

**Friends World Committee for Consultation**  
**Minutes of Central Executive Committee**  
**Held at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre,**  
**Birmingham, UK**  
**7-11 June 2015**

**Present:**

Gretchen Castle (Philadelphia YM)	General Sec FWCC
Elizabeth Cazden (New England YM)	Clerk Central Executive Committee
Ronis Chapman (Australia YM)	Exec Sec AWP Section
John Fitzgerald (Ireland YM)	Member at large (YAF)
Sue Glover Frykman (Sweden YM)	Clerk EME Section
Ramón Gonzalez-Longoria (Cuba YM)	Clerk FWCC
Marisa Johnson (Britain YM)	Exec Sec EME Section
Simon Lamb (Ireland YM)	Assistant Clerk FWCC
Joshuah Lilande (Lugari YM)	Clerk Africa Section
Patricia Macgregor (Aotearoa/New Zealand YM)	Clerk AWP Section
Churchill Malimo (Nairobi YM)	Exec Sec Africa Section
Cristela Martinez (El Salvador YM)	Member at large (COAL)
Robin Mohr (Philadelphia YM)	Exec Sec Section of the Americas
Alastair Reid (Britain YM)	Treasurer FWCC
Benigno Sanchez-Eppler (New England YM)	Clerk Section of the Americas
Dorothy Selebwa (Kakamega YM)	Member at large

**Guests:**

Jessica Bishop (Central & Southern Africa YM)	Assistant Treasurer
Harry Albright (Britain YM)	World Office consultant

**CEC 15-11. Opening minute.** We have met following the Annual Meeting of the Europe and Middle East Section, in which most of us participated, on the theme of pilgrimage. We gathered for an evening of worship, sharing, and announcements before beginning our formal business. We joined in prayer that our time together may be gathered under God's guidance and direction. We welcomed our new members: Sue Glover Frykman (Sweden YM), Clerk of the Europe and Middle East Section; Joshuah Lilande (Lugari YM), Clerk of the Africa Section; and Benigno Sanchez-Eppler (New England YM), Clerk of the Section of the Americas. We also welcomed to our meetings this week Jessica Bishop, Assistant Treasurer.

The Clerk noted that due to an oversight, the minutes of our past two meetings have not been made publicly available to our constituents, as required by our Constitution, by the Charities Commission of England and Wales, and by good practice for accountability. Transparency will be especially important if, as we envision, the CEC carries more of the governance of FWCC. We see some flexibility in whether the final public version is redacted somewhat, and in whether copies are mailed out in print, sent out electronically, or posted on our website, but are clear that they do need to be made available in an appropriate form. Friends offered suggestions on the best way to accomplish this. We ask the CEC Clerk and the World Office to make sure that this is done for these minutes, and for the two missing years. We also

will examine the Constitution's wording to consider how best to express this requirement for the future.

**CEC 15-12. Opening worship.** In open worship, we were reminded of God's immense kindness towards us, and were encouraged to be present with each other in that same spirit of kindness.

**CEC 15-13. Actions taken electronically since last meeting.** We note and incorporate minutes CEC 14-44e, and CEC 15-1 through 15-10 that were previously approved by e-mail and during a video conference call on 27 March 2015. Copies are appended to these minutes.

**CEC 15-14. General Secretary's Report.** General Secretary Gretchen Castle spoke to her written report, which we have received in advance. She finds comfort in words of Thomas Kelly: "[A]fter all God is at work in the world. It is not we alone who are at work in the world, frantically finishing a work to be offered to God. . . . We need not get frantic. He is at the helm. And when our little day is done we lie down quietly in peace, for all is well." (*A Testament of Devotion*, p. 124.) She noted changes in office staffing, including bringing on a Conference Coordinator for the Plenary Meeting (starting mid-June 2015), a volunteer Conference Registrar, and a new Database Administrator. Travelling among Friends continues to bring her great joy; she thanked Friends who have hosted her in their homes and meetings during the year.

We note that in July of this year the General Secretary will be taking the paid home leave that her employment contract provides once every three years.

A number of Friends expressed their appreciation for the General Secretary's work, especially her visits.

**CEC 15-15. Reports from Sections.** We have received in advance written reports from the four Sections, and have considered each in turn.

