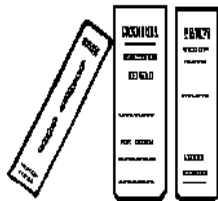


# Epistle, FAHE Conference

## June 14-16, 2007



# Friends Association for Higher Education Summer Conference Report

The peaceful midwest campus of Earlham College was the site of the 2007 FAHE Conference. Earlham is filled with sturdy brick buildings, towering trees, spacious lawns, and delightfully gracious faculty, staff, and students who made the conference participants feel totally welcomed. Just as the swings in the trees and the benches beside the walks invited Friends to rest, to contemplate, and sometimes to soar, so too the conference with its theme "Scholars for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability", offered opportunities to renew and expand understanding of Quaker higher education.

The conference was shaped with four plenaries. Laura Rediehs gave the opening plenary. Speaking on "Scholars for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability: Responding in Faithfulness, Seeking Effectiveness", she recounted a time of feeling overly busy, pulled by too many obligations, 'feeling the wrath of the pharaohs'. Clearly, many in the audience could identify. Laura spoke about how hard it is to feel centered at those times and how important it is to regain a way to be clear and reflective in our lives so that education (that which we extend as instructors and that which we also receive) can be healing and renewing. Friends believe in transformative education and this address helped set the tone for a conference structured to do just that.

One of the first opportunities to extend and transform came after the plenary with the advent of small group meetings—a new feature of this year's conference designed to allow participants to gather in small groups to share with each other their work, the challenges that they face, and to make connections. The small groups continued on Friday and Saturday and proved to be a welcomed opportunity to extend conversation, to extend relationships, and to sustain.

Each morning began with worship. Friday morning worship was unprogrammed. The soft morning light filtered in through the tall

windows of the Stout Meeting House and the silence of the meeting was dotted with the songs of the birds in the trees beyond the open doors. Deborah Shaw's haunting voice carried us into the rise of the meeting.

Saturday, Stephanie Crumley-Effinger and Deborah Shaw led the worship, again with open doors, a light-filled meeting house, and the music of the birds. There was a time for encouragement, thoughts about security and risk, and a soothing musical call to live in charity—Ubi Caritas.

Following Friday worship was another plenary, this one by Mary Lord on "Peace". Mary's message was that peacemaking is not naïve; it is possible' it is practical' and it works. She acknowledged the pulls toward conflict and the pressures against pacifism, but reminded us of the evidence. Despite the current public perception of world-wide conflict, research shows there are actually fewer wars, fewer conflicts, and fewer deaths than there were 50 years ago. The path to the Peaceable Kingdom lies before us. We are on that road and we do have hope.

As small groups met again after the plenary, the comment was offered in one group that the opposite of love was sometimes thought to be hate, but was actually suspicion. When we focus on suspicion, we focus and intensify that which divides us—an apt reflection of the plenary message.

The workshops began Friday afternoon and continued on Saturday. They were an array of wonderfully varied topics which reflected the broad understanding of Quaker education. The presidents' panel raised the question of

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*A publication of*  
**Friends Association for  
 Higher Education**

**THE PURPOSE** of the Friends Association for Higher Education is to strengthen the Quaker mission in higher education. FAHE is devoted to:

\* Facilitating interaction and fellowship among all who share Friends' ideals of higher education;

\* Discerning the unity of spirituality, intellectual rigor, and social justice;

\* Sharing the scholarly research in the service of Friends' values; and

\* Providing resources and encouragement to Friends-connected institutions of higher education in understanding and applying Friends' values.

**Executive Committee**

*Rebecca Mays, clerk*

<i>Abigail Adams</i>	<i>Laura Rediehs</i>
<i>Doug Burks</i>	<i>Lonnie Valentine</i>
<i>Gary Farlow</i>	<i>Steven Potthof</i>
<i>Steven Gilbert</i>	<i>Caroline Whitbeck</i>
<i>Jim Hood</i>	<i>'Ben' Pink Dandelion</i>
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## Epistle

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what it means for an institution to call itself Quaker, a question that would find voice in other workshops as well.

There were papers, panels, dialogues, and dramas. There were offerings from experienced FAHE presenters and those new to the organization. It was a rich mix of serious scholarship and sweet spirituality.

