

## **06 Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee of the Friends General Conference**

---

28 April 2007

Faith and Order,  
World Council of Churches

Dear Dr. Tamara Grdzeldze:

Friends General Conference has referred both F&O paper #198 and PRC 01.1 Rev, "Called to be One Church," to its Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee (CIRC), the body through which its ecumenical and interfaith work is done.

We, of the Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee, have received with interest these papers. We have noticed that significant changes have been made since F&O Paper #181, *The Nature and Purpose of the Church*. We are especially gratified by the careful attention to our approach to Baptism in "Called to be One Church," section 8. In *The Nature and Mission of the Church* we notice the great care with which the known conflicts regarding baptism are treated. On page 21, both (f) and (g) speak to strands of thought common among Friends. We welcome the opportunity to engage the whole document and the many issues that it challenges us to consider.

Our plan to respond to this document is to take two and a half years to discern a response for Friends General Conference through a series of consultations and timely reports to the Central Committee. This is in keeping with our approach to F&O Paper #181.

The dialogue among ourselves that we expect "Called to be the One Church" to engender will be as important as the response we send to you. Like many member communions we are experiencing deep divisions; while the more pressing problems are our own ecclesial ones, the questions in "Called to be the One Church" are pertinent and important. We shall recommend that this document be sent to our constituent yearly meetings for their prayerful consideration. We plan to have a response to you in about a year and a half. We continue to think it important to work for an understanding of church nuanced enough to include the Religious Society of Friends.

Yours in the Spirit,

Virginia Driscoll Co-Clerk, CIRC

Dorothy Walizer Co-Clerk, CIRC