

Research Note: Fifty Years of American Quaker Statistics

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Abstract

American Quakerism, at least in terms of membership, is in serious decline. This decline has affected FUM-affiliated pastoral yearly meetings most severely, though nearly all of the oldest yearly meetings, regardless of theology or worship style, have declining membership. Some Evangelical Friends have seen tremendous growth in worship attendance, though this growth has been uneven. Where there has been growth in either membership or attendance, it appears to be largely the result of the establishment of new meetings and churches. If American Quakerism, in any form, is to survive over the long term, it must find ways to create new congregations at an increasing rate.

Non-pastoral Quakerism has seen the least decline in membership, though Evangelical Quakerism has seen the most growth in average attendance. Pastoral Friends remain a majority in membership and a very large majority in worship attendance.

Keywords

Membership, attendance, decline, growth, statistics, trends.

Aggregate counts of Quaker membership came about rather late and appear to be a product of the 'revival' in the middle of the nineteenth century among Orthodox Friends. Indiana Yearly Meeting first began regularly collecting statistics in 1865, with all other Gurneyite yearly meeting following suit in the next 20 years. Most Hicksite yearly meetings also began regular collection of membership statistics in the next half-century. Only Wilburites resisted the collection of statistics.¹

1 New England Yearly Meeting first reported membership statistics in 1866, followed by Iowa in 1867. Western authorised a statistical collection in 1868. New York first reported

In this period, nearly all yearly meetings would have counted all members, birthright and convinced and young and old, in one category. It was not until the adoption of the 'Uniform Discipline' of the Five Years Meeting (FYM) in 1902 that birthright membership was officially ended among Orthodox Friends and new categories of membership began to be created. The failure of the Five Years Meeting to maintain a centralised discipline after 1950, as well as the creation of newer yearly meetings of unprogrammed Friends, left membership defined in a variety of ways across the Quaker spectrum.

If Quaker membership statistics were late to be gathered and somewhat problematic, Quaker worship attendance statistics are even more vexing. Almost no yearly meetings kept regular figures before 1900, and the work required to gather averages from scores of local meetings for 52 Sundays each year created figures that varied widely from year to year.² Gradually, most Orthodox yearly meetings began keeping such figures before 1920, although, even now, a majority of Friends General Conference (FGC)-affiliated yearly meetings do not publish statistics for local worship attendance.

Despite all of these problems, most Friends have annually collected some statistics for at least a century and, by benchmarking the membership statistics of 1964, 1989 and 2014, several conclusions can be drawn about the last half-century. In the first year, 1964, a number of forces, including both ecumenism and an evangelical resurgence, were still actively at work in American Quakerism. New England Yearly Meeting had been reunited for fewer than 20 years, while New York, Philadelphia and Canadian had been reunited for fewer than ten. A few more years would pass before the two Baltimore yearly meetings would reunite. New England had joined FGC only a few years before. Evangelical Friends would organise a national body, the Evangelical Friends Alliance (EFA), the next year,

statistics in 1870, followed by North Carolina in 1872. The first statistics for Baltimore Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) were published in 1882. Among Orthodox Friends, only Philadelphia, dominated by Wilburites, did not begin collecting statistics in the nineteenth century. Apparently the first aggregate membership statistics were published in 1911. See *Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Friends Held in Philadelphia, 1911* (Philadelphia: Pile's Sons, 1911), p. 28. Hicksite yearly meetings also began publishing statistics during the same period. The first was New York in 1882. See *Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Held in New York* (New York: n.p., 1881), p. 5, and *Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held in New York* (New York: n.p., 1882), p. 9. New York (Hicksite) was followed by Indiana (1884), Illinois (1886), Philadelphia (1898) and Baltimore (1900). See *Extracts from the Minutes and of the Proceedings of Exercises of Indiana Yearly Meeting* (Richmond, IN: T. E. DeGarmon, 1884), appendix; *Minutes and Accompanying Documents of Illinois Yearly Meeting* (n.p., 1886), p. 90; *Minutes of the Proceedings of Baltimore Yearly Meeting* (Baltimore: John W. Kennedy, 1900), pp. 75–76; *Extracts from the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Friends Book Association, 1898), p. 58.

