

**FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION**  
**Central Executive Committee**  
**Videoconference Meeting**  
**12 September June 2020**

**CEC 20-58vc. Opening minute.** We have gathered by videoconference at 12:00 pm UK time on 12 September 2020.

**Present:**

Job Bikokwa Wanyonyi (Evangelical Friends Church Kenya)	Sec Africa Section
Gretchen Castle (Philadelphia YM)	General Sec FWCC
Elizabeth Cazden (New England YM)	Assistant Clerk FWCC
Ronis Chapman (Australia YM)	Sec AWP Section
Michael Eccles (Britain YM)	Sec EMES
Myron Guachalla Montano (Bolivia Central YM)	Member at large
Fenwick Kirton-Darling (Britain YM)	Treasurer FWCC
Simon C. Lamb (Ireland YM)	Clerk FWCC
Thule Mbete (Southern Africa YM)	Member at large
Robin Mohr (Philadelphia YM)	Sec Section of the Americas
Esther Mombo (Highlands YM)	Assistant Clerk FWCC
David Shiner (Illinois YM)	Clerk Section of the Americas
Lee Taylor (Britain YM)	Alternate, Clerk EMES
Ronald Titus (Bhopal YM)	Clerk, AWP Section
Bainito Wamalwa (East Africa YM-North)	Clerk Africa Section

**CEC 20-59vc. Devotional.** As we gathered, we were reminded that God's time is different from clock time. What time is it in the Kingdom of God and in each of our hearts? There is a time to be broken, and a time to heal. We pray for guidance to use our time together well, in God's service.

**CEC 20-60vc. Minutes.** We have reviewed the minutes of our video conference of 18 April 2020, circulated in advance, with minor amendments responding to comments, and approve them. We further approve and ratify the following two minutes that were given approval by e-mail correspondence:

**CEC 20-56e. Legacy Gift.** We, the Central Executive Committee and governing body of Friends World Committee for Consultation, a registered charity in the United Kingdom (211647), authorise the FWCC General Secretary, Gretchen Castle, to sign two legal documents on our behalf that have to do with a future legacy gift for FWCC. (approved by e-mail, June 30, 2020)

**CEC 20-57e. TIAA-CREF.** The Central Executive Committee of Friends World Committee for Consultation authorises the General Secretary (Gretchen Castle) and the Presiding Clerk (Simon C. Lamb) to be listed with the TIAA-CREF Social Equity Fund to act on behalf of Friends World Committee for Consultation as its signatories. (approved by email assent, Sept. 2020)

**CEC 20-61vc. General Secretary's Report.** The General Secretary gave an update on the staff's work since our June meeting. Three staff members have continued on furlough (paid by the UK government). The offices in Friends House will reopen on 12 October, with good

Covid safety precautions in place; the staff will discuss how much they want to return to the office, given concerns about the safety of travel by public transport, and most likely will continue significant time working from home. Susanna will return from her maternity leave on 12 October, and Faith will then continue as Communications staff.

The staff has been working hard and has accomplished a great deal, especially with new online programming, including the Quaker Conversations series, Sustainability workshops, and Global Worship for Young Friends. We appreciate the ongoing opportunity for CEC members to gather for worship every week, which generally draws from two to six people.

**CEC 20-62vc. Treasurer.** The International Nominations Committee has brought forward the name of Peter Ullathorne (Britain YM) to serve as FWCC Treasurer, for a 3-year term to begin 1 January 2021. Peter has served ably as Treasurer of BYM and in many other roles, and comes highly recommended by those who have worked with him. We approve this nomination. The current Treasurer looks forward to working with Peter over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition.

**CEC 20-63vc. Global Fundraising Campaign.** The office continues planning for the Global Fundraising Campaign, despite the continued economic uncertainty. Two possible themes were presented, for our discernment at the December CEC meeting. Sections have been asked to set their Section fundraising goals, which will be incorporated in the final “ask” along with World Office goals. We ask Thuli Mbete and Myron Guachalla to work with the General Secretary to formulate World Office goals, consulting with the International Finance Committee. CEC members are invited to send suggestions to the office between now and the December meeting.

We have received a draft of Terms of Reference for the Global Fundraising Steering Committee. After some discussion, we accept this as a working document. We ask Sections to name their representatives to this committee as soon as possible so that it can begin work.

**CEC 20-63vc. General Secretary Search.** We have reviewed the timeline and process for the General Secretary search. We hope that there will be a new round of publicity about this opportunity, including through social media and personal outreach, to attract the best and most diverse pool of applicants. We note that due to continued Covid restrictions in much of the world, the final interviews will almost certainly be conducted online rather than in person in London as initially contemplated.

We have considered how flexible the organisation can be on whether the General Secretary needs to be physically located in London, especially in an era of Covid restrictions and visa difficulties. The location of the office arises periodically, although so far, the financial and institutional benefits of remaining in the UK have far outweighed the negatives. We may need to be open to changes in location or to remote working, at least temporarily, as we have gained experience this year with remote ways of working. We are uncertain about how flexible we are willing and able to be for the long term, however. We hope that the Search Committee will explore these options in its conversations with applicants.

We encourage the Sections that have not already done so to name their Screening Committee representatives as quickly as possible, so that the committee will be ready to begin its work in January.

**CEC 20-64vc. World Quaker Day.** There are active and creative plans within each Section, including a number of online events that welcome Friends from outside that Section. The

World Office will compile and publicize a list of these opportunities, to facilitate wider intervisitation.

**CEC 20-65vc. Carbon Offset.** The Treasurer reported that the money set aside for carbon offset has not yet been disbursed, due to uncertainty on where to send it. The office has been working to find a third party able to validate the Africa Section's work according to international environmental standards, but has not found one that could do this in time for World Quaker Day this year as we had hoped. We ask that the money noted in our **CEC 19-33** be disbursed expeditiously as directed in that minute and in **CEC 20-41**. We ask the World Office to continue its work to establish a mechanism to support the work of the Sections, with appropriate recognized certification, for future years.

We note the carbon footprint (and therefore the payment due) for 2020 will be minimal because of sharply reduced travel due to Covid.

**CEC 20-66vc. World Plenary Meeting.** We have reviewed a revision to the proposed logo, based on previous comments, and approve it.

**CEC 20-67vc. Young Friends Global Worship.** Myron Guachalla reported briefly on the online worship sessions organized by a global group of Young Friends, under the theme, "Friends connected in love" (John 15:5) and using a lively visual poster. The informal organising committee includes Friends from Bangladesh, the Philippines, Ireland, Burundi, Bolivia, and the United States. It has drawn in Friends from across the Quaker traditions, from unprogrammed liberal Friends in the United States and Europe to evangelical Friends in meetings in Asia not currently affiliated to FWCC, with a total of 50 to 100 participants each time. We find this an exciting venture, and thank Myron for his work facilitating it. A concern was raised about providing pastoral care for Friends attending online events, especially for first time attenders at FWCC events, as this is a growing aspect of our work. A hope was expressed that at least excerpts of these sessions could be made available to our broader constituency, although this would require the consent of any participants who were shown.

**CEC 20-68vc. Closing minute.** In our closing moments of worship, we hold our care for each other in this time of pandemic, uncertainties and challenges. We pray for peace and civic order in countries experiencing turmoil. We look towards meeting again by video conference on 12 December 2020, God willing.

Simon C. Lamb, Clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, Assistant Clerk

Esther Mombo, Assistant Clerk