Friends World News
The Bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this is a single but larger edition for 2020.

fwcc.world
About the Friends World Committee for Consultation

The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker community circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. FWCC programs unite Friends around the world through Spirit-led fellowship.

Our work with the Quaker United Nations Offices, both by appointing members to their governing committees and by providing consultative status, offers a means to engage Quakers in world affairs. Our consultation extends to those of other faiths through work with the World Council of Churches and Christian World Communions.

Our Mission

Answering God’s call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. (Approved 2006)

History

In 1937, after years of concerned work to reconnect a fragmented Quaker world, the Second World Conference of Friends created the FWCC “to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over.” Today, Friends from yearly meetings and groups in 75 nations continue this work. Around the world there are four cooperating, autonomous FWCC Sections serving Africa, the Americas, Asia and the West Pacific, and Europe and the Middle East. FWCC’s World Office is in London.

FWCC World Office

The world office is based at Friends House in London, England. It serves four main roles:
• Organise world gatherings, including triennial meetings and consultations of Quakers world-wide.
• Support and maintain contact with the work of the four FWCC sections and the Quaker United Nations Offices.
• Coordinate the International Membership programme, which joins isolated Friends and worship groups to the wider Quaker community.
• Promote an understanding of the world-wide character of the Society of Friends, through conferences, staff travel, correspondence and publications, and through ecumenical and interfaith work on behalf of Friends.

Further information about FWCC and its activities can be obtained from the World Office or the Section Offices, whose addresses are on the back cover of Friends World News. Contributions to the work of FWCC are always welcome and can be sent to any of the offices.

Friends World News

Friends World News, the bulletin of FWCC, is published twice yearly. If you wish to receive a personal copy, please contact the World Office (or the Section of the Americas if you live in North America). There is no set subscription fee, but a donation would be welcome. Please send to the World Office anything you would like considered for publication in Friends World News — articles, letters, news, photographs and other illustrations, about the activities and religious witness of Friends. All materials received will be acknowledged although the editor cannot make any commitment to publish. Please say if you wish photographs or other materials to be returned.

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• Together we are building a strong and vital Religious Society of Friends.
• Together we are strengthening the worldwide network of Friends.
• Together we are bringing our Quaker message to the world.

Please give generously to support the world family of Friends.

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For more about FWCC please visit our website: fwcc.world
Nothing Can Keep Us from the Love of God

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, not powers, nor height, nor depth . . .

(my insert) nor coronavirus, nor lockdown, nor deprivation, nor social distancing . . .
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

— Romans 8: 38–39

This bible quote has stood by me these last many months. Indeed, there is nothing that can separate us from our love of God. Throughout these many months of uncertainty, my strength has come from my love of God and my love of Quakers, not only those people I love, not only the supportive spiritual community that refuses to be inactive, but the Quaker way of being in the world. I gain insight and courage from the balance of patience and persistence of Friends, when it comes to supporting people where they are, to listening, to helping one another up with a tender hand, and speaking truth to power.

We have a great yearning for change — both on the wings of the Spirit, and with our feet planted firmly on the soil. The pandemic is the great revealer, allowing us to see with new eyes the inequities of our world structures, which have been building ineffective walls over centuries of history. Written by several church leaders, Calling for an Economy of Life in the Time of Pandemic reflects this Quaker sense.

In its light we see anew and afresh the distorted realities and inequities powerful interests have passed off as ‘normal’ and unquestionable. Covid-19 could become the great leveller if we harness its revelation for a transformation which raises up those who have been cast down by exploitative and supremacist systems. This is a call to conversion, where we are called to listen to the groaning of all creation and its hope of redemption (Romans 8: 22–23).

The path toward change is rarely free from challenge, but our faith makes us strong and gives us courage for the journey. Even in darkness, our steps are illuminated by the Light, as described here by Quaker theologian Howard Thurman:

Waiting is a window opening on many landscapes. . . . It is the experience of recovering balance when catapulted from one’s place. It is the quiet forming of a pattern of recollection in which there is called into focus the fragmentary values from myriad encounters of many kinds in a lifetime of living. It is to watch a gathering darkness until all light is swallowed up completely without the power to interfere or bring a halt. Then to continue one’s journey in the darkness with one’s footsteps guided by the illumination of remembered radiance is to know courage of a peculiar kind — the
courage to demand that light continue to be light even in the surrounding darkness. To 
walk in the light while darkness invades, envelops, and surrounds is to wait on the Lord. 
This is to know the renewal of strength. This is to walk and faint not.