² New York Yearly Meeting (Orthodox) began publishing figures for the 'usual attendance' at worship in 1880 and continued to report these figures for several years.

and a body comprised of individual members, the Association of Evangelical Friends, still existed, with numerous members in yearly meetings affiliated with the Five Years Meeting. Nebraska Yearly Meeting had set off Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting only seven years before, and California Yearly Meeting was still an important part of the FYM. All but two of the new groups of meetings of unprogrammed Friends had not yet been organised as yearly meetings but were functioning as conferences and associations. Only South Central had already been organised as an FGC yearly meeting.

In 1964 (see Table 1, pp. 130–31) there were more than 122,000 Friends in the United States and Canada. Of those, the clear majority, over 70,000 persons, were affiliated with the FYM, which had been the largest body of Friends since its formation in 1902. Of FYM Friends, only about 11,000 were in the dually affiliated yearly meetings of Canadian, New England and New York. FGC had more than 32,000 members, including the 11,000 jointly affiliated with the Five Years Meeting. EFA had slightly more than 23,000 members.

Twenty-five years later, in 1989, the total number of Friends in the United States and Canada had declined to just over 107,000, a decrease of approximately 12 per cent. The largest loss came among Friends United Meeting, the name that FYM began using in 1966. FUM's membership declined to about 58,000, a loss of 17 per cent. FGC declined by fewer than one thousand members during the period, while EFA saw modest growth of approximately 1,300 members, or about 6 per cent.

The trends between 1964 and 1989 are evident. Most FUM-affiliated pastoral yearly meetings lost large numbers of members during the period: Indiana (-46 per cent), Iowa (-21 per cent), North Carolina (-18 per cent), Western (-38 per cent) and Wilmington (-38 per cent). The loss in California Yearly Meeting was slight (-1 per cent). The results for dually affiliated yearly meetings were mixed, with united Baltimore (+27 per cent), Canadian (+43 per cent) and New England (+26 per cent) showing growth, while New York showed decline (-28 per cent). Several new FGC yearly meetings were recognised during the period, including Lake Erie, Northern and Southern Appalachian, in addition to Southeastern, which also joined FUM. Of the older FGC yearly meetings, Philadelphia (-27 per cent) and Illinois (-10 per cent) declined, while Ohio Valley (formerly Indiana, FGC), grew (+15 per cent). Of the EFA yearly meetings, two grew (Eastern Region [formerly Ohio, Evangelical] [+8 per cent] and Northwest [formerly Oregon] [+30 per cent]), while two declined) Mid-America [formerly Kansas] [-10 per cent] and Rocky Mountain [-15 per cent]).

The trends in the 25-year period between 1989 and 2014 are more sobering. The total number of American Friends declined to 75,000, a loss of 30 per cent in a quarter-century and of 38 per cent in a half-century. The losses in membership have come across all branches. FUM has seen the largest decline. Its membership has fallen to 28,000, a 52 per cent drop since 1989 and a 60 per cent decline since 1964. Evangelical Friends Church International (EFCI), the name used by EFA since 2007, has fallen slightly to 22,000, an 11 per cent drop since 1989 and a

6 per cent decline since 1964. Part of the decline in FUM is due to the change of Southwest (formerly California) Yearly Meeting from FUM to Evangelical Friends International in 1993 as well as the withdrawal of Southeastern Yearly Meeting in 2010. In addition, Alaska Yearly Meeting transitioned from being a missionary endeavour to a full member of EFCI during the period, bolstering EFCI's numbers.³ Even FGC has seen a small decline of 3 per cent since 1989 and of 5 per cent since 1964, despite the addition of Intermountain Yearly Meeting during the period. Conservative Friends, as well, have seen declines of 6 per cent since 1989 and 14 per cent since 1964. All branches of Friends have declined in membership in the last 50 years, with the possible exception of the spiritual descendants of the Pacific Association, sometimes called 'Beanite Quakers' in Pacific, North Pacific and Intermountain yearly meetings, who have collectively seen an increase of 12 per cent since 1989 and of 41 per cent since 1964.

