

## **Provisional Membership**

A school wishing to join the Friends Council on Education completes the application for Provisional Membership indicating its intention to follow the Membership Renewal Process (MRP) in the future.

With the application for Provisional Membership, the school submits material fulfilling the following:  
The school acknowledges in its catalogues, website, and other published statements of purpose the intent to be guided by the basic testimonies of the Society of Friends and the aims of Quaker education.

The school gives evidence of putting this intention into practice including:

- A. Plans for a weekly Meeting for Worship in the manner of Friends (settling in, centering, silent reflection and speaking) for students and staff.
- B. Plans to establish a committee or work group, in which some members of the school's board participate, whose function is to nurture the Quaker dimension of the school.
- C. The school gives evidence of a well-functioning board that includes sufficient representation of Friends and those familiar with Friends education to strengthen and support the school's continuing Quaker dimension.
- D. By-laws; financial statements that show evidence of planning for the future.

**During the first year** (with students), the school completes the annual school governance survey and contributes annual Provisional Membership dues to the Friends Council on Education.

**By the end of the second year** the school will be informally visited by a Friends Council staff, board, or membership committee member.

**During the third year**, the school addresses its Quaker dimension using the *Queries for Provisional Membership* from the Friends Council on Education.

**During the fourth year**, the Friends Council on Education's Membership Committee sends representatives for a formal visit to the school to review the school's responses to the Queries for Provisional Membership and to serve as resource and support for the growth of the school's Quaker dimension.

**In the fifth year**, the Membership Committee of the Friends Council makes recommendations to the school and to the Friends Council Board, and the Board makes a decision regarding the school's membership status.

**By the fifth year, Friends Council recommends that the school begin its state or regional accreditation process.**

## **Friends Council Membership What are the benefits to FCE membership?**

- Directory of Schools – Inclusion in and access to the on-line, searchable Directory of Schools.
- Resources – A variety of free and discounted resources.
- Grants to schools – Opportunity to apply for Friends Council Grants and Tuition Aid grants
- Job Listings – Free listing of the school's job openings on this web site.
- Friends Council's Online Forum - Eligibility to network and join the conversation at [www.friendscouncil.net](http://www.friendscouncil.net).
- Chronicles of Quaker Education – A year's subscription for every faculty, staff and board member. Access to back issues online.
- Bookstore – Discounts on bulk orders.
- Programs - - Member rate (financial assistance available to members) for Friends Council workshops and peer networks. - Opportunity for faculty/staff to participate in FCE's Enrichment Programs (SPARC and Leadership Institute).
- Member Logo – for display on your web site and print matter.
- Membership Certificate for display.
- Priority e-mail and mail notification of FCE workshops, events and resources.

**Queries for Provisional Membership in Friends Council on Education:**

- A. List the names of individuals and groups and related school roles of those responsible for completing the various sections of the Friends Council on Education Provisional Membership queries. The group addressing these queries for Provisional Membership in Friends Council on Education would ideally include a wide representation of the school community: trustees, parents, faculty, administration and staff and when appropriate, students.
- B. What is the involvement of Quakers in constituency groups, (board, students, teachers, administrators)? What structures are in place or efforts made to recruit Quakers for each of these groups? Describe the school's commitment to support the Quaker dimension of the school through hiring and staff development, as well as board recruitment. Include any plans for growth or improvement.
- C. Describe the school's practices in regard to meeting for worship in the manner of Friends (settling in, centering, silent reflection and speaking in the manner of Friends) and the use of Quaker-based practice of decision-making. How are members of the community (trustees, students, faculty and staff, parents) assisted in the process of understanding and valuing Friends practices and decision-making? Describe plans for growth or improvement.
- D. How are trustees, students, faculty and staff, and parents made aware of the school's Quaker roots, testimonies, and practices? Describe plans for growth or improvement.
- E. Describe the school's connections or affiliations with other Friends' institutions. How has the school participated in the Friends Council on Education network of professional development programs and peer networks? How has the school made use of resources on the philosophy and practice of Friends education?
- F. Describe the influence of Friends' testimonies and values on program, curriculum, and the school's relation to the wider community. How are these values reflected in daily classroom life? Describe plans for growth or improvement.
- G. How does the school demonstrate commitments to a respect for the truth and for the divine spark within each person? Through descriptions of recent experience, show how these commitments are further reflected in relation to service and community outreach, peace and social justice, diversity. Describe plans for growth or improvement.