— Howard Thurman, The Inward Journey, pp. 81–82

Let us renew our strength. Let us move steadily toward the Light in this dark night. 
Let us feel the presence of Love at this Christmas time, for there is nothing that can 
separate us from our love of God and our love of one another.

Stay safe and stay close to those you love.

In God’s care,

Gretchen Castle
GENERAL SECRETARY, FWCC WORLD OFFICE
What Canst Thou Say?

Recently I heard a comment made by the late and former Chief Rabbi of the Commonwealth Jonathan Sacks to the former Anglican Bishop of Liverpool James Jones. Sacks asked Jones what the three most important words that Jesus ever said were and then pointed out that in his opinion they were ‘But I say,’ telling the Bishop that the Rabbis of Jesus time would never have used those words in addressing the people.

We in the Quaker community have our own well known quote from Fox on this issue. These words were recorded by Margaret Fell on remembering George Fox’s first visit to Swarthmoor Hall and the impact it had on her.

‘And so he went on and said, How that Christ was the Light of the world and lighteth every man that cometh into the world; and that by this Light they might be gathered to God, etc. And I stood up in my pew, and I wondered at his doctrine, for I had never heard such before. And then he went on, and opened the Scriptures, and said, The Scriptures were the prophets’ words and Christ’s and the apostles’ words, and what as they spoke they enjoyed and possessed and had it from the Lord’. And then he said, ‘Then what had any to do with the Scriptures, but as they came to the Spirit that gave them forth. You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say this; but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of Light and hast walked in the Light, and what thou speakest is it inwardly from God?’

Margaret Fell records that she had never heard a message like this before. ‘But what canst thou say?’ must have been an utterly radical and new challenge to a 17th century woman in the constraining Puritan society of the time but it was a message centred round the biblical principles and teachings that Margaret knew so well.

What both Jonathan Sacks and Margaret Fell are recognising is the transforming power and message of the prophetic God given voice. It is a voice that can claim to speak with authority because it has been tried and tested by personal experience under the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Friends, mostly once again through experience, have wisely over the years established structures and safeguards which ensure that such prophetic voices amongst us are God given. We call this discerning the will of God and it is central to all that we as Friends do.

Yet it is vital that we continue to have those Friends amongst us who challenge us and make us feel uncomfortable whether it be about our use of fossil fuels, or the products we buy which are made in less than fair and equitable conditions, or whether it is about the fact that we are resistant to the transformation a loving God wants to do in our lives. We are fearful of handing over that life to the Inward Light of Christ so that it might do its work in us.
And as we have found from both biblical and early Friend’s history, not all the prophetic voices were like Nathan or Deborah or Isaiah. Some were kings of Israel living in grand palaces like Solomon and others were servant girls such as Mary Fisher. God’s prophetic voices are often found in pretty unusual places.

While God’s work and purpose amongst us is both steadfast and consistent, it is also ever refreshing and renewing. And so each of us, as servants of the Living Inward Light of Christ are potential tools for transformation, potential prophetic voices for change in the world around us and in the lives of those we meet.

Are we seeking to be obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit within us, so that our prophetic voice might be heard?

Simon C Lamb
CLERK, FWCC WORLD OFFICE
Report from the FWCC Treasurer

Dear Friends,

At FWCC, we are very grateful for the support of Friends around the world in providing the funds which enable us to carry out work of FWCC on your behalf. The work of FWCC is sustained by gifts from individual Friends, which come to FWCC either directly, or through local and yearly meetings, or FWCC Sections. Some are the result of earlier generosity as legacies and trust funds. They all represent concrete expressions of support from across the Quaker world for the work of FWCC. We recognise that this is a time when pressure on personal finances is growing.

The challenge for the FWCC World Office is to achieve a balance between operating income and expenditure, whilst also accumulating reserves for future work including the proposed 2024 World Plenary and the costs of senior staff replacement, expected to be in 2021 or 2022. We are challenged, as a world network, to operate in an increasingly sustainable way, both financially and environmentally.