The trends within yearly meetings are also revealing. The pastoral yearly meetings of FUM have seen the largest declines: Indiana (-70 per cent since 1989 and -84 per cent since 1964), Iowa (-44 per cent since 1989 and -51 per cent since 1964), North Carolina (-41 per cent since 1989 and -52 per cent since 1964), Western (-63 per cent since 1989 and -77 per cent since 1964) and Wilmington (-48 per cent since 1989 and -68 per cent since 1964). The pastoral yearly meetings in EFCI have also all seen declines in membership: Alaska (-65 per cent since 1989 and -33 per cent since 1964), Eastern Region (-7 per cent since 1989 and -0.2 per cent since 1964), Mid-America (-45 per cent since 1989 and -51 per cent since 1964), Northwest (-38 per cent since 1989 and -20 per cent since 1964), Rocky Mountain (-17 per cent since 1989 and -29 per cent since 1964) and Southwest (-53 per cent since 1989 and -54 per cent since 1964).⁴

The membership of liberal Friends has fared better than pastoral Friends, though the gains have tended to be in newer yearly meetings. Of the FGC yearly meetings that existed in 1964, only three, Baltimore (+4 per cent), Illinois (+6 per cent) and South Central (+309 per cent) grew in membership between 1989 and 2014, while the other older yearly meetings, Canadian (-2 per cent), New England (-11 per cent), New York (-31 per cent), Ohio Valley (-18 per cent) and Philadelphia (-17 per cent), all declined during the period. All but one

3 Without the addition of Southwest, EFCI would have declined by 15 per cent instead of 11 per cent between 1989 and 2014.

4 The decline in Midwestern pastoral yearly meetings has long been an identified concern. Louis T. Jones, in *The Quakers of Iowa* (Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1914), pp. 88–89, raises the concern that Iowa Yearly Meeting's membership was then 'depleted'. By 1950 the booklet *Trends in American and Canadian Quakerism* (London: Friends World Committee for Consultation, n.d.) noted that Indiana Yearly Meeting's membership was in 'constant decline' (p. 21), while Western's was said to have had a 'loss in membership' (p. 60), and Wilmington was in 'gradual decline' (p. 61). Thomas D. Hamm also recognises the decline in pastoral yearly meetings in *The Quakers in America* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), p. 151.

of the yearly meetings with large gains in the last quarter-century are newer, unprogrammed yearly meetings: Intermountain (+38 per cent), North Pacific (+50 per cent), Northern (+269 per cent), South Central (+187 per cent) and Southern Appalachian (+108 per cent). North Carolina (Conservative) also had a gain of 34 per cent. The large percentage gains are exaggerated by the fact that these yearly meetings were originally quite small.

Quaker Worship Attendance Statistics

Despite the rather dismal picture that membership trends paint for pastoral Friends in particular, attendance trends bode better, especially for Evangelical Friends. In fact, attendance at churches affiliated with EFA/EFCI increased 11 per cent between 1964 and 1989 and increased 47 per cent between 1989 and 2014, even as membership was falling (see Table 2, pp. 132–33). Most of the increase between 1989 and 2014 is due to the change of Southwest Yearly Meeting from FUM to EFCI; however, EFCI's attendance increased even without the addition of Southwest Yearly Meeting. The increase, however, is uneven, as the rest of the gains came entirely from Eastern Region, where worship attendance rose from just over nine thousand in 1964 to over eleven thousand in 1989 to over fifteen thousand in 2014. Southwest's attendance trends are similar, rising from just over four thousand in 1964 to over six thousand in 1989 and over nine thousand in 2014. Both yearly meetings have multiple churches that report over five hundred in average weekend attendance.⁵ Worship attendance has declined in every other yearly meeting that has consistently reported for the years under study. The large growth in Eastern Region and Southwest has largely offset these declines and, in fact, reported average attendance at worship for all Friends in North America appears to have changed very little over the period, ranging from just over fifty thousand in 1964 to just over forty-nine thousand in 1989 and just over fifty-four thousand in 2014. The growth has come almost entirely from Evangelical Friends.