(a) **Africa Section:** Joshua Lilande, Clerk, and Churchill Malimo, Executive Secretary, spoke briefly to their written report. The Secretary noted the successes from his first three years of service, including an amended Section Constitution, timely and complete reporting to the Kenyan Registrar of Societies, improved computer equipment, and an active Section Executive Committee. The vast distances in the Section and scarcity in many material resources make the work challenging; the Secretary's other position as pastor in a local church requires constant discernment, while bringing great blessings. The Secretary has visited a number of meetings outside of Kenya, and the Section Executive Committee has met in Rwanda, enabling them to experience the life of meetings throughout the region. He continues to seek opportunities to visit Friends in West Africa and in southern Africa. Political instability in several areas has also created challenges, and opportunities for Friends to pray for and support those in areas of conflict. The Secretary noted that more meetings are contributing financially to the work of FWCC, which seems to reflect stronger connections between the Section and affiliated meetings. We appreciate the work of the Secretary and the Section Executive Committee on behalf of FWCC.

(b) **EMES:** The Secretary added to her written report comments on her recent visit to Friends in Lebanon; personal visits convey a level of interest and caring that paper communications cannot. She highlighted the new Small Grants Fund, by which the Joseph

Rowntree Charitable Trust has committed £30,000 per year for three years for small grants to projects within EMES (outside Britain YM) to strengthen the Quaker presence in their community and/or bring Quaker values to the wider community. The Section will be paid a small fee to administer this fund.

We have reflected on our experience together attending the EMES Annual Meeting this past week. We are heartened by the number, engagement, and energy of young adults and of new Friends, and by the ongoing work within the Section to nurture and encourage their spiritual growth. The Section functions in one language, while providing educational materials in multiple European languages. The increased economic integration and mobility within Europe help knit the Section together. One Friend who last attended the EMES meeting many years ago was delighted with the change in atmosphere and approach. A number of Friends noted the moving of hearts and of Spirit, in addition to the necessary business. In individual conversations, we experienced an opening of hearts and building bridges and connections across our differences of theology, language, and styles.

We appreciate the invitation to join the EMES meeting, and the care and hospitality of Friends in the area before and after this meeting. Our experience here reinforces the wisdom of the CEC meeting in and with the various Sections as occasion and budget permit.

(c) **AWPS:** The Secretary spoke to her written report. She especially appreciated the General Secretary's visit in January 2015 to Australia Yearly Meeting, and Aotearoa/New Zealand summer gathering and the AWPS Section meeting in Hong Kong, which helped a core group from the Section formulate goals for the next five years. She also appreciates the collaboration with the International Membership staff and clerk, as we consider how to make the international membership program more effective. The new Section Treasurer has improved financial stewardship. The connection with staff at Evangelical Friends Mission around the Philippines project and later in responding to the earthquake in Nepal seems helpful in enabling future cooperative work with evangelical meetings in the region. The AWPS website is being repaired and updated. The Section representatives' meeting in January 2015 led to rich conversations about words in various languages that convey the deep fellowship we crave.

The Section includes a large number of evangelical meetings that are not affiliated with FWCC; it is often difficult for Friends from unprogrammed meetings to appreciate programmed worship and evangelical language. There have been attempts to build personal connections with these meetings. There are also deeply ingrained cultural traditions that make Quaker work challenging.

We welcome the increased connections with and openings for FWCC to work among evangelical Friends, as supplement to rather than competition with other Quaker organizations.

(d) **Section of the Americas:** The Section Secretary spoke to her written report. In late 2014, the Section Executive Committee approved a new five-year strategic plan to better align FWCC's work with the needs facing Friends today. One key focus is a Traveling Ministry Corps to spread the message of connections among Friends. The Section formally laid down the name "Wider Quaker Fellowship," and incorporated some of the work of that program into other working groups. One group, the New Association of Friends, has affiliated with the Section. The Section Secretary has worked to strengthen communication and personal relationships among various Quaker organizations doing international work. The Section has just changed both clerk

and treasurer. This is the end of a full year with only two full-time-equivalent staff positions, with a likely increase during 2015 to 2.2 FTE.

The Section Clerk added that at the recent Section meeting in Mexico City, participants stepped forward generously to tend to the necessary details. He sees his job as “Head Volunteer.” He has been able to spend two days a week in the office for the past month. Much of the Section’s work depends on finding Friends with gifts for this work. Although it sometimes seems overwhelming and beyond our resources, a Friend reminded those gathered at the recent Section meeting that when we stretch to do the work that is needed, God provides the needed resources.

**CEC 15-16. International Membership Applications Committee.** Peter Eccles (Britain YM), clerk of the IMAC, joined our session to speak to the written report of the committee. The committee has worked more closely with the Section Secretaries over the past year, including meeting jointly before this meeting, to consult on membership applications and on the ongoing pastoral care of members and groups. The Sections have different resources and needs. The Section Secretaries have been helpful in clarifying the status of individual members and groups.

The committee is updating the information it provides, in print and increasingly on the website, for prospective members and worship groups.

