

# Epistle of the 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Yearly Meeting of Friends, Quakers, in Cuba

Gibara, February 22, 2014

## Dear Brothers and Sisters:

All Monthly Meetings from different regions gathered together in this town of roof tiles and sea foam, called Gibara. With our spirits full of joy and laughter and embraces we began on the path to the 87th Assembly of the Yearly Meeting of Friends, Quakers, in Cuba. We affirmed and answered the call to “Be the living body of Christ,” a conviction which has guided us during all these moments of celebration.

This is an opportunity to be together, to reaffirm who we are, what we are doing, and where we are going as the Cuban Quaker Church, with our roots deep in a history full of testimonies which strengthen spiritual growth and show us the path to take to make a mark in the society where we live: to scatter seeds which will bring forth in the present and the future the fruits of upholding and accompanying each other, and to build a church which is present and committed to its condition.

We thank God for the continuation of the program of the Cuban Quaker Peace Institute, which sponsored an international workshop of the Dialogue and Exchange Program on urban violence and the culture of peace. We thank God that we are contributing to the preparation of leaders of our church and other denominations in the themes of Quakerism, conflict transformation, and the building of a culture of peace; we are also grateful that it is taking place in different communities.

The Monthly Meeting of Pueblo Nuevo is born, which the Yearly meeting embraces and feels responsible for, like a mother who gives birth to a new daughter.

We received with much affection brothers and sisters of the Bridge with New England, coming from Monadnock and Hanover monthly meetings, with whom we have shared worship saturated with light, and experiences of love and faith.

We are centered on the mission to which the Spirit of the Lord calls us: to serve and heal, to proclaim, to break the chains which bind us and prevent us from responding to the cry of Christ, which is visible in every human face and in the groans of suffering nature. We unite with the Quakers of the world in building a reality without suffering, based in peace, justice, and love.

In Truth and Light,

**Odalís Hernández Cruz**

Presiding Clerk of Cuba Yearly Meeting