The business meeting, in previous years held on Sunday morning at the end of the conference and often sparsely populated as folks hurried to catch planes home, was moved to Saturday morning this year. The number of those participating was greatly increased and appreciated. New folks were welcomed to the Exec. Committee, and Minutes of Appreciation read for outgoing folks. The budget was presented (which Canby Jones pronounced "fearfully and wonderfully made"). Ben Pink Dandelion extended a warm invitation to come to next summer's FAHE conference at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, UK. The meeting concluded with more Minutes of Appreciation for some of those who founded and have sustained FAHE-Hugh Barbour, Canby Jones, and Earl Redding.

The final two plenaries were offered Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Mic Jackson and Jay Roberts offered the Saturday evening session "Working the Faith: Friends, Higher Education and the Question of Sustainability". They explored the questions of "What does it mean to 'work the faith'?" and "How do we develop a culture of sustainability?" They spoke about a re-articulation of spirituality that brings us closer to the natural world. They spoke about fast and slow knowledge, and made a case for slowness-taking the time to deliberate and use the Quaker consensus process, taking time to reflect, and taking time to allow all voices to be heard. There were echoes of Laura's address when they spoke about busyness, as she had, and the understanding that when we are so busy, we cannot nurture our spirits.

The final plenary on Sunday morning was "Seeds of Discord, Seeds of Harmony" with Arnie Alpert and a response by Tom Head. Arnie used some of the trade issues in New Hampshire to illustrate broad issues of economic justice worldwide-some of the seeds of discord. But, reflecting a powerful theme running through the entire conference, Arnie's focus, and that of Tom, was on seeds of harmony. As we listen to what the Spirit is telling us, we can imagine a different vision, and in the imagining, step out to, indeed, walk cheerfully over the earth...

As Friends prepared to leave the glow of the conference and return to homes and work, there was the strong sense of hope. Friends will leave this place nurtured by new and renewed friendships, stimulated by thoughtful presentations and discussions, warmed by Earlham's hospitality, and encouraged to pursue scholarship offering Peace, Justice, and Sustainability.



arriving at the conference

# Minutes, Friends Association for Higher Education Meeting for Business

June 16, 2007

Stout Meetinghouse, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana

Rebecca Mays opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves.

Laura Rediehs presented a few announcements about the ongoing conference here at Earlham College. Rebecca Mays presented some additional announcements and called for any others.

## Member Contributions

Newton Garver made a brief presentation regarding the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund and the Quaker Bolivia Link. He encouraged Friends present to pick up materials regarding these organizations available here at the conference. Newton reflected on what an "astonishing blessing" it has been for him to work with this concern. He hopes that others among us will get to know Bolivian Quakers.

Rebecca Mays read a traveling minute from Berkeley Friends Meeting for Laura Mangnani, who presented a workshop on criminal justice yesterday.

## **Friends endorsed and approved this minute.**

Don Weinholtz, University of Hartford, introduced members to the new online journal, Quaker Higher Education. This afternoon he will present a workshop about the publication. He described the possible directions this scholarly publication might take. Rebecca Mays encouraged members to read the first issue. Helene Pollock spoke to the value of the publication

for herself and her institution, Haverford College.

## **Nominating Committee**

Jim Hood presented a report from the Nominating Committee. Abigail Adams and Lonnie Valentine, new nominees for the Executive Committee, introduced themselves.

## **Friends approved the nominations of Abigail Adams and Lonnie Valentine to the Executive Committee.**

## **Minutes of Appreciation**

Kori Heavner read the following minute of appreciation for Susan McNaught:

Susan McNaught has given joyful energy to FAHE through her service on the Executive Committee. Her gentle care of others and unfailing good spirit have been among the gifts that she brought, joining in the welcome that we received when our conference was as George Fox University and serving as the newsletter editor for several years. Susan has served as consultant, travel companion, and chauffeur in the line of duty. Thank you for carrying the work of FAHE during your term of service, Susan.

Rebecca Mays read the following minute of appreciation for Susan Schmidt:

Susan Schmidt has served two three-year terms on the FAHE executive com-

mittee. We will miss her high intuitive spirit with its gifts of incisive critique and her poignant poems. Her commitment to our Quaker testimonies has kept us alert and attentive to the social witness of our work. We are happy for her in her new employment as directory of Edenton (North Carolina) Historical Commission, located where the Chowan River enters the Albemarle Sound. We wish her well with thanks for her service and ongoing commitment to FAHE membership and support.