Despite the fact that FGC yearly meetings now comprise a plurality of American Friends, pastoral yearly meetings still make up a majority of American Quakerism even in terms of membership. Though attendance figures are more elusive, attendance at pastoral congregations is clearly larger than at non-pastoral ones. In 2014 an average of forty-three thousand people attended a pastoral 'Friends Church' each week. The aggregate average weekly attendance at unprogrammed Friends meetings must be somewhat less than half that amount.⁶

5 Eastern Region includes seven congregations that average more than five hundred on a weekend, including four that average over one thousand. Southwest includes three congregations that average more than five hundred on a weekend, including two that average over one thousand. The largest, Yorba Linda Friends, reported an average attendance of more than four thousand a weekend in 2014.

6 Since many unprogrammed yearly meetings do not collect or report attendance figures, the estimate of their average was taken as an aggregate of reported attendance figures for

What is clear is that the average attendance at pastoral meetings is far larger than at unprogrammed meetings, while among pastoral Friends Evangelicals tend to have far larger average worship attendance than FUM Friends. Among EFCI yearly meetings that reported attendance in 2014, the average-size church for the group was 125. Among pastoral FUM Friends, the average was 50. The combined average of all pastoral Friends was 90 per church. Among non-pastoral Friends that reported average attendance in 2014, the average was 27 per local meeting, about half the size of FUM pastoral churches and about one-fifth the size of EFCI churches.

Comparisons with Larger Trends

A 2015 Pew Study found trends that are mirrored among American Quakers.⁷ The overall decline in American religious identification has fallen largely on mainline denominations, those with whom FUM would have the most in common, including membership in the National Council of Churches. In addition, the Pew Study found that evangelical identification held steady, something that also seems to be reflected in the growing worship attendance among Evangelical Friends. The Pew Study also found stability or even limited growth within religious liberalism, something that is also probably reflected in the stable numbers among FGC Friends.

The trends in other denominations do seem to mirror Friends, though Friends seem to have performed less well than their counterparts overall. In general, Evangelical Friends and liberal Friends have shown less growth than other evangelicals and liberals, while mainline Friends have shown larger declines than almost all other mainline denominations.⁸

yearly meetings that do report plus the total membership of those who do not, a figure of 19,110. The actual figure, if the unreported yearly meetings are equal in average percentage of membership attending worship to those unprogrammed meetings that do report, is probably approximately 13,400.

⁷ *America's Changing Religious Landscape* (Pew Research Center, 12 May 2015), pp. 3, 21. The Pew Study found that the percentage of self-identified Mainline Protestants fell from 18.1 per cent to 14.7 per cent between 2007 and 2014, while the percentage of self-identified Evangelical Protestants fell only from 26.3 per cent to 25.4 per cent. 'Unitarians and other liberal faiths' were found to have shown modest growth, from 0.7 per cent to 1.0 per cent, during the period. Interestingly, Friends are listed in the study only as 'Friends in the mainline tradition' and showed no change, at 0.3 per cent, in the period.