Our unrestricted funds received a welcome boost from the results of further investigations into the TIA-CREFF account, which was previously considered to be for the pension fund of a former employee and has now been found to belong to FWCC.

In 2018 unrestricted income (excluding the TIAA-CREFF account) exceeded expenditure, resulting in a surplus, before unrealised losses on investments, of £8k, whilst restricted income exceeded expenditure yielding a surplus of £68k before unrealised investment losses. The CEC decided to start putting money aside into designated funds for the World Plenary (£15k) and the Senior Staff replacement costs (£5k), hoping to continue to do so each year from now.

The FWCC World Office operates internationally and so is subject to global economic movements in exchange rates and stock market values. The added uncertainty of the UK position in the Brexit process is an added factor. FWCC World Office holds investments and cash in both British Pounds and US Dollars. At the end of 2018 stock market investment values were significantly down on the year resulting in an unrealised loss of £38k. In 2019 the stock markets have since recovered, although remain volatile.

FWCC is engaging in more fundraising across all Sections with the help of a consultant fundraiser who has worked with FWCC since 2016.

Our funds for supporting Young Adult Friends in developing networks of leadership and fellowship across the Quaker family comes from the Europe and Middle East Section and the Section of the Americas from their Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Funds.
We are looking to the future, trusting that the means will be forthcoming to carry out the work laid upon us.

Fenwick Kirton-Darling
TREASURER, FWCC WORLD OFFICE

If you would like to see more information regarding the World Office Finances, please check the Open Charities website at [http://opencharities.org/charities/211647](http://opencharities.org/charities/211647)
How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected Friends around the world?

Section Secretaries share their reports

Asia West Pacific Section

Connecting through Covid in the AWPS

For the real difference between happiness and joy is that one is grounded in this world, the other in eternity. Happiness cannot encompass suffering and evil. Joy can. Happiness depends on the present. Joy leaps into the future and triumphantly creates a new present out of it.

— Elise Boulding, The Joy That is Set before Us, William Penn Lecture, Philadelphia

I recall many joyful moments during my time of involvement with FWCC. All of which involve experiencing a sense of connection with Friends. Most of these involved travelling great distances to experiences, but now they involve sitting in front of my computer.

One of the places I feel most connected to people is around a kitchen table. Preferably with a cup of tea in my hand and cake on my plate. And as I was writing this article, one Friend said (by messenger): people get things done around a kitchen table.

Of course, I don’t deny the loneliness and sense of despair that many of us have experienced as we live with a global health pandemic. And I am sure the hard moments are not over for all of us yet. However, I have experienced an expansion of my kitchen table this last year. I have been fortunate to experience a deep sense of connection with Quakers all over the world as they visit my kitchen table (via the zoom screen).

For example:

1. On World Quaker Day this year Jonathan Wooley and Lindsey Fielder Cook from the Geneva Quaker United Nations office (QUNO), took 60 plus people from the Asia West Pacific Section to Geneva via a webinar. Hearing first-hand how the spirit moves Friends to work at the U.N. was powerful and enabled many Friends in AWPS understand how QUNO works.

2. In another pocket of the AWPS section Friends in Brisbane, Australia linked up with Friends in Osaka, Japan for World Quaker Day. They listened to the story of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes and folding origami cranes had new meaning for children and adults alike because they were making them to send to their new Quaker friends in Japan. I could hear the excitement of connection in the voice of the Friend telling me about their origami workshop.
3. Another guest I was thrilled could join the table was Melinda Wenner Bradley. I learnt about Faith and Play (http://www.faithandplay.org) in Peru at the FWCC World Plenary and have since been dreaming about bringing Melinda Wenner Bradley to Australia and this year she came via zoom to Australia Yearly Meeting and shared a parable at an all age worship session. The parable story pieces are housed in a golden box and this concept of a precious lesson being given to us in a golden box became central to the YM children's program.

Finally, AWPS has been hosting meetings for worship on line twice a month for the last 3 years. In March this changed to every week. This online worshipping community now has Friends from all over the world attending and a number of inquirers have attended their first Quaker meeting with this community. Like any worship meeting we have moments of ordinary sharing and times of tears and laughter. I would love these people to sit in real life around my kitchen table, but meanwhile, I greet them with ‘namaste’ and sit at my computer and expect the extraordinary to happen just like I expect in any Friends church or meeting house.