Jim Hood read the following minute of appreciation for Mary Garman:

"Mary Garman, Mary Garman." Saying her name twice nods punningly to a strange and short-lived television program, but it also invokes the largesse of spirit possessed by a real and marvelous woman. As a long-time attender of our conference and a member of the FAHE Executive Committee for the past three years, Mary has shared with us the clarity, incisiveness, and humor of that bountiful spirit, bringing us both focus and delight. As a guiding force for the local arrangements of this present conference,

## Minutes, cont'd

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Mary has skillfully managed everything from sandwich orders to college presidents. As she rotates off the Executive Committee, we will miss her decisive questions, her passion for institutional and personal accountability, her disdain for cant, and her chuckles. In these recent days particularly, she has indeed been nearly two persons, and we celebrate her having shared her "selves" with us so lovingly.

### **Friends approved the recording of these minutes.**

#### **Budget and Finance**

Gary Farlow presented the 2007-2008 budget that includes a proposal to shift the organization's fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 to October 1 to September 30. Therefore the budget proposal is split into two short periods of less than 12 months each. He noted that the income line items for membership have been raised in order to cover increased office expenses. The budget also includes a proposed increase in the membership dues rates to \$60 per year for individuals, \$75 for families, and \$15 for supported memberships. The budget revenue projection includes a significant increase in dues paying members from 96 dues paying members to 108 for the coming year (an increase of 16). Gary charged those present to work diligently to bring in one other dues paying member each.

Expenses: We are expecting a large increase in postage this

year and a 6% increase per year in rent and utilities at the Friends Center in Philadelphia where the office is located. Gary outlined additional expenses detailed in the budget, including the reworking of the FAHE promotional brochure and a possible new office computer.

Because the by-laws include a definition of the fiscal year, and any change in the by-laws must be communicated to the membership at least 30 days in advance, Rebecca Mays asked Friends to consider the proposed fiscal year change and suggested that if we do not hear any significant objection in the next 30 days we will plan to go forward. She called for questions or comment about the change in the fiscal year. Tom Head asked whether it might not be advantageous to make the fiscal year the same as the calendar year. Gary Farlow explained that he and Kori had thought about this idea and realized that as the Executive Committee usually meets in mid-October, end of the year accounting will be easier to monitor with the proposed October 1 to September 30 fiscal year.

**Friends approved going forward with the change in the fiscal year,** pending the outcome of the 30 day waiting period specified by the by-laws.

Gary asked for comments and questions on the budget. T. Canby Jones noted that it was "fearfully and wonderfully made." **Members approved increasing dues amounts as noted above.** 30 Friends present committed to finding one other dues paying member in

the coming year.

### **Friends approved the budget for the 2007-2008 year.**

Barbara Dixson noted a concern regarding Kori Heavner's benefits, particularly health insurance. Kori noted that health insurance is available to her, but at a cost she can not afford currently. Rebecca noted that the Executive Committee has discussed this matter and the Office Committee is attending to this concern.

Rebecca noted that this is the last year that we will be able to balance the budget by increasing dues and assuming we will secure new paid memberships. She urged members to be mindful of the need to cover the increases in our costs through increasing our membership.

#### **Membership and Momentum**

Rebecca Mays noted that the Executive Committee had discussed a number of issues related to the well-being of this organization: tensions within the organization; the difficulties of teaching loads for new faculty members; our relationships with FCE and the Quaker Archivists and Historians; concerns for the broad theological spectrum among Friends and that we are still in community with one another.

She called upon the circle of voices gathered together to speak to the purpose and joy of being a part of this organization, not by recounting glory stories, but by articulating truly how the organization has served individ-

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## Minutes, cont'd

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uals' vocational development.

Ben Pink Dandelion expressed Woodbrooke's great excitement about being able to host the 2008 conference. He described the features of that conference, including the plenary speakers and opportunities for travel connected with the conference. He noted that a priority booking time has been established for FAHE members until December 31, 2007; the call for papers deadline will be November 1, 2007. Woodbrooke will open the conference to European Friends in January 2008. He stressed the need to book before December but noted that payment will be due three weeks prior to the conference.

Caroline Whitbeck noted that early submissions to the call for papers will be considered quickly if Friends need approval in order to secure institutional funding.

