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Vision Statement

Vision of Quaker Leadership as "Faith into Action"
Presented June, 2009 Approved June 2010

At its meeting of June 13, 2010, the Board of Trustees of the Pickett Endowment Fund approved the vision statement below. In so doing, the Pickett Endowment Fund has affirmed its historical commitments and clarified its strategic vision going forward. We look forward to partnering with other groups and individuals who share our vision, so that the impact of our resources may be multiplied.

Whereas:

- We affirm that a living spirit informs and permeates the whole of life, and that all people are capable of communion with that spirit;
and
- We affirm that Friends are called to "let our lives speak;"
and
- We affirm the words of our elder William Penn, that "true religion does not turn people away from the world, but excites their endeavors to mend it;"
and
- Clarence and Lily Pickett dedicated much of their lives to humanitarian service, putting their faiths into actions to help heal the wounds of war and injustice;
and
- The Clarence & Lily Pickett Endowment Fund for Quaker Leadership was created to honor the Picketts' legacy of putting Quaker faith into action, and to support the continuation of that legacy;

Therefore:

- We embrace a vision of Quaker leadership that involves putting our religious faiths directly into action, and that supports others in doing likewise;
and
- We affirm using our resources to support expressions of emerging Quaker leadership that show promise to help heal the wounds of our troubled world, and help promote peace, justice and right stewardship of our earth's resources;
and
- We affirm a preference for nurturing the works of younger adult Quakers, seeing in them a special potential to fulfill our vision of Quaker leadership.

Clarence and Lilly Pickett Endowment for Quaker Leadership



Recognizing and Nurturing Future Quaker Leaders

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2015



Sandy Laber

Greetings Friends,

It has been another prosperous year for the Pickett Endowment. In this issue of our newsletter we want to share with you important reflections on our past as we remember with gratitude a founder of the Pickett Endowment, Wilmer Tjossem, who passed away last May. You can also read about Carolyn Miller, Clarence and Lilly Pickett's daughter, with whom board member Karen Cadbury recently spoke.

In addition to looking back we also look to our present as we highlight one current grantee's project experience in Nepal in the wake of an earthquake as well as an update on how a past grantee's project continues to impact her life. For more information on our recent grantees and their diverse projects please visit the blog on our website where grantees check in to tell us about their journeys. The blog connects us with our grantees and also allows them to gain insights from each other. You may access the blog at <http://pickettendowment.quaker.org>.

Finally, we enclose an invitation to join us in supporting the future of Quaker leadership and the Pickett Endowment. This year our trustees identified the need to undertake fundraising for the endowment on a more ongoing basis, as the funding requests from our grant applicants have risen over time as well as the demand for such funds. With your help we can ensure that the Pickett Endowment can continue to support future grantees long into the future.

As always, we are truly amazed as we look back on the body of work that the Pickett Endowment now represents: to date we have provided more than 160 grants (primarily to Young Friends) across the many branches of Quakerism. Their projects have varied greatly, but we are thrilled to see that many of our grantees are today at the forefront of many aspects of Quaker service and ministry. We are committed to our mission to develop and support young Quakers in their leadership potential and to provide opportunities for them to put their faith into practice. As always, the Pickett's life-long example of service continues to inspire and to guide our mission.

In Peace,
Sandy Laber
Clerk, The Pickett Endowment

A Tribute to a Pickett Endowment Founder: Wilmer Tjossem



Wilmer Tjossem 1922-2015

Wilmer Tjossem once remarked, "I am not a leader, but I recognize natural-born leaders when I see them!" He was referring to Clarence Pickett, whose steps he had followed, first, as a student at William Penn College; next, as a leader in the Religious Society of Friends in Iowa; and then, in service to the world through the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

Wilmer's deference to Clarence Pickett and his wife Lilly was well founded. Clarence Pickett served as executive secretary of the AFSC from 1929 until 1950. For Wilmer, Clarence Pickett represented Quaker leadership at its best. When Wilmer joined the AFSC in the early 50's, he traveled as a fundraiser. His appreciation grew as he heard stories of Clarence and Lilly's advocacy work.

