

Welcome Home!

A Campaign to Sustain Friends Meeting of Washington Into the 21st Century

Since 2001, Friends have been engaged in wide-ranging discussions concerning work on our buildings that would make the entire complex - Meeting House, Carriage House, and Quaker House - accessible to everyone who visits us. In addition, we have wanted to make our gardens more welcoming, and sought improvements that would help sustain our work.

As you know, at long last we have a plan that accomplishes our goals for a reasonable price and with deference to Quaker simplicity. The plans are in place, posted in the Assembly Room and on the [Capital Improvements Task Force page](#) on the FMW website.

Members of the Capital Campaign Committee can also show you a virtual reality walk-through of the building.

Please take time to examine the plans and imagine how the construction, once completed, will create a new welcoming openness to our community. Although our discernment has led to a plan costing approximately one half the amount of the earlier proposal, the price tag for this project is, nonetheless, approximately \$2 million. We don't minimize the difficulty of raising this amount of money from a Meeting community that has been struggling to raise an annual budget of \$200,000 for the past several years. This capital campaign calls on Friends to make additional substantial contributions totaling ten times the amount of our current annual giving while maintaining or increasing that annual giving.

FMW's Capital Campaign at a Glance:

There are three major parts of this construction plan:

- A. An elevator located to provide access to nearly all parts of the campus.
- B. A two-level glass enclosed hallway connecting our three buildings into a unit.
- C. Major regrading of the back garden, leveling one part to be even with the Assembly Room while building up the other part to be even with Quaker House Living Room.



This is a bird's eye view of the FMW "Campus" seen from Decatur Place, looking north. The original Meeting House is the grey set of buildings on the right, Carriage House and Quaker House are the reddish buildings on the left. Note the new entrance into the Meeting property between the Meeting House and Carriage House. The tall grey stone structure houses the new elevator, which will make virtually the entire Meeting property accessible to all users.



Here's a birdseye view of the back garden. The Meeting House is on the left, Quaker House on the right, with Carriage House and the new connecting structure in between. Improvements to notice: (1) The doors leading out of the Assembly Room are level with the back garden – no more steps inside the Assembly Room and no change in height outside. (2) There is a new two-story hallway that connects the three buildings on the campus, with a water-retaining green roof and glass windows opening onto views of the garden. (3) The back garden now has two levels — a lower level that is even with the floor of the Assembly Room and an upper level that is even with the floor of Quaker House. A diagonal staircase connects the lower and upper levels of the back garden.

Why are we making these improvements?

1. **Accessibility.** For many years, Friends' commitment to equality of opportunity for all has been frustrated by the age and design of our historic campus. Many parts of our campus are now off-limits if you are using a wheelchair, a walker or a stroller. The *new elevator*, together with the *two-level hallway* attached to the north side of Carriage House and Quaker House, open up almost all rooms on our campus; the re-grading of the rear garden to make it level with the Assembly Room floor permits access to that space. Together, the improvements carry out our commitment to openness to all.
2. **More Welcoming Entrance.** Today, entering the Meeting House through the Decatur Place doorway, one faces three steps; that lead to a cramped hallway back to the Assembly Room. In contrast, the *new entryway* will be a welcoming, sun-filled glass-enclosed space with views of the garden and a choice of stairs or an elevator to rise to the Meeting Room level. The new entryway is not only gracious, but will permit visitors to be met and welcomed, improving our public face and increasing security.
3. **Greening the Campus.** Both the extensive re-grading and the new green roof will reduce storm water runoff from our property. Our neighborhood is served by the DC combined sewer system. Reducing our runoff will reduce the overflow of raw sewage into the Potomac during major storm events. Efficient zoned heat pumps throughout Quaker House and Carriage House and in the new addition will allow us to allocate heating and cooling to occupied spaces as needed. The new

corridor will substantially reduce heat gain/loss through the uninsulated walls of Quaker House and Carriage House, reducing energy use in those spaces. Our spaces, indoors and out, will be more intensively used and increasing the benefit from our buildings without increasing the environmental cost.

4. **Improved Spaces for Meeting Use and for Sharing With Others.** The *improved access and circulation* within our buildings will make the campus as a whole easier for our own use and it will permit us to host like-minded organizations seeking meeting or office space.
5. **Bringing the outside and the inside together in harmony.** Our property is blessed with lovely garden space on both sides of the Meeting House, yet our building design cuts us off from nature. By *opening up our space* with doors on the same level as the garden and with windows that bring the inside and outside together, we honor Quaker testimonies concerning our relationship with nature.
6. **Designed to Permit Rental Use by Others.** With an outdoor space designed to permit setting up tents, tables, and even dance floors, we make our downtown property appealing for meetings and weddings. Short-term rentals can raise several thousand dollars per event; that *additional income* can be used to support Quaker witness as Friends choose.

Friends, acting together in 1930 and again in the 1960s, gave our Quaker community the gift of a beautiful building that has served us well. Now it's our turn to share our good fortune with today's users of our property and to provide a gift to future Quakers and to those whose work we support. Let's do our part.