Abigail Adams asked if Friends could engage briefly in some brainstorming ideas for possible panels at the Woodbrooke conference. Helene Pollock suggested that a panel on the convergence movement, regarding the relationship between postmodernism and Christianity, might be an excellent panel. Rebecca encouraged others to gather at dinner tonight to continue this discussion.

Nelson Bingham presented some reflections about past difficulties for FAHE. By 1987, seven years after the formation of the organization, FAHE faced the possibil-

ity of laying itself down. He focused his comments on continuities of identity within FAHE. From the start, FAHE has been characterized by pluralism and multiplicity; it has been a place for a diverse group of Friends and non-Friends. It has provided a framework for diverse institutions to amplify the voice of Quaker higher education; a place of connection with other Quaker organizations.

Unity in diversity is another continuity of identity. Producing a first brochure describing the organization was initially a difficult task. But FAHE has provided a special kind of cross-fertilization, including engagement across professional specializations.

Nelson expressed his hope that the organization will continue to be characterized by the pluralism and unity in diversity that have marked it from the beginning. He does not anticipate major growth, like doubling our membership, in the near future. He asked: What kind of changes might be desirable? First, we need to become more international in our scope. Secondly, we need to broaden our thinking about the electronic revolution and how FAHE can build that in to its future identity. We have become a mature organization and that means we have a depth of character that shouldn't really change.

Rebecca noted how four different generations of the organization are present here.

Barbara Dixson spoke to the ways FAHE gave her the chance

to become a whole person. She thinks FAHE has been very helpful for nurturing the Quaker colleges. Her own work on the Executive Committee was significantly rewarding.

Mike Moyer noted that he continues to come back to FAHE because he wants to be faithful to what he views as a call to education. He has an opportunity to learn how to be more effective in what he does; he can see models and has the opportunity to share ideas with others. This helps him to be more faithful and more effective.

David Ross shared how serving on the Executive Committee was a "graduate seminar in Quakerdom." He learned importantly that God doesn't ask us to do any more than we're capable of doing. The combination of differently gifted people working together becomes a beautiful testimony to the communal sharing of those talents. The FAHE conference has become the place where he has been able to walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone. He has not been so able to do that as easily elsewhere. He needs the practice of doing that within this community.

Rebecca also shared some thoughts about FAHE sent by Anne Dalke. Anne has found that the FAHE conference has invited participants to be humble learners, to be open to the unconscious and to the spirit.

### Minutes of Recognition

Max Carter presented the following minute of recognition for Hugh Barbour:

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## Minutes, cont'd

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Nearly everyone has a Hugh Barbour story; some are even true! Especially true, though, is what Hugh has meant to FAHE and the wider community of Friends. Active in FAHE from its early years, Hugh was a vital part of the Quaker Studies in Human Betterment that emerged from fertile FAHE minds. In stimulating workshops, insightful response to others' research and writing, dedicated work in business sessions, encouragement, and with dreadful puns, Hugh has left a lasting mark.

Known for his foundational work on *The Lamb's War* among early Friends with other FAHE stalwarts T. Canby Jones and Arthur Roberts, Hugh inspires us to carry that same spiritual engagement with the world into our work as educators.

Stephanie Crumley-Effinger presented a minute of recognition for T. Canby Jones:

The Friends Association for Higher Education, gathered at Earlham College for the 28th annual conference, at its business meeting on June 16, 2007, minutes our gratitude for the ministry and presence among us of T. Canby Jones who, with Charles Browning, founded our organization in 1980. Canby exemplifies the integration of faith

and life, scholarship and service, teaching and discipleship, which FAHE seeks to nurture in Quaker colleges and in Friends called to the vocation of higher education.

Canby taught at Wilmington College for forty years, providing nurture and challenge to students, colleagues, the local community, and the wider body of Friends. Canby has long modeled that which he affirmed in his essay, "A Distinctly Quaker View of Teaching and Learning?" (Partners in Education, Wilmington College and Wilmington Yearly Meeting [1992], 76-88): "Every student is a teacher and every teacher a student because each hungers to be taught by the voice of Truth heard speaking through the other. We expect to be taught by a Teacher greater than ourselves who may well speak through anyone present" (77).

We rejoice in Canby's obedience to this vision of mutual discovery in teaching and learning, and we thank God for the rich legacy Canby has given us by faithfully listening for and following the voice of "the Teacher greater than ourselves."