Ronis Chapman
AWPS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Africa Section

Greetings in the loving name of our Lord Jesus Christ and receive greetings from the FWCC Africa Section. We are very grateful to share with you Friends from all over the world, and we really appreciate and welcome your continued partnership in the ministry of FWCC.

This far we have come is God who Has always been on our side.

— 1 Sam 7:12

This is a reflection report after the pandemic Covid-19 that struck us this year. We had many expectations and hopes for the planned activities and events in the Section and globally, but many of our plans were cancelled or suspended.

The FWCC Africa Section plenary that had been scheduled to begin in the last weeks of March 2020 at Peace Centre Kagarama, Rwanda was cancelled and this really misplaced us, because we had paid some deposit and booked several hotels, and delegates were ready for the Conference. We were to do nominations for FWCC Africa Section leadership, but this never took place. We appeal to our delegates to continue upholding us in prayer.

Some Friends lost their lives from the pandemic Covid 19 crisis and many are still jobless. Our tourism sector was affected, forcing many airlines to suspend their trips. Many religious groups and institutions were forced to close down their businesses. This time of the Covid-19 crisis has been uncharted waters for the entire global community. Everyone from the Africa Section has had to deal with a new reality and with an inevitable negative impact on the social and economic way of life. While we have hit pause on most of our church activities in the Section, we have quickly adapted to the new reality in all aspects as the Quaker organisation in the Section.

Recent Events In The Section

In the Africa Section during the month of September 2020 we embarked on training for Yearly Meeting leadership on the upcoming changes in the Africa Section, especially engaging Young Adult Friends in leadership and adapting to new technology. We keep reminding people this is the only hope in leadership.

World Quaker Day

During this year’s World Quaker Day, we spoke much on the 2020 theme "What does it mean to be a Quaker today?" We gathered in a church service in Chebuyusi Yearly Meeting where we shared and reflected on the theme. Thereafter, we marked our day in tree planting to continue our going green into sustainability. We gathered for the evening online worship and we appreciated Friends globally who joined us in marking
this day. We continue upholding our brothers and sisters in prayer as we reflect on how far the Lord God has brought us.

Blessings
Job Bikokwa Wanyonyi
AFRICA SECTION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Europe and Middle East Section

Even before Covid-19 arrived in Europe and the Middle East, 2020 was going to be a year of transition for EMES. Our executive committee met around the time most of our region was going into lockdown in mid-March. At that meeting they made the decision to move our annual meeting online — at the time this felt quite radical. Of course we now know that yearly meetings and Quaker gatherings in the Section have been either held online or had to be cancelled or postponed.

The EMES Annual Meeting (AM) was held at the beginning of May and about 60 Friends gathered around the theme of *Heeding the prophecy of our sons and daughters, daring to dream dreams and see visions* (Joel 2, 28). This was our first time organising such a large online meeting but it went well and we managed to include many of the elements of an in person meeting such as a workshop, speaker sessions, home groups and a social evening alongside our usual business sessions.

At the AM, EMES appointed a new Executive Secretary, Michael Eccles, and noted the appointment of our new Assistant Secretary, Jez Smith. We also said a fond farewell to
Marisa Johnson our outgoing Executive Secretary and Julia Ryberg our former Ministry and Outreach Coordinator; they both served EMES for over ten years and will be sadly missed.

EMES has had three Clerks during 2020, Sue Glover Frykman who stepped down in February to be replaced by Saskia Kuhlmann as a temporary Clerk until Ethel Livermore took on the role in September. We are grateful to them all for their service, and to all the Friends who serve EMES in other ways.
In June EMES launched a *Digital Equality Fund* to help Friends get online, either by supporting them in buying a device, or internet connection or by offering training. Our *Spiritual Growth Fund* continues to support meetings and their work; examples of grants made in 2020 include the translation of some early Quaker texts into Estonian, ongoing support for the work of Stop Fuelling War in Paris and a mediation project in Moscow. More information is available on our website:  
https://fwccemes.org/emes/emes-spiritual-growth-fund

This autumn we are spending time reviewing some of the ways we work and trying new things. We have recently started monthly online meetings for Representatives and have set up a Facebook group to help Friends in the Section stay in contact with each other. We are carrying out surveys of our Representatives and about the way we communicate more broadly.