**CEC 15-17. Appointments to IMAC:** We were reminded that the committee names its own members, subject to confirmation by the CEC. We confirm the following appointments:

Peter Eccles to a second term, 1 Jan 2015 through 31 Dec 2017

Liz Morris to a second term, 1 Jan 2016 through 31 Dec 2018

Hazel Shellens to a second term, 1 Jan 2016 through 31 Dec 2018

The committee is searching for one replacement for a member who is coming to the end of a second three-year term.

**CEC 15-18. Financial Reports for 2014.** The Treasurer presented background information on FWCC’s financial structure. He noted that the plan to change banks turned out to be unworkable, so we continue to use the Co-operative Bank in Britain and the US Bank in the US. The switch to Sage accounting software has permitted more accurate and faster accounting, better reporting, and faster recapture of UK gift aid. The 2014 accounts show a reasonably healthy situation, with general fund balances increasing to approximately our target level of six months’ operating expenses. Income has increased, especially from individuals, meetings, and trusts in Britain and Ireland. Approval of the financial accounts was deferred to permit opportunity for Friends informally to ask questions of the Treasurer.

**CEC 15-19. Philippines emergency relief project.** Ronis Chapman provided a final report on the collection and distribution of emergency aid to Friends in the Philippines following the November 2013 typhoon and earthquake (see CEC 14-17). She and her spouse, Michael Searle, visited the Philippines in February 2015, to view the affected area and discuss the ongoing work with affected Friends, both in the Bohol unprogrammed group and in six churches on the island of Samar under Philippines Evangelical Friends International Ministries (PEFIM). They found many Filipino Friends were pleasantly surprised to discover that Friends around the world were concerned about their plight and had donated for their needs.

A total of £30,629 was collected for this purpose from Friends around the world. Of this, £22,600 was distributed to the two groups during 2014, which was spent on immediate needs for

food, water and shelter, and on repairs to church buildings on Samar. The remaining £8,029 has been transferred from the World Office accounts to the AWPS accounts, and will be disbursed during 2015. The two recipient groups have agreed to use these funds for a joint project in Samar to restore agricultural production. An Australian Friend with professional expertise in disaster relief has donated his consulting time to assist with the planning.

This project has provided an opportunity for Friends to work together and in the process to strengthen the bonds among diverse Friends in the region and between FWCC and Evangelical Friends Mission. As a further connection, the head of PEFIM attended the Section meeting in Hong Kong in January 2015.

We are grateful for the work done especially by the AWPS Secretary to carry this concern forward on behalf of Friends from many parts of the world, and especially gratified to hear how it has promoted the goals and values of FWCC.

**CEC 15-20. Report on plans for Plenary Meeting 2016.** Simon Lamb, Clerk of the International Planning Committee (IPC), has updated us on plans for the World Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru, in January 2016. (See CEC 15-7.) The IPC's subcommittees have made good progress on the planning. The office has found seven volunteers to assist with preparation. The Local Arrangements Committee has been working well. Unfortunately, INELA Peru YM has removed Jesús Huarache from his position as LAC Clerk, for reasons that have not been made public. This leaves some gaps in the functioning of the LAC, which members of the IPC are addressing in consultation with INELA Peru. We are reminded that Friends in many parts of the world are accustomed to responding to unexpected changes in plans, with prayer and Divine assistance. We can help by encouraging those attending the Plenary to bring a spirit of flexibility and openness to unplanned opportunities.

The four Consultations at the Plenary will be focused on Leadership & Ministry (including youth work and QYP); membership in the Religious Society of Friends and strengthening meeting communities; Kabarak Call follow-up and sustainability; and FWCC structural and Constitutional changes. The purpose of these consultations is to guide the work of FWCC going forward.

We affirm the policy that Young / Young Adult Friends who apply for open spaces do not need to be in formal membership, but need a reference from a local meeting. A question remains about the membership status of representatives of Quaker organizations.

**CEC 15-21. Staff Advisory Committee Report.** We have received a written report from the Staff Advisory Committee, none of whom were free to join us to report in person. The Staff Advisory Committee has recommended a revision to the Staff Manual to give the staff paid leave during the week between Christmas and New Years' when Friends House is closed, which staff have requested. We approve this change.

**CEC 15-22. Executive Session.** We went into executive session to consider the evaluation of the work of the General Secretary. After a productive discussion, we reaffirm the employment of Gretchen Castle as General Secretary for the coming year.

**CEC 15-23. Small group meetings.** Following the evening meal, we have divided into subgroups, with meetings of the Section clerks; the Section Secretaries and General Secretary;

and the clerking team (Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and CEC Clerk), to consider matters specific to those roles.