⁸ According to the Association of Religion Data Archives, www.thearda.com, the Church of the Nazarene and the Wesleyan Church, evangelical holiness bodies, theologically akin to Evangelical Friends, have seen growth of more than 90 per cent and more than 70 per cent respectively in the past 50 years. The same source shows that the Unitarian Universalist Association, somewhat akin to the most liberal Friends, has grown more than 30 per cent during the period. In addition, nearly all of the larger mainline denominations have shown smaller percentage declines in the past 50 years than have mainline FUM Friends: American Baptist Churches -12 per cent; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Causes of the Decline and Explanations for Growth

The raw statistics themselves do not reveal the reasons for Quaker decline. The largest declines have come in the yearly meetings that were once the vanguard of American pastoral Quakerism. These yearly meetings – Indiana, Western, North Carolina, Kansas, Iowa and Wilmington – have all long been disproportionately rural. Most have not recently done a good job of extending into urban or suburban areas. Another explanation for the decline of American Quakerism is, put simply, the decline in popularity of nominal church membership. In support of this is Table 3 (see pp. 134–35), which shows the 25 largest Friends' meetings in North America in 1964. Of the 25, only one, Newberg Friends in Oregon, had any net growth in membership or attendance during the period between 1964 and 2014. Of the 24 others, all but three have declined in membership by more than 50 per cent during the period. The decline for many of them has been almost unbelievable, with several being less than one-fifth of their previous size in 2014. This is largely regardless of region, theology or worship style. Among these meetings that have reported attendance, all but one have seen declines in 50 years, though the declines are generally less in attendance than in membership, and the attendance as a percentage of membership has grown on average for this group. In short, nominal church membership is far less common than it was in 1964, though the once-strongest congregations have weakened considerably in 50 years by almost any measure.

The yearly meetings that have seen the largest gains in membership all tend to have one factor in common: they have larger numbers of newer local meetings than is typical. They are expanding into areas that were previously unknown to Friends, and they are often working in college communities and urban and suburban centres. Of Intermountain's present local meetings and worship groups, less than a half existed in 1989, and less than a quarter existed in 1964. Of South Central's meetings and worship groups, fewer than 70 per cent existed in 1989 and just over one-third existed in 1964. In Northern Yearly Meeting, just over one-third existed in 1989 and less than one-tenth existed in 1964. In Southern Appalachian, just over one-half existed in 1989 and just over one-fifth existed in 1964. It seems likely that many of these new meetings have been created by or benefited from programmes such as FGC's 'Quaker Quest', which seeks to draw new converts to liberal Friends.⁹ In addition, unprogrammed meetings

-21 per cent; United Methodist Church -30 per cent; Presbyterian Church, USA -35 per cent, Episcopal Church -41 per cent, United Church of Christ -48 per cent and Christian Church [Disciples of Christ] -64 per cent. In short, Friends have performed less well than their theological counterparts in almost every denomination.

9 The number of local meetings was determined by using the most current list of local meetings and worship groups and comparing that list with the 1964 and 1989 minutes or, when not available, using Thomas C. Hill's *Monthly Meetings in North America* (www.quakermeetings.com) to determine when local meetings were established. A simple statistical

are undoubtedly easier to establish and maintain, since they mostly eschew paid leadership and, at least in their formative years, often eschew owning property.

The two yearly meetings that have seen growth in reported worship attendance, Eastern Region and Southwest, have both been very intentional about planting new churches. Of the 39 local churches in Southwest in 2014, only 18 existed in 1964. A quarter of Eastern Region's present churches did not exist in 1964. The pastoral yearly meetings with the greatest decline in membership have, collectively, a very poor recent record in establishing new congregations. Indiana Yearly Meeting includes only one monthly meeting and two preparative meetings that have been created since 1964. Wilmington Yearly Meeting includes only one meeting created since 1964, while Western Yearly Meeting has no meetings created in the last 50 years. Both Indiana and Western have tried, largely without success, to plant several new churches in the past 50 years.

Limitations

In addition to the problems inherent in religious statistics in general, there are other limitations to Quaker statistics. The membership that has been used here is total membership as reported to the yearly meeting in the years under examination. The definition of membership varies widely among Friends. In many cases, reporting periods vary, with some yearly meetings collecting for a calendar year, while others use some other 12-month period. In addition, the author has been forced to rely on the use of statistics reported to the Friends World Committee in places where yearly meeting statistics are not collected or are not reported in the annual minutes. Another limitation is the issue of unaffiliated local meetings who have left yearly meetings during the last 20 years of organisational unrest. Approximately 20 such meetings exist in Indiana, Illinois and North Carolina. In addition, the meetings of the two newer 'associations' that are affiliated with FUM, the Western Association and the New Association, do not collect statistics and are, therefore, difficult to evaluate.