We continue to work closely with other Quaker organisations in the Section and during 2020 have gone into partnership with Woodbrooke on online worship, which we now jointly run. Perhaps you’d like to join us sometime:  
https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/worship/

Most Friends around the Section are now meeting for worship online or in a blended form. We are learning from each other about how to do this better. Friends are also taking the opportunity to do some international intervisitation which was not so possible before. There are some positive stories about better connections being made in countries where Friends are very scattered and sometimes isolated — they are now able to join a weekly online worship together.

As we come towards the end of the year and look forward to 2021 and to the possibilities it will bring; we hope to be able to meet in person for our Annual Meeting in May.

Michael Eccles
EMES EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**Section of the Americas**

The most common word in the Section of the Americas this year may be “incertidumbre” or uncertainty. It covers both the status of the coronavirus pandemic and the contentious elections in many countries in the Section.

COVID-19, of course, has impacted this year deeply. We stopped all FWCC sponsored travel in March 2020, and assume we will not begin until after the Section Meeting in 2021 and most likely beyond. This year’s move to online meetings has seen the biggest shift in Quaker practice in the last 200 years, which has cut across all the branches of Friends, in every country in the world.
In response, the Section of the Americas has created a supportive online presence for individuals and meetings. Pastoral care during COVID-19 has been a concern, so a webpage was set up in April describing a weekly Zoom pastoral ministry time, providing resources from yearly meetings, Friends United Meeting and Friends General Conference. Carl Magruder, a board-certified chaplain from Pacific YM offered guidelines and suggestions for zoom memorial services for programmed and unprogrammed friends, along with other hospice and palliative care resources. The Section hosted a series of consultations for Friends planning online yearly meeting sessions followed by a series of $1,000 grants to 25 yearly meetings throughout the Americas to support their technology transitions during the pandemic.

The Traveling Ministry Corps trained in 2020 is available through virtual means. In this year, they have offered a series of online workshops for Spanish speaking women, young adults and children that have been very well attended. The TMC also coordinated bilingual online worship for World Quaker Day. First Day visitations, workshops, and retreats are also possibilities. Mey Hasbrook hosts the Open Heart Worship Group with semi-programmed worship most weeks on Seventh Day. More information is available at www/fwccamericas.org/traveling-ministry.

The Section of the Americas is launching a new online training program the Traveling Ministry Corps in December and for yearly meeting representatives in January — What is FWCC? What about the other kinds of Friends in the world? What are the responsibilities of a Representative? The basic level will also be offered to everyone who registers for the Section meeting in March.
Our regional meetings switched from the in-person format in the US Northwest and in South America in January and the Southeast US and Central America in February, to a virtual format in the Midwest in June, Southwest in September and Northeast in October. Our annual committee retreats between September and November have all been online, and we are exploring new rhythms for meeting since we are not dependent on flight schedules or trying to cram as much as possible into a three day weekend. The 2021 Section Meeting will be a virtual event, over the course of ten days, March 12–21, 2021.

Robin Mohr
SECTION OF THE AMERICAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

A good news story from the FWCC Africa Section

How Covid-19 saw churches working together like never before

Job Bikokwa Wanyonyi reports the good news story of churches across the Africa Section working together during the global pandemic to hand out soap, masks, and food parcels.

This year we immediately convened a Quaker leadership forum in Africa. It brought Quaker organisations together for the purpose of giving direction to the Church in Africa and supporting the Quaker institutions, including Quaker health facilities in Africa.

The six member team was formed and helped with planning. The members were drawn from the following Quaker Organisations: FWCC Africa Section, FUM Africa Ministries, Friends Church in Kenya, Evangelical Friends Church in Africa. The leadership forum was formed under the consultative meeting of FWCC Africa Section Clerk.

The team came together to help raise funds, both locally and internationally, from Friends and Quakers Organisations through the FWCC World Office in London, which helped the FWCC Africa Section in fundraising. On behalf of the FWCC Africa Section we appreciate all those who stood with us during the pandemic. The funds helped us to reach the unreached by equipping the medical facilities in Africa, especially our brothers and sisters in Central Africa who were badly affected by Covid-19 and the floods sweeping away all they had for their families, leaving them hopeless and lifeless.
May God bless you all who supported us. Lack of finances to sustain our projects in the Section has been the challenge we have faced, and if this happens again we may close up our activities, especially health facilities in the Africa Section, which are often inadequate. The financial challenges gives a future alarm of how church institutions must develop a fundraising strategy and investment plan to help reduce the financial shortages in the Africa Section.