**CEC 15-24. Strategy session.** For our morning session, the informal Strategy Working Group has led us through exercises in the full group and in pairs to capture our memories of individuals important to our spiritual development, and our visions of FWCC. Out of deep sharing, we have generated a list of the core values that inspire FWCC's work, which should be visibly reflected in everything we do. We have asked a small group to examine and refine the draft language on mission and values that has been brought to us. They will continue this work as a consulting group to the General Secretary. We thank the working group for its work. We look forward to using these core values as we discern the right way forward in our work.

**CEC 15-25. Memorial meeting.** In our worship together to open the afternoon session, we remembered the following Friends formerly active in FWCC who have passed away since our last meeting. We are grateful for the grace of God as shown in the lives of these Friends, and for all those who have encouraged us in faith and service.

Catherine King Ambler, Britain YM  
Jeanetta Bicking, Philadelphia YM  
Doreen E Dowd, Ireland YM  
Leslie Foster, Britain YM  
David Gray, Britain YM  
David Hadley, Western YM  
Wilton Hartzler, North Carolina YM (FUM)  
Rebecca Jocelyn Henderson, Intermountain YM  
Hannah Jordan, German YM  
Wolfgang Lüdtkke, German YM  
Janet Means-Underhill, Illinois YM  
Katharine Nicklin, New York YM  
Susan H. Pim, Ireland YM  
Rurik Rancken, Sweden YM  
Phyllis Short, YM of Aotearoa/New Zealand  
Courtney Sicheloff, Southern Appalachia YM and Association  
Roy Joe Stuckey, Wilmington YM  
Mia Tay, YM of Aotearoa/New Zealand  
Valentina Vassilieska, Moscow MM  
Rosa Weiss, Netherlands YM  
Jennivieve Westwick, Pacific YM, Alaska Friends Conference, New England YM  
Anne Wood, Philadelphia YM  
Mary Alice Reed Wood, New England YM  
Anita Wuyts, Belgium & Luxembourg YM

**CEC 15-26. Trustees Report.** We have reviewed the text sections of the Trustees Report and made minor editorial amendments. With those changes, and subject to the indicated minor changes to the notes to the financial accounts, we accept FWCC's audited 2014 accounts as being a fair reflection of FWCC's finances at 31 December 2014. We approve the Trustees Report and authorize the clerk to sign it on our behalf.

The clerk noted that the Trustees Report for 2015 will not be available in time for the January 2016 CEC meeting, and will need to be reviewed by the CEC when it is available in June 2016. After some discussion of process, the CEC is willing to review and approve it by e-mail, after the financial portions have been reviewed by the International Finance Committee. We are searching for a process that will give us the best opportunity for building community and engaging with each other during the year, without excluding any members based on time zone, technology, or other material barriers.

**CEC 15-27. QUNO.** The General Secretary presented a brief written report on the work of our Quaker United Nations Offices. She noted that FWCC also provides travel funds for several Quakers working with the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, based in Vienna.

A concern was raised about QUNO's communications to and responsiveness to Friends around the world. We are encouraged to seek out QUNO's existing website and newsletter, understanding that some of the materials are written in somewhat technical United Nations jargon. We encourage Section clerks and secretaries to look for ways to engage the Section's representatives to QUNC in the life and work of their Section.

**CEC 15-28. Statement on Burundi.** We have received a Statement entitled "Standing for Peace and Reconciliation" responding to the threat of violence in Burundi in May 2015. The statement was initiated by the American Friends Service Committee. The World Office consulted with the Africa Section and with several Friends in Burundi, as well as with the CEC Clerk, which resulted in some changes in wording, before endorsing it on behalf of FWCC.

Statements like this seem useful in encouraging Friends to hold this situation in prayer, and in guiding the work of various Quaker organizations. Friends in Burundi seemed to appreciate knowing that Friends in other places were concerned about their situation and praying for them.

We find statements like this useful, and feel FWCC should be able to join them in appropriate circumstances. In many cases, we would hope that Friends in an area affected by conflict or natural disaster would take the lead and retain the voice to speak about their situation. FWCC ideally acts as an amplifier for local meetings. But in some cases, local Friends are not free to express themselves due to fear of repercussions, and an outside voice may be welcome.

We are easy with this statement, and with the process of endorsing statements of this type. We ask that the World Office continue the good practice of consulting, at a minimum, with the Section Secretary for the affected Section and with Friends in the Yearly Meeting(s) involved, as well as the CEC Clerk, before endorsing statements on behalf of FWCC.

**CEC 15-29. Preliminary look at budgets for 2015, 2016, and 2017.** The Treasurer presented recommendations for revisions to the budget for the current fiscal year, and the draft budgets for the next two years. The budgeting is based on a goal of retaining a general fund reserve of approximately six months' expenses. The budget process includes cost figures separated out by projects or programmes, which is helpful in communicating with potential funding sources. We are encouraged to ask the Treasurer questions before returning to this item later in this meeting.