Conclusions

American Quakerism, at least in terms of membership, is in serious decline. This decline has affected FUM-affiliated pastoral yearly meetings most severely, though nearly all of the oldest yearly meetings, regardless of theology or worship style, have declining membership. Some Evangelical Friends have seen tremendous growth in worship attendance, though this growth has been uneven.

calculation was done for the yearly meetings that existed in both 1964 and 2014, comparing the percentage of newly established local meetings in the yearly meeting since 1964 with the percentage of membership gain or loss since 1964. The results were $R = 0.6964$, $N=22$, $p<0.05$ for the group, showing a moderate positive correlation between the variables.

Where there has been growth in either membership or attendance, it appears to be largely the result of the establishment of new meetings and churches. If American Quakerism, in any form, is to survive over the long term, it must find ways to create new congregations at an increasing rate.

Non-pastoral Quakerism has seen the least decline in membership, though Evangelical Quakerism has seen the most growth in average attendance. Pastoral Friends remain a majority in membership and a very large majority in worship attendance.

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Table 1. Quaker Yearly Meeting membership 1964–1989–2014

Yearly Meeting	Present affiliation	1964	1989	2014	% change 1964–1989	% change 1989–2014	% change 1964–2014
Alaska	EFCI	1500	2860	1000	90.67%	-65.03%	-33.33%
Alaska Conference	FGC			185			
Baltimore (FGC)	FGC	2224	4387	4564	26.94%	4.03%	32.06%
Baltimore (FUM)	FUM	1232					
Canadian	FGC-FUM	807	1151	1130	42.63%	-1.82%	40.02%
Central		501	286	232	-42.91%	-18.88%	-53.69%
Eastern Region	EFCI	8002	8606	7987	7.55%	-7.19%	-0.19%
Great Plains	FUM	373	947	499	153.89%	-47.31%	33.78%
Illinois	FGC	1034	933	985	-9.77%	5.57%	-4.74%
Indiana	FUM	13152	7098	2114	-46.03%	-70.22%	-83.93%
Intermountain	FGC		783	1083		38.31%	
Iowa	Conservative	736	578	540	-21.47%	-6.57%	-26.63%
Iowa	FUM	5670	4947	2762	-12.75%	-44.17%	-51.29%
Lake Erie	FGC	511	1000	769	95.69%	-23.10%	50.49%
Mid-America	EFCI	8119	7331	4010	-9.71%	-45.30%	-50.61%
New Association	FUM			730			
New England	FGC-FUM	3282	4149	3704	26.42%	-10.73%	12.86%
New York	FGC-FUM	6705	4810	3299	-28.26%	-31.41%	-50.80%
North Carolina	Conservative	250	400	536	60.00%	34.00%	114.40%
North Carolina	FUM	14837	12203	7148	-17.75%	-41.42%	-51.82%
North Pacific			590	887		50.34%	
Northern	FGC		400	1475		268.75%	
Northwest	EFCI	5915	7682	4736	29.87%	-38.35%	-19.93%
Ohio	Conservative	845	700	505	-17.16%	-27.86%	-40.24%