Nelson Bingham presented the following minute of recognition for Earl Redding:

The Friends Association for Higher Education recognizes with deep appreciation Earl Redding's unique involvement with and con-

tributions to FAHE. Earl was a founding member of the organization at Wilmington College in 1980 and his faithfulness to FAHE is shown by the fact that he is the only person to have attended all 28 annual conferences, a record that may never be broken. Along the way, Earl has served multiple terms on the Executive Committee where his experience and wise, steady judgment helped FAHE to deal with a variety of transitions and challenges. He also contributed to the writing of *Epistles*, capturing the spirit of several conferences. Earl embodies, in his life, the diversity of FAHE. A member of the Society of Friends, Earl has been both a teacher and an administrator at both Quaker and non-Quaker institutions. We are delighted to celebrate the long and rich history of Earl Redding's presence in FAHE.

### **Friends united in approving the recording of these minutes of recognition.**

Earl Redding shared that the reason he has continued to come back to FAHE for 28 years is because it means so much to him on a personal level. The nurture and sustenance he has received from the annual sessions have made it possible for him to continue to be a Quaker educator in institutions of higher education. We can be whole persons and still be academics.

T. Canby Jones noted that it

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## Minutes, cont'd

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never entered his mind when the organization was founded that the FAHE conference would become the spiritual home for so many members.

The meeting closed at 10:45 a.m. for a brief reception.

Some further business was conducted prior to the plenary session held on Sunday morning, June 17, 2007.

Rebecca Mays announced that Doug Burks had expressed a willingness to return to service on the FAHE Executive Committee since being relieved of additional administrative duties at Wilmington College and **the gathered body united in approving his appointment to the Executive Committee.**

Caroline Whitbeck read the following minute of appreciation to our host campus, Earlham College:

We are deeply grateful to Earlham College for hosting the FAHE conference this year, and

more specifically to Earlham's President, Doug Bennett, and to the local arrangements committee. We thank Doug both for his energetic and inspired leadership in involving the presidents of Friends colleges in FAHE and this conference, and for applying his gifts of administration in pressing our own Executive Committee to develop a template for agreements between FAHE and host institutions, a template that will facilitate planning for future FAHE gatherings. We also extend special thanks the Local Arrangements Committee here at Earlham: Marya Bower, Dortha Meredith, Katrina McQuail, Sue Kern, Brian Massey, Anna Crumley-Effinger, and Mary Garman for their thoughtfulness and thoroughness in providing for our safety and comfort and enabling this conference to proceed so gracefully.

Susan McNaught read the Epistle (printed on pages 1 and 2 of this newsletter).

**Friends united in approving both this minute of appreciation and the conference Epistle.**

**Welcome to new FAHE executive committee members Abigail Adams, Lonnie Valentine, 'Ben' Pink Dandelion, and Doug Burks! (Pictured top to bottom below)**



**local arrangements committee**



**Earl Redding, Canby Jones**

Summer 2007



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The FAHE conference will be at Woodbrooke Study Centre in Birmingham, England in 2008!

*Will you?*

**Registration materials and the call for papers are available. Contact the FAHE office for information.**

**Priority registration for FAHE members runs through 2007, with registration opened to British and European friends in spring 2008.**

**FAHE Newsletter deadlines**

**2007-2008:**

**August 29 for September publication**

**November 19 for January publication**

**April 4 for May publication**

**Time To Join / Renew / Share With A Friend!**



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**MEMBERSHIP JULY 1, 2007 -- JUNE 30, 2008**

Who should join? Friends interested in higher education, anyone connected with Friends higher education institutions, and anyone interested in furthering a Spirit-based commitment to higher education. If you have a question about whether your membership is current, email fahe@quaker.org, or send a note of inquiry to the office.

Name:

E-Mail Address:

Surface Mail Address:

Phone:

College or other affiliation:

Discipline or other college office:

Monthly/Yearly Meeting or other religious affiliation:

Indicate FAHE membership level:

Family: \_\_\_\_ (\$75) Individual: \_\_\_\_ (\$60) Student: \_\_\_\_ (\$15) Supported: \_\_\_\_

Contribution above membership dues:

Credit Card Number:

Expiration date:

Signature:

Please make check payable to: Friends Association for Higher Education **Total payment included:** \_\_\_\_\_