**CEC 15-30. Proposed changes to the FWCC Constitution and structure.** We have begun consideration of proposed changes to the FWCC Constitution and governance structure brought to us by the Strategy Working Group. (See CEC 15-3vc.)

We need to balance holding meetings often enough to maintain continuity and experience, with the financial and administrative burden of holding meetings that are fully representative of all Friends. We also need to balance the value of having Friends who become closely familiar with FWCC, with the value of giving more Friends a single experience of a worldwide event. Any organization needs people who attend multiple events and come to deeply understand and develop a commitment to and experience with its functioning. If Plenaries are held less frequently, more of the governance of FWCC would necessarily fall to the CEC; that in turn would require changing the nominations process and the authority of the CEC.

At this time we do not have the text of a revised Constitution to consider, because it seemed premature to attend to drafting and specific wording before the CEC reaches unity on the principles involved.

The intent of the overall proposal is to permit broader involvement by more Friends, including younger Friends, rather than the same people attending repeatedly. The CIO structure provides liability protection for Officers and Directors; this is separate from the proposal to change the frequency of meetings. The Charities Commission strongly prefers that the governance of an organization rest in a body that meets at least annually. The reduced frequency of meetings would also free up time and resources for Section and World Office staff and committees to engage in alternate activities, including activities and visitation across Sections.

Some Friends questioned whether the proposed structure would allow all Friends to participate in events, or would make some groups more isolated or limited by financial constraints. It was clarified that Section clerks could continue to serve on the CEC, but the proposed change allows some flexibility for Section Nominations Committees in case the person who is called to serve as clerk is not able to travel to CEC meetings.

There was considerable sentiment for looking toward a Constitution that is sufficiently flexible to stand for many years without needing amendment. There was some discomfort with allowing a small and potentially self-selected group (the CEC) to make changes to the Constitution, and to approve nominations to itself. We need to remember that authority does not lie in structures, but in God's guidance. The word "TRUST" has to be engraved in the midst of all our work. We cannot design the perfect structure to suit everyone and every situation; it has to just be good enough, with a strong practice of consultation. That would be light and fit enough for the challenges that lie ahead. Too strong and complex an organization is a burden. If all are committed to doing our business in discernment of the will of God, the number of people involved should not matter; more "democratic" does not mean more faithful to God. We may need an even smaller executive sub-group within the CEC, within a somewhat larger body than the current CEC. Even the smallest group, however, should include representation from all four Sections. We all have some blinders and limited perspective, despite best intentions and training.

We recognize the need to put forward a proposal that the body in Peru will likely accept and unite with, after they have had an opportunity to engage with it. It would be difficult to get unity for a proposal that strips the Plenary Meeting of its voice and role. We want to bring this proposal now because the Plenary gives us the opportunity under the current Constitution to move to CIO structure, and it makes sense to make any other desired changes at the same time. The current requirements are also problematic in financial terms, given changes to funding sources we used to rely on.

New technological capacity may give us ways to “meet” without all being in the same physical location.

We have the sense that both the wider world and the Quaker world are changing rapidly, with both opportunities for improved communication and serious threats including financial, economic, environmental, and political instability. We are not sure what will best serve the Society of Friends twenty years from now. We would like a Constitutional structure that is sufficiently firm to enable us to work well and to discern the way forward, while having enough flexibility to adapt to unforeseen circumstances. What do we absolutely need to have in order to move forward?

We ask the Strategy Working Group and the CEC Clerk to caucus between now and tomorrow morning to refine the proposal and see what may be the way forward.

**CEC 15-31. Future CEC meetings.** The Clerk suggested that the CEC meet for one full day immediately preceding the Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru, and for two full days following the Plenary in a nearby location. We approve and leave it to the staff, CEC Clerk, and Local Arrangements Committee to set the details.

For 2017, we note that the Africa Section plans to meet in April 2017 in Rwanda, and the Section clerk and secretary would welcome our attendance. We see this as a good opportunity, and encourage the World Office and CEC Clerk to continue to explore this possibility. For 2018, it seems likely that the CEC would meet apart from any Section meeting. We ask the AWPS Secretary and Clerk to explore possible inexpensive but suitable meeting venues within their Section. We also consider the possibility of returning to Moyallon, NI/UK, subject to the willingness of Friends there to host us again.