Yearly Meeting	Present affiliation	1964	1989	2014	% change 1964–1989	% change 1989–2014	% change 1964–2014
Ohio Valley	FGC	720	827	675	14.86%	-18.38%	-6.25%
Pacific		<i>2309</i>	<i>1538</i>	1285	-33.39%	-16.45%	-44.35%
Philadelphia	FGC	17500	12823	10635	-26.73%	-17.06%	-39.23%
Piedmont	FGC						
Rocky Mountain	EFCI	1606	1369	1133	-14.76%	-17.24%	-29.45%
South Central	FGC	<i>211</i>	<i>300</i>	862	42.18%	187.33%	308.53%
Southeastern	FGC	<i>278</i>	<i>524</i>	<i>512</i>		-2.29%	
Southern Appalachian	FGC		<i>502</i>	<i>1044</i>		107.97%	
Southwest	EFCI	7515	7404	3460	-1.48%	-53.27%	-53.96%
Western	FUM	12410	7729	2836	-37.72%	-63.31%	-77.15%
Western Association	FUM			<i>400</i>			
Wilmington	FUM	4434	2763	1441	-37.69%	-47.85%	-67.50%
EFCI		23642	24988	22326	5.69%	-10.65%	-5.57%
FUM		70417	58112	28056	-17.47%	-51.72%	-60.16%
FGC		32483	31806	30922	-2.08%	-2.78%	-4.81%
Conservative		1831	1678	1581	-8.36%	-5.78%	-13.65%
Pacific		2309	2911	3255	26.07%	11.82%	40.97%
Total		122678	107620	75163	-12.27%	-30.16%	-38.73%

Notes: numbers in Roman font are taken from the published minutes of the yearly meeting except for Iowa (Conservative), North Pacific, Philadelphia and Southwest in 2014, which were provided directly by the yearly meeting to the author. Rocky Mountain's statistics are from 2013. Numbers in italic font are taken, for the 1964 column, from Handbook of the Religious Society of Friends (Birmingham, UK: FWCC, 1962), for the 1989 column from Finding Friends Around the World (London: FWCC, 1988) and, for the 2014 column, from the FWCC Section of the Americas Website (www.fwccamericas.org/find_friends/stats_by_country.shtml). The numbers in the 2014 column for the New Association of Friends are those provided to Indiana Yearly Meeting at the time of the creation of the New Association.

Table 2. Quaker Yearly Meetings attendance statistics 1964–1989–2014

Yearly Meeting	Branch	1964	1989	2014	% change 1964–1989	% change 1989–2014	% change 1964–2014	Local meetings in 2014	2014 Average worship attendance
Alaska	EFCI	No reported attendance statistics							
Alaska Conference	FGC	No reported attendance statistics							
Baltimore	FGC-FUM		2470					42	58.81
Canadian	FGC-FUM	471	530		12.53%			27	19.63
Central*		424	228	223	-46.23%	-2.19%	-47.41%	7	31.86
Eastern Region	EFCI	9186	11727	15286	27.66%	30.35%	66.41%	89	171.75
Great Plains	FUM	149						5	71.80
Illinois	FGC	437	602	359	37.76%	-40.37%	-17.85%	18	19.94
Indiana	FUM	6277	4760	2721	-24.17%	-42.84%	-56.65%	46	59.15
Intermountain	FGC	No reported attendance statistics							
Iowa	Conservative	No reported attendance statistics							
Iowa	FUM	2961	2362	1523	-20.23%	-35.52%	-48.56%	33	46.15
Lake Erie	FGC		573					28	20.46
Mid-America**	EFCI	5427	4325	3232	-20.31%	-25.27%	-40.45%	64	31.27
New Association***	FUM	469						15	19.49
New England	FGC-FUM	1585	2012	1267	26.94%	-37.03%	-20.06%	65	18.95
New York	FGC-FUM		1251					66	63.53
North Carolina	Conservative	No reported attendance statistics							
North Carolina	FUM	7365	5742	4574	-22.04%	-20.34%	-37.90%	72	
North Pacific		No reported attendance statistics							
Northern	FGC	No reported attendance statistics							