The lessons we learnt during the pandemic Covid-19 are the value of freedom to move, to be with those we love, and to live in dignity and security for ourselves.
Practising good hygiene measures in hospitals, schools and other public places has drastically reduced the spread of communicable diseases and thereby eliminated new cases. Physical distancing is an obvious action to be followed during the outbreaks for preventing the spread of disease by confining the interaction of individuals and groups.

The challenges during the pandemic are vast. Anxiety, lack of peer contact and reduced opportunities for stress regulation are main concerns. Isolation, contact restrictions and economic shutdown impose a complete change to the psychosocial environment in affected countries not only Africa, but globally. And these measures have had the potential to threaten the mental health members of the community in the Africa Section. Parents have increased pressure to work from home, to keep jobs and businesses running as well as to take care of schooling children at home at the same time family connections and support have been disrupted fear of losing family members who belong to a risk group have increased in case of death, the pandemic disrupts the normal bereavement processes of families, the post-traumatic stress disorders, depression and even suicide of both adults and young people.

The only strength we have as a Section is to keep our minds focused and continue upholding every member in prayers trusting that God will see every one of us and we shall overcome this pandemic. We encourage one another to be their brother’s keeper, by maintaining the World Health Organisation regulations. This pandemic is a crisis in almost every business across the World which needs to immediately be addressed by the church and the government. The only hope for this coming year 2021, is to keep the Section members safe and informed, this helps to think about what changes will be more permanent and how we will guide the church leadership and the Quaker institutions leadership through those changes.
Bringing Friends Together Online in 2020

Quaker Conversations

In the time of the ‘great revealer,’ we are living into a renewed creation . . .

In its role of providing connective tissue, unable to bring Friends together physically since March 2020, FWCC began offering a series of online Quaker Conversation sessions.

These sessions are held monthly. The aim is to create an interactive online space via zoom. The sessions are open to any Friends who want to listen and learn and contribute to concerns important to Friends, particularly during this time of grief and reflection and transformation.

Each session is facilitated by the FWCC World Office, and done jointly with a Quaker partner as we share the work and uphold each other in Quaker work. We hear from a speaker for 20 minutes, reflect on the theme of the session and meet with Friends in zoom breakout rooms. So far we have welcomed speakers from the four FWCC Sections, the Quaker United Nations Office in New York, Friends Committee on National Legislation based in the US, and the Quaker Council for European Affairs based in Brussels.

We are planning a conversation in January in conjunction with the Africa Section. If you want to register or have missed any of the sessions and want to keep up to date with them, you can watch the speakers on our website at fwcc.world/quaker-conversations.

Celebrating 100 years of Friends’ Testimony Against War: 1920 All Friends’ Conference to Today 2020

In August of 1920, Friends met in London in the United Kingdom for the first world conference of Friends. Friends met to gather a worldwide opposition to war. The conference brought Evangelical Friends, Conservative Friends, and mystical Friends in a common approach to post-war social and political problems.

In August 2020, Friends from around the world met online for 1½ hours of worship to mark 100 years on from the first world gathering. The semi-programmed worship offered welcomed relatives of those who were there at the first gathering, as well as Friends near and far. We asked ourselves two questions:

1. How has God called us for these 100 years? To what can we testify today?
2. What compelled Friends in a post-war environment and what inspires us now to continue in our work for a peaceful world?

We thank all Friends who were present for the online worship, and thank all those who continue to do the work of Friends who came before us to build a more peaceful world.
Sustainability Programme Update

We know that Friends worldwide have been urgently concerned with the human impacts of climate change and the issue of sustainability in relation to our faith and the underlying spiritual imperative prompting us to take action, so that life on earth will continue.

This concern was galvanized in the Global Change work at the Dublin Triennial in 2007, which then led on to the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice in 2012 and the Pisac Sustainability Minute which came out of the World Plenary Meeting in Peru in 2016.

Online Conference — How does God call us to act

In February 2020, before we knew much about Covid, Friends gathered for an online conference with fellow Friends worldwide to ask ‘How does God call us to act towards a more sustainable world?’