**CEC 15-32. Response to Nepal earthquake.** We have reviewed the responses of the Section offices and the World Office to the severe earthquake near Kathmandu, Nepal in late April 2015. The FWCC General Secretary was traveling and unavailable for consultation during the first weeks following the quake. There are about 70 Quaker churches in Nepal, many of which sustained damage along with many Friends’ homes. They are under the care of Evangelical Friends Mission and are not affiliated to FWCC.

We have heard that both an Australian Alternatives to Violence Program workshop and a British YAF were in the affected area at the time of the earthquake, and quickly spread messages through social media. Friends also responded to widespread media reports on the damage. Through contacts with Evangelical Friends Mission formed during the Philippines project, the AWPS Secretary and Section Treasurer quickly agreed to accept funds for forwarding (in bulk) to EFM. The Australia YM Friends Peace Teams group has also been collecting funds, and this appeal has also been publicized within the Section. We understand that the funding received through these appeals has enabled Nepali Friends to reach out and help their non-Quaker neighbors.

The EMES Secretary noted that they also quickly put a page on the Section website suggesting that Friends donate directly to EFM or to FPT’s Asia-West Pacific office. The Section did receive some donations, which were forwarded to EFM. The Secretary had some concerns both about how quickly the aid was actually reaching Friends in Nepal, and that the receipt that was sent referenced other EFM projects.

The Section of the Americas office did not have many calls asking for information. The office encouraged people to donate to large aid organizations for immediate needs, and to EFM for longer-term help to members of the Quaker family. Like FWCC, EFM is a small and understaffed organization. We also need to remember that many people suffer every day, in ways that do not attract the dramatic attention of global news media, and our agenda should not be driven by media attention.

The Africa Section office received a fund appeal from someone known to the Secretary, but without assurance on whether the funds raised would be properly used, he did not follow up or try to raise money for this purpose.

We are clear that FWCC is not in a position to organize disaster relief, either at the World level or in Sections. We have an important role in providing information to Friends about Quakers in the affected area, and about what Quaker organizations are available to help. A decision to accept and pass through money would take more discernment.

When Friends feel more connected around the world, there are personal connections. We can always hold each other in prayer, throughout the Quaker family.

After this review, we are comfortable with the actions taken at the Section level in response to this crisis.

**CEC 15-33. Possible revisions to policy on short-term crisis fundraising.** We have considered some proposed revisions to our policy on short-term crisis fundraising. Some of these have been approved. The complete text with revisions is attached to these minutes.

**CEC 15-34. Progress on Communications Strategy.** The Communications Consultant spoke to a written report that we have received in advance. Communications relating to fundraising have been removed from this plan to its separate plan. The staff have made good progress towards the objectives set in the three-year plan. The plan is revised so that it rolls forward for an additional three years. The General Secretary added that the improvements to Facebook and the website are useful, and Facebook is attracting more page views. The e-news is sent out on an irregular basis when there is news to report, and is timed not to conflict with Section communications.

For the upcoming Plenary in a Spanish-speaking country, the office policy is that documents online relating to the Plenary are available in both English and Spanish.

The current strategy has not separated out World Quaker Day, but the staff will consider adding it.

There has been discussion of revamping the website to shift to a more user-friendly platform, to make it easier for more people to update. This will require some unrestricted and/or restricted funding support.

**CEC 15-35. Opening worship.** In a message during our opening morning worship, we were given the image of FWCC as a migratory worship group, having continually to re-erect and reconfigure the tent each time we meet, and rethink what we need to pack to carry with us, trusting that as in the feeding of the people gathered by the Sea of Galilee, whatever we truly need will be provided.

**CEC 15-36. Greetings received.** We have received a greeting card from Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain YM, hoping that the spirit may move throughout these days of meeting. We are

also grateful for the financial support of this meeting from Britain YM, Central England Area Meeting, and Woodbrooke.

**CEC 15-37. Vision and mission statement.** The small group designated for this task (see CEC 15-24) report that they met after yesterday's session to continue work on the vision, mission, values, and ways of working. They made some progress but do not have a proposal for us to consider at this time. They expect to continue their work following this meeting.

**CEC 15-38. Constitution and structural changes.** We returned to our consideration of possible changes to the FWCC Constitution and the structures under which we conduct our business. The small group that met yesterday evening reported back on its deliberations. The intent is that the CEC discern the broad outline of principles for the revision; a small group would then need to look at specific wording, in consultation with a lawyer conversant with the Charities Laws of England and Wales. It seems most serviceable to have a Constitution with less detail and more flexibility to adapt to changing needs and circumstances.

A new suggestion was offered of a substantial change to a two-tier governance structure, with a larger Central Governing Body of perhaps 40 to 50 members drawn from the executive committees of the Sections, meeting triennially, plus a much smaller Central Executive Committee of perhaps 10 people that would meet annually (and more often by electronic means). This would require rethinking our "constituent bodies" as the Sections, rather than the yearly meetings; yearly meetings would be represented through their Section governance. It would also likely require removing either Section clerks or secretaries from the small committee. This proposal is sufficiently different from our previous consideration to require more time for consideration.