A classic story Wilmer liked to tell stemmed from a 1963 White House gala event at which American Nobel prizewinners were invited. President Kennedy thought it was amusing to hear that Clarence had been outside that morning "picketing" to show urgency in ending the nuclear arms race.

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2015 Grantees

Sometimes A Project Doesn't Go As Planned....



Getry Agizah nominated by Eden Grace under care of Friends United Meeting. Project: Support for Kenyan reconciliation peace program.



Mary Craudereuff nominated by Kaye Edwards under care of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting. Project: explore Quaker leadership via interviews with Quakers currently in leadership positions.



Anna Fritz nominated by Kathy Dahik under care of Multnomah Monthly Meeting. Project: Support for a music tour of Friends meetings including original songs related to Quaker testimonies.



John Pattison nominated by Robert Henry under care of Silverton Friends Meeting. Project: Support for pilot project among churches in Northwest Yearly Meeting focusing on how monthly meetings can connect holistically with their neighbors.



Nahara Saballos nominated by Chloe Tucker under care of ProNica. Project: Internship promoting healthy living among women of Nicaragua; promotion of alternatives to violence.



Alexandra Ulin nominated by Deanna Boyd under care of Midcoast Monthly Meeting. Project: Support for internship with Women's Foundation in Nepal involving a range of community services to women and children.



Justin Wright nominated by Patricia Finley under care of Westtown Monthly Meeting. Project: Development of a replicable workshop for New England Yearly Meeting designed to assist women and people of color in finding a job.

Alex Ulin is currently a junior at Bates College in Maine, was awarded funds to go to Kathmandu, Nepal, in April 2015, on a fact-finding trip, coordinated by The Women's Foundation of Nepal. Her plans included visiting a school, daycare center, organic farm and textile factory. Unfortunately, shortly after she arrived, an immense earthquake hit the region. She did not get to work on the project she had envisioned. Instead, she was caught up in surviving the earthquake herself and in trying to help, where she could.

After initially meeting with the volunteer coordinator, she decided to travel with a friend outside the city of Kathmandu, before starting her job. As she left the city, she experienced the region with "...crowded public busing, cows napping in the road, busy *Nepali* chatter and prayer flags across all of the roads. On the bus, she repeated words and phrases in *Nepali*, so when she started as an assistant, she would be able to greet her students and talk about her family in *Nepali*. One day, she and her friend were on the bus returning to the city when the driver stopped the bus, which had begun shaking violently back and forth.

"That first night, I lay awake as I prayed for the sun to come up..."

Alex writes, "The terraced farm hills around the bus were exploding in dust, as if we were being bombed, and the ground continued to shake...we ran to a small field where villagers were gathering, crouching on the ground, and surrounded by falling homes." More than 9,000 people were killed in the *Gorka* earthquake. She and her friend decided to stay away from Kathmandu and they hiked quickly to the nearest highway to get information, only stopping for the many large aftershocks and to try and gather information about what was happening.

"I really cannot even begin to describe the terror and helplessness I felt each time the earth shuddered beneath me," reports Alex, "and, I could not imagine the sadness behind the wails of the women sitting in that field with me, watching their village give out...urging men to go back in search of family. That first night, I lay awake as I prayed for the sun to come up so at least the shakes would not be accompanied by the darkness...Each shake sent families running back into the streets.

Notwithstanding that harrowing experience last spring, Alex continued studying abroad this fall, starting in Zanzibar. She then transitioned to Madagascar, where has been surveying frog biodiversity and population sizes in a rainforest. Ever the intrepid spirit, she reports that the experience has been amazing. We trust that Alex will continue her journey of discovery and peacemaking in the years to come.

Serving Through Washing



Abby Pratt-Harrington

Past Pickett Grantee Abbey Pratt-Harrington was headed to the laundromat when I (Anna Crumley-Effinger) spoke to her recently. Her mission may have been an obvious one, washing clothes, but it was really so much more.