Yearly Meeting	Branch	1964	1989	2014	% change 1964–1989	% change 1989–2014	% change 1964–2014	Local meetings in 2014	2014 Average worship attendance
Northwest****	EFCI	4888	5651	4099	15.61%	-27.46%	-16.14%	54	75.91
Ohio	Conservative	No reported	attendance statistics						
Ohio Valley	FGC	360	373			3.61%		19	19.63
Pacific		No reported	attendance statistics						
Philadelphia*****	FGC		3215					105	30.62
Piedmont	FGC	No reported	attendance statistics						
Rocky Mountain	EFCI	1172	1107	694	-5.55%	-37.31%	-40.78%	14	49.57
South Central	FGC	No reported	attendance statistics						
Southeastern	FGC	No reported	attendance statistics						
Southern Appalachian	FGC	No reported	attendance statistics						
Southwest	EFCI	4283	6149	9275	43.57%	50.84%	116.55%	39	237.82
Western	FUM	4374	2712	1103	-38.00%	-59.33%	-74.78%	43	25.65
Western Association	FUM	No reported	attendance statistics						
Wilmington	FUM	1725	1089	700	-36.87%	-35.72%	-59.42%	28	25.00
EFCI		19501	21703	31892	11.29%	46.95%	63.54%		
FUM		21205	19555	10463	-7.78%	-46.49%	-50.66%		
FGC		Insufficient reporting							
TOTAL		50104	49297	54086					

Notes: * Bible School Attendance; ** 1989 figures are from 1990; *** 2012 figures from the time of separation from Indiana Yearly Meeting; **** figures are 2013 minutes because approximately half of the churches made no report in 2014; ***** 2014 figures are from 2013 report of meeting attendance.

Table 3. Twenty-Five largest Friends meetings in 1964

Church/meeting	Yearly Meeting	1964 membership	2014 membership	50 year % change	1964 attendance	2014 attendance	50 year % change
Whittier First*	California	1531	50	-96.73%	460	50	-89.13%
Indianapolis First	Western	1103	313	-71.62%	255	103	-59.61%
University, Kansas	Kansas	1044	410	-60.73%	384	103	-73.18%
High Point**	North Carolina	983	137	-86.06%	226	71	-68.58%
Alamitos	California	924	111	-87.99%	377	125	-66.84%
Muncie***	Indiana	916	105	-88.54%	252	67	-73.41%
Richmond First***	Indiana	875	123	-85.94%	260	73	-71.92%
Wilmington, Ohio	Wilmington	869	183	-78.94%	177	60	-66.10%
Moorestown	Philadelphia	843	361	-57.18%	No report	No report	N/A
Marion First	Indiana	827	109	-86.82%	232	88	-62.07%
Washington	Baltimore	780	402	-48.46%	No report	No report	N/A
Plainfield	Western	688	251	-63.52%	156	56	-64.10%
Wilmington, Delaware	Philadelphia	661	222	-66.41%	No report	No report	N/A
West Richmond***	Indiana	650	104	-84.00%	167	61	-63.47%
Germantown	Philadelphia	635	417	-34.33%	No report	No report	N/A
Carmel	Western	641	88	-86.27%	264	70	-73.48%
Archdale	North Carolina	634	209	-67.03%	239	138	-42.26%
Kokomo Union Street	Western	621	307	-50.56%	153	72	-52.94%
New York	New York	618	190	-69.26%	No report	50	N/A
Salem First	Ohio	613	301	-50.90%	472	371	-21.40%
Winston-Salem	North Carolina	588	No report	No report	216	No report	N/A
Newberg	Oregon	574	727	26.66%	324	389	20.06%

Church/meeting	Yearly Meeting	1964 membership	2014 membership	50 year % change	1964 attendance	2014 attendance	50 year % change
Spiceland**	Indiana	570	258	-54.74%	168	110	-34.52%
Greensboro First****	North Carolina	557	149	-73.25%	163	94	-42.33%
Cambridge	New England	543	412	-24.13%	325	168	-48.31%

Notes: *2014 statistics are an estimate from 'New First Friend's Church Pastor Has Open Ear, Open Mind', *Whittier Daily News*, 11 March 2010; **2014 Statistics are actually from 2013; ***2014 Statistics are from 2012 report to Indiana Yearly Meeting; ****2014 worship statistics are from 2013.