It is difficult to envision how to reduce the size of the CEC by more than one or two, from its current level while retaining the representation of Sections plus officers who serve at large and do not carry significant other responsibilities within their Sections.

Regardless of the Charities Commission's definition of where legal authority lies, we need to remember our core accountability to the gathered meetings of international representatives. We were reminded that at the 2004 Triennial, a major crisis arose in part because the Interim Committee (predecessor to the CEC) had not adequately communicated with the wider body of Friends. Whatever our structures, our communications need to be open, frequent, and usable.

In a local meeting, the biggest risk is often that the circle of power is too small, and we need to guard against abuses of authority. But on the world level, the bigger risk is that the circle of authority may be so large that we do not even know who is in it with us. The situation is different and the structural needs are different. The Sections have independent existence (and financial reserves), which provides some stability and continuity to our work regardless of our governance at the World level.

The new proposal has some appeal, as allowing broader consideration of issues such as discerning when and where it would be suitable to hold Plenary Meetings, as a concern rises, rather than being on a fixed schedule and then trying to come up with a topic.

After considerable discussion (and a tea break), we approve the following minute:

We have considered our constitution and governance arrangements. Our current constitution specifies representation and meeting arrangements in a way which leads to

unsustainable organisational, ecological, and financial pressures. We need a more flexible constitution which guarantees accountability while leaving room for alternative governance and consultation structures which can be adapted when needed. In particular, we need to remain open and accountable to the wider body of Friends, especially should the gap between plenary meetings become greater. Key issues that remain unresolved include the time between plenaries; provision for clerking both the Central Executive Committee and the Plenary Meeting(s); and the size and authority of the CEC. At this point, while we have heard some helpful proposals, we are not in a position to recommend a specific structure, but look forward to a simpler constitution which will enable a number of ways of working in the future.

We are reminded that one of the Consultations in Peru is set up to consider these issues. What will be needed in advance will be several different options that we would consider viable and sustainable, with some indication of the pros and cons of each one, and some boundaries as to what issues are negotiable and what are not. This will make the discernment at the Plenary meeting real and valuable. It will be important to include in our deliberations the Friends who will be facilitating the Consultation.

We ask John Fitzgerald, Churchill Malimo, Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, and the General Secretary to formulate specific proposals to present to the CEC in October, to be considered by the World Plenary in Peru in January 2016.

**CEC 15-39. Budgets.** We returned to consideration of revisions to the budgets for FY 2015 and FY 2016, plus projections for 2017. These budgets are based on conservative estimates of income, and continue the transfers from and use of restricted and endowment funds as previously set. We approve these proposals, understanding that the 2017 budget may require amendment to respond to actions taken at the 2016 World Plenary.

**CEC 15-40. Fundraising Plan.** The General Secretary spoke to her written report on progress made on Fundraising. The office is limited by staffing, but has attended to regular thank-yous for gifts from individuals and meetings. She continues to work with the Sections on how to work collaboratively to increase visibility and thereby increase fundraising capacity throughout the world. The Treasurer noted that the new software makes it much easier to claim Gift Aid for donations from UK individuals, which has totaled about £1,500.

**CEC 15-41. Use of special gifts received.** Following on CEC 15-5vc and CEC 15-6vc, the Treasurer presented a proposal for use of both the Moir gift of approximately £79,000 and the money coming to FWCC from the dissolution of the World Gathering of Young Friends organization, of approximately £42,000. This amount is net of £5,000 which, by the terms of the WGYF gift, we have committed to retaining in the Future WGYF Fund as seed money for another WGYF when a concern may rise to hold one.

The focus of the proposal before us is to use the remaining money to enhance fundraising capacity in the World Office and the Sections to promote the long-term financial sustainability and growth of FWCC's work. This would involve contracting with a spiritually grounded Friend experienced in fundraising for Quaker organizations. The fundraiser could work with each Section, to increase capacity within that Section. The other possibilities listed are less well developed, and require further development; it is envisioned that they might await at least the preliminary results of the fundraising program.

We have heard some alternate proposals for use of portions of both gifts to meet specific immediate needs in the organization, consistent with the specific concerns of the donors. We wish to use these funds in ways that enhance the long-term life of FWCC and the Religious Society of Friends, and are consistent with the other values we have articulated together. We hope it may be possible to use these funds to secure matching grants from other sources.