The Picketts' lives optimized servant leadership that grantees carry beyond their award-period and into their lives. Abbey lives out her activism in many ways, but today she was headed to The Laundry Project. There Open Arm Ministries' volunteers assist families in Wayne County, Indiana, to ensure their kids are headed to school with fresh clothes. During the time kids glue and color for craft projects, adults get monetary and volunteer assistance with loads of laundry, and all share their stories. Abbey is available to help, listen, and be in community.

In the summer of 2009 Abbey was supported by a Pickett Grant to travel to Japan and interview 'Hibakusha': Atomic bomb survivors. She was following the footsteps of a social justice advocate and Quaker in her area, Barbara Reynolds. Her interviewees were influenced by Barbara and many associated with the Peace Resource Center in Japan that Barbara had founded. Sitting across the table hearing stories of this horrible time in human history was sobering.

Weeks later Abbey joined Hibakusha and others at the 6th of August memorialization as floating lanterns were prepared at in remembrance and choirs sang at the riverside during the Hiroshima Peace Ceremony. Through this experience Abbey learned to be present with people, overcame a little shyness, and created a comfortable place for sharing.

Being present with people extends into Abbey's work with students at Earlham College. She creates a space for the exploration of faith and experiences. How might each of us live out our Quaker faith and values today?

B O A R D O F T R U S T E E S

Sandy Laber, clerk Bridget Moix Anna Crumley-Effinger
Tom Hoopes David E. Wolfe Karen L. Cadbury

A D V I S O R Y C O U N C I L

Henry Freeman Helene Pollock Max Carter Lon Fendall
Louise Beede Paul Lacey Doug Bennett Gretchen Castle

Visit the Pickett Endowment website
[http://pickettendowment .quaker.org/](http://pickettendowment.quaker.org/)

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It was not just that Clarence and Lilly were called to the White House by Presidents from Hoover to Truman; Wilmer came to appreciate how Clarence Pickett never lost sight of his role as servant leader--a role he modeled long before Robert K. Greenleaf wrote *The Servant Leader*.



Wilmer Tjossem

In May of this year, Wilmer Tjossem passed away. In his own way Wilmer carried on the tradition of Clarence Pickett. In earlier centuries Wilmer would have been recognized as a recorded Friends minister. Wherever his work for the AFSC took him, Wilmer recognized that the local Friends Meeting undergirded his work with the AFSC. Those who attended worship anticipated his thoughtful messages as he reflected over the preceding week. Wilmer was a good storyteller that often sealed the point he wanted to make with an anecdote. Wilmer knew the history of Friends and when he shared stories he was intentional about helping those new to Friends understand the values and testimonies of the Society.

Furthermore, it became clear to Wilmer as he traveled among Friends that there was a need to encourage leadership among a new generation of Young Friends. As he shared this deep concern with others, the seeds were planted for what became the Clarence and Lilly Pickett Fund for Quaker Leadership. We are indebted to Wilmer for being a catalyst that drew together the first Pickett Fund steering committee.

In 2001 Wilmer added to the annual steering committee minutes a history of the origins of the Pickett Fund. In these minutes Wilmer noted that in his travels on behalf of the AFSC Midwest division he realized that Friends desired to call forth promising leaders within the Society beyond the degree granting tradition of Quaker schools and colleges; a new kind of umbrella organization identifying and nurturing leadership was needed, a concern he shared with others. However, two more ingredients were needed for the creation of what became known as the "Pickett Fund."

The Pickett Fund did not find its wings until the 80's when William Penn College President, John Wagoner found a dormant college fund designated for nurturing leadership among Friends. Wilmer was approached because notes revealed a connection between he and the benefactors. Out of this conversation the aforementioned dormant leadership fund was revitalized as a way of promoting Quaker leaders.

He was asked, "Why are Quaker institutions not doing more to honor the Picketts...and keep alive their leadership example?"

When Wilmer traveled he was consistently asked why Quaker institutions "were not doing more to honor the Picketts and keep alive for the next generation their leadership example?" The congruency seemed so evident to Wilmer Tjossem and John Wagoner that they began to work with the Board of William Penn College to assemble an independent group to promote the fund. This group became the first Pickett board of trustees.

