

Community Development & Fund Raising committee (CDFR) Report to the Community,

from Richard Fuller, Tami Swiggum and Lisa Day. We see CDFR as an expression of the desires of the larger TCFM community, so this hour is also a **Report from you to CDFR.**

CDFR has planned this Friends Forum to be done with a fair amount of worship and worship-sharing. We want you to be asking, "What is true for me?" We hope some of you will share bits of your truth with all who gather here. We will be noting contributions on the wall charts so that the committee can discuss them later. We plan to publish an account of the experience to all of TCFM, on the website.

We will begin with a brief overview of what we have been hearing from our community in the home

visits, in Meetings for Business, and in other conversations.

Then we would like you to take these themes and issues into your personal worship for a few minutes, opening yourselves to what we have heard our community saying and thinking. And discovering if you have inward responses to these themes.

Then we plan to come out of worship to share, in a worship-sharing context, or in discussion.



Some Themes & Issues Identified During Our First Year and a Half:

AFFIRMING

- Friends often ask themselves **How am I loyal to my individual spiritual commitments, and how do these fit with the TCFM community?**
- They also tell us **We value the care and upbringing of youth and children, and caring for new people who come into our midst.**
- How can we support what TCFM Friends already affirm?

CHALLENGING

Although it is seldom stated flat out,

- we think we have also noticed some committees feel their work is isolated from the rest of the community, raising the issue of **community trust**.
We ask ourselves, **Do (members of) committees trust that other committees, and the community as a whole, are listening? Are paying attention to what they think is important? Is a lack of trust hampering how we work together?**
- What would it take to encourage greater trust?



Richard's Rant about Fundraising

No, CDFR is not offering you frequent flyer miles for each donation, or "points" for every \$10 pledged. We don't want any part of the commercial pressure for giving that has infected even the Firefighters and the non-profits like Public Radio!

I am angry, (as many of us are) about the monetized culture we live in. Education is supported by cute kids on our front steps selling milk chocolate. Everything's a "bargain" or a "good return on investment." Not that those of us on CDFR don't support education or getting good value from our investments, but I feel this "gimme gimme" has gone way too far. Has become part of our society's sickness.

The Religious Society of Friends recoils from this skewed system of relationships. We put the "I and Thou" moments at the center of our efforts. We stretch to discover Friends' Gifts, not their dollars.

Of course it is important that TCFM have enough money to pay its bills. And we need committees to keep track of income and bill paying. But CDFR is *very* reluctant to participate in fundraising that intrudes on your time and attention while you are at meeting. Surely, this is a reaction to the ways of our mainstream culture. We hope you find it refreshing.

The needs are there, but CDFR's main focus this last year and a half has been *listening*, in the name of community development. We are looking for ways to

actively deepen TCFM community, including the number of I-Thou moments Friends find with each other.

We do value the *camaraderie* and dollars generated by a bake sale or an arts & crafts fair. We are happy to support Friends who would like to organize and conduct them. It feels very different to us to have an individual or a small group take such an initiative, instead of our committee doing it. We recognize CDFR is the committee that is responsible for encouraging the contributions to come in, but fundraising *events* are not our thing.

(We do welcome new committee members with differing points of view...)

* The term "monetization" ... used informally to refer to ... charging fees for something that used to be free, or attempting to make money on goods or services that were previously unprofitable... --Wikipedia

October 27, 2013