and deliberations in deep prayer and love so that we may respond to Truth. We are very grateful for the continued support of the Worship and Care Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, on behalf of the School of the Spirit Ministry,

Michael Wajda, Clerk of the board

Michael Green, Administrator

Financial Statement, 7/1/2009 - 6/30/2010

INCOME		
Tuition	64,460.00	
Contributions	20,616.56	
Fees	6,435.00	
Total Income		\$91,511.56
EXPENSES		
Honoraria	39,800.00	
Facility	35,513.80	
Travel	6,124.75	
Scholarships	5,979.98	
Advertising	1,001.07	
Office	1,005.05	
Misc.	51.86	
Total Expenses		\$89,476.51
Gain/(Loss)		\$2,035.05
ASSETS		
General Fund	43,380.42	
Scholarship Funds	11,824.34	
Teacher Renewal Fund	9,603.25	
Other	40,026.79	
Total Assets		\$104,834.80