There were three main aims for the conference:

• To galvanise and gather the Quaker voice on sustainability.
• Share progress, ideas, and learning since the Pisac minute in 2016. And ask where are Quakers now?
• Lead by example in gathering by sustainable means to talk about sustainability.

This online conference led to Friends recognising the need to support Young Friends in their climate action work. Initially, Friends suspected this could be done by offering space and tools in our meetinghouses or churches, but following the COVID-19 Pandemic closures, the FWCC sustainability programme supported Young Friends worldwide to create a space online. With the theme of climate action, peace, and justice, 5 online workshops took place over 10 weeks. Here is some of what emerged:

“Young Friends have joined together every two weeks for the past ten weeks, from all over the world for an interactive workshop series on climate action, peace, and justice.

We came from different places and hold different understandings of our faith, but we share that we are all young. This means we have lived our entire lives under the threat of climate change, and have waited for older generations to fix it. This interactive online workshop series has provided us with the space to meet one another and learn from one another, to build connections and understand different experiences better.

Now, at the end of this journey together, it is our hope that we will a) commit to creating a growing network of young Quakers worldwide, who share our passion for climate action, justice and peace; b) find a way to share our reflections with the rest of the global Quaker community.”
You can watch video extracts from the Young Quaker series and read the summary statements online at:

As we welcome back Susanna Mattingly from her maternity leave, the FWCC Sustainability Programme will continue to support young Friends internationally, and will begin to unite across Quaker organisations to uphold and support our collective efforts in building a sustainable future. If you want to get in touch, email susannam@fwcc.world.

Faith Biddle
SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT OFFICER, FWCC WORLD OFFICE

QUNO shares their resources with Friends worldwide

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) is based in both Geneva and New York, and works to support peace and justice efforts at the United Nations (UN). We are grounded in Quaker practices, insights, and concerns, and funded primarily by Britain
Without Quaker support we would not exist.

Our programme’s focus on Peacebuilding and the Prevention of Violent Conflict, Peace and Disarmament, Human Rights and Refugees, Sustainable and Just Economic Systems, and the Human Impacts of Climate Change. When we address the UN through statements or other interventions, we do so in the name of FWCC, under which we hold General Consultative Status at the UN and through which we speak for Quakers worldwide. We create safe spaces for diplomats, UN and civil society to meet informally, and often off the record, in efforts to build communication and understanding. We organize events which highlight peace and justice concerns facing our world, and we provide expertise and publications for international and grassroots communities alike on sustainable and just ways forward.

In our climate change work, we see how political will is deeply influenced by public opinion and action, and that empowered and engaged citizens are essential for a real chance to avoid catastrophic global temperature rise. Yet the climate change and related environmental crises can appear overwhelming. How can we, as a human family on this precious planet, engage with personal witness and political action to be part of the healing? And how can international laws and guidelines help strengthen grassroots and community action? QUNO Geneva is developing a ‘trilogy’ of climate publications for a range of people – the policy maker (Government Official’s Toolkit), the climate action advocate (Empowerment Series), and the person who is just beginning to ask questions about the climate crisis (How to be a Hero to our Children). These, and other recent QUNO publications, are below. For more information, please explore our website https://quno.org/, and contact quno@quno.ch if you wish to have printed copies.

Lindsey Fielder Cook
REPRESENTATIVE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, GENEVA
General Secretary Position Opening

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) has opened a global search for its next General Secretary. Are you ready to provide both spiritual and administrative leadership to this small and thriving international Quaker organization? Friends from any country in the world are invited to bring vision for the future of Friends, together with technological and cultural competencies. You will be directly involved in shaping the World Plenary Meeting and supporting the work of the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). This is an exciting and rare opening for members of the Religious Society of Friends to engage widely with Friends and on the ecumenical world stage.

FWCC will assist with relocation to London, United Kingdom, where our office is located in the environmentally conscious and easily accessible Friends House. Please see the detailed job description and other related documents and links on the General Secretary Search page of the FWCC World Office website fwcc.world.

Please send your resume or CV with current contact details and a cover letter expressing your reasons for applying to: search@fwcc.world by midnight in London on 4 January 2021.

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Crossing Cultures
Changing Lives
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