Report of the General Secretary
October 11, 2014

The frame we use to identify what we are looking at in the world or within ourselves affects what we see and the choices we are able to make. Laying every possibility on the table is exciting in that everything looks possible. However, the reality of limited resources – such as the fact that there will always only be 24 hours in a day, much to my frustration – constricts our attention and capacity.

My first month as General Secretary has included a fair amount of framing the perspective and work of staff so that we are able to be our most effective and true to our callings. In particular:

- We are focusing our staff work on one of the Strategic Directions in the Five Year Plan. A rising tide lifts all boats and a concentrated focus of our work will allow for a synergistic effect to increase the success of each individual. We are focusing on the fifth Direction: *Increase participation in Yearly Meeting sessions and other PYM-wide gatherings*. Increasing participation in the Yearly Meeting is directly related in one way or another to nearly all the work that our staff is engaged in. Additionally, our work can be parallel to any other initiatives without stepping on the toes or authority of committees or projects and we can focus on this immediately, even before the Implementation Committee becomes active.

- So that this Direction is relevant to most of our staff and may have a significant impact, we are framing our approach to it as “Broaden engagement and deepen relationships in the yearly meeting”. One example of activating this frame is that we are looking at ways not just to bring Friends from where they are to where a program is, but ways to engage Friends where they already are, geographically and otherwise.

- In November staff will participate in an in-service training on outcomes measurement which will help us frame our individual and program goals in a way that will allow us to identify success and shift strategies as needed.

- We have appointed a staff committee that is charged with arranging training about racism for staff. This is an issue and a ministry that is of increasing concern in our community and I want our staff to have tools for addressing it in our work.

A few other activities of note:

- In October I am calling the clerks of all of our meetings to say hello.

- In November I’m going on tour: I’ll be visiting five regions of our yearly meeting, inviting Friends to join me for conversation and a Baked Potato Potluck (I’ll bring
the potatoes – you bring the toppings!). Each of these will be held at a meetinghouse. The dates and locations are at the end of this report.

- This fall we will be reaching out to every meeting to ask you to share your most recent membership and contact information. This process is vital to our ability to share news and ministry throughout the community because we can’t send you information or invitations if we don’t know who you are or how to reach you.

- And remember: Your General Secretary has asked everyone in the yearly meeting to engage in two traditional Quaker practices in the coming year!
  
  o **Intervisitation**: Visit two PYM meetings in the next year. Then you can LOG YOUR VISIT! [www.pym.org/visits](http://www.pym.org/visits). Include a photo!

  o **How does the Truth fare with thee?** Ask your friends and those in your meeting about their spiritual condition. Share your own.

### General Secretary Tour 2014 dates

**Friday, November 7 – 7:00 pm**
Centre Meeting, Center Meeting Rd, Wilmington, DE 19807

**Friday, November 14 – 7:00 pm**
Gwynedd Meeting, 1101 Dekalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA 19454

**Sunday, November 16 – 11:00 am**
Millville Meeting, 351 E Main St, Millville, PA 17846
*Millville Meeting invites Friends to join them for worship at 10 a.m.*

**Friday, November 21 – 7:00 pm**
Princeton Meeting, 470 Quaker Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

**Sunday, November 23 – 4:00 pm**
Lancaster Friends Meeting, 110 Tulane Terrace, Lancaster, PA 17603

Respectfully submitted,

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General Secretary
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