With the Pickett board created, the real work of was just beginning. The Pickett board was not just concerned about raising money for leadership development, but also in finding creative and innovative ways to promote the goal of nurturing the next generation of leaders across the broad Quaker spectrum of faith and practice. The board decided that the leadership grants should be something different from traditional academic scholarships. Instead, grants would support self-chosen projects; implementation and engagement in these projects, the board believed, would yield confidence and recognition of gifts of leadership by the larger body of Friends.

We might take exception with Wilmer Tjossem's comment that he simply recognized naturally born leaders. Wilmer's dedication and devotion in his retirement years to addressing the concern for Quaker leadership mirrored the model of servant leadership so many saw in Clarence and Lilly Pickett.

Wilmer lived to see much fruit from what he would have said was the "modest" work of what is now known as the Clarence and Lilly Endowment for Quaker Leadership. With the first grant awarded in 1994 to Sunu Chandy for a project in India, the Pickett board's vision became reality. Over 160 grants have now been awarded. Wilmer delighted in copying and sharing news items of the work and influence of former Pickett grantees. The Pickett board of trustees is dedicated to continuing and extending his vision and excitement for nourishing leadership among Quakers.

Founding Members of the Clarence and Lilly Pickett Fund for Quaker Leadership Board of Trustees (1990)

*Stephen G. Cary, Cully and Carolyn (Pickett) Miller,
D.J. Newlin, Armand Stalnaker, Wilmer Tjossem, John Wagoner*

Carolyn Miller, the daughter of Clarence and Lilly Pickett, spoke with Karen Cadbury (a current Pickett trustee) in November about the Clarence and Lilly Pickett Endowment. She will be 94 this year, and lives quietly in the coastal town of Camden, Maine. Her only sibling, Rachel (Pickett) Stalnaker, died some years ago.

Though she is now inactive as a trustee, Carolyn follows the accomplishments of the Endowment and remains interested in the long-term viability and robustness of the fund. Carolyn's and Rachel's families remain connected with the Pickett Endowment; Sandy Laber, Carolyn's granddaughter, is the current Clerk of the Endowment. Carolyn expressed the hope that the Endowment will grow in the years ahead from contributions, so that a greater number of young Friends with leadership potential can benefit from the grants awarded.



Carolyn Pickett Miller

“My father and mother wanted to help make the Society of Friends more vibrant, and they wanted to emphasize the role of young people—they were devoted to helping young people,” says Carolyn Miller, the daughter of Clarence and Lilly Pickett, and part of the original leadership that helped establish the Pickett Endowment in 1982.

Carolyn says that the inspiration for the Endowment came from the then president of William Penn University, John Wagoner, after her parents had died. He recommended that the university's Board of Trustees co-sponsor the fund, and they approved it. Once approved, the idea spread quickly among Friends and a group of people that included members of the Pickett family and representatives from A.F.S.C. and William Penn University began to raise the funds needed. They were highly successful and able to build an endowment that allowed them to start making grants to young Friends in 1993.

“Wilmer Tjossem, a close family friend, helped raise the funds and develop ideas for the awards.”

In remembering the early years when funds were being sought to establish the Endowment, Carolyn says that Wilmer Tjossem, a representative of the American Friends Service Committee (A.F.S.C.) and a close family friend, helped raise the funds and develop ideas for the awards. “He wanted to take advantage of opportunities to support active service projects,” says Carolyn, “and to help young people find worthwhile activities where they could learn and express their Quaker concerns. He felt the goal was to spread the word, and to encourage young Friends to become leaders.

“When we started, we didn't know how to answer the question, how does one become a leader? But, we felt that the more experiences young people had, and the more they could travel, the more they would have to offer,” says Carolyn. “When I was young, people who were interested in Friends and peace visited us regularly,” says Carolyn. “Nehru [Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India and a leader of India's independence movement] was at our home on several occasions. And, I know, from these experiences, that it is necessary for young people to be exposed to new ideas and people, and to be able to explore ways to grow and develop.

The Endowment depends on the generosity of donors to continue its work, and I sincerely hope that individuals who know about the fund will support it now and in the future. I believe that it is an important resource for young Friends—especially in the world today.”