After extended discussion, we minute as follows:

1. We are not currently clear to make commitments for the full amount of both gifts, and request that until spent, both gifts be maintained as designated funds separate from the GF reserves. We do have a sense that increasing fundraising capacity is a high priority for our work, and appreciate the work of the Treasurer and the office in seeing how these unexpected funds might be used for that purpose.

2. We authorize the following expenditures:

(a) up to £10,000 from the Moir Fund for a professional fundraiser to do preliminary consultation and exploration with the World Office and with each Section, to begin to explore how professional services might be used to increase fundraising capacity, resulting in a detailed fundraising proposal;

(b) up to £5,000 from the YAF funds to be used as needed, at the discretion of IPC, to support attendance and participation of YAFs at the 2016 World Plenary;

(c) up to £5,000 from the Moir Fund to cover legal expenses involved in converting to a CIO with a revised Constitution;

(d) up to £6,000, at the discretion of the IPC, to expand translation and interpretation capacity to enhance the full and equal participation of Friends in the World Plenary regardless of language facility.

(e) up to £5,000 to support communications, including website development and IT, within the Africa Section Office.

The balance of approximately £90,000 would be retained pending further discernment. We would expect to authorize further funds for the fundraising program once we have received a proposal on how those funds would be used.

**CEC 15-42. Proposed fossil fuel divestment policy.** We have considered whether to instruct our investment advisor to divest from companies engaged in fossil fuel extraction and distribution due to the contribution of fossil fuel consumption to global climate change. (See CEC 14-40.) We have received a minute from the International Finance Committee recommending this action, which is not expected to have any significant impact on FWCC's financial situation.

Many Friends would prefer to move our investments out of fossil fuels and into companies that are promoting alternative energy sources. We also recognize the value of joining with other churches and other institutions in an international divestment campaign. At the same time, we acknowledge the ethical discomfort created by declining to invest in fossil fuels while still utilizing fossil fuels for transport and other uses in our daily lives and in our organizational work, and we continue to seek ways to bring our lives as a whole into alignment with Universal Truth as we understand it.

We approve a change to FWCC's existing investment strategy to avoid investment in fossil fuel industries and substitute more ethical investments, and empower the IFC and the Treasurer to implement this policy. We ask the staff to publicize this action as seems appropriate.

**CEC 15-43. Climate Change Statement.** We have received copies of the Quaker Statement on Climate Change, which FWCC has already endorsed. The General Secretary clarified that it was generated by QUNO, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (USA), in conjunction with the United Nations Climate Change Summit in September 2014. FWCC served a key role in facilitating consultation and conversation among many Quaker organizations concerned with this topic. The General Secretary noted that in hindsight, it would probably have been appropriate to consult more broadly with the CEC before endorsing the statement on behalf of FWCC. The text is available on the World Office website.

**CEC 15-44. World Quaker Day.** We confirm that World Quaker Day will be held again on October 4, 2015, with the theme “Living the Transformation.” We have heard reports on plans for the upcoming celebration. Friends in Finland, will be holding a weekend seminar commemorating a rebuilding project done there by AFSC in 1945-47. Friends in the Americas are already asking for materials. *Quaker Life* magazine, published by Friends United Meeting, would like to devote considerable space in its Sept.-Oct. issue to World Quaker Day. Friends Center in Philadelphia has agreed to put posters in a prominent street location for a month. It would be wonderful to have poster designs available as quickly as possible, in multiple digital formats. It would also be wonderful to have posters about 2016 at the plenary in Peru. The Section Committee on Representative Engagement sees this as an opportunity to encourage visitation to other meetings. All Sections are encouraged to promote this event and to facilitate uploading of photographs and possibly video as quickly as possible.

**CEC 15-45. Closing minute.** We have had a productive and faith-filled time together in the lovely setting of Woodbrooke, which confirms for us the immense value of face-to-face meetings. We are grateful to the Woodbrooke staff and Friends in Residence who have cared for our needs, and to the local Friends who have arranged opportunities for many of us for visitation and ministry among Friends in various parts of this country. We are also grateful for God’s guidance and wisdom and the assistance of each other whenever we were uncertain or in disagreement, or had trouble seeing the path. We ask God’s continued care for each of us as we journey home and as we continue the work of FWCC over the coming months. We look forward to being together again at the World Plenary Meeting in January 2016, God willing. We have closed singing, each in our preferred language, “How Great Thou Art.”

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Elizabeth Cazden, CEC Clerk

**FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION  
CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES APPROVED BY E-MAIL (e) and VIDEO-CONFERENCE (vc) 2014-15**

**CEC 14-44e. Change of site and dates for Plenary Meeting 2016.** We have been informed that the International Planning Committee has been unable to confirm the site previously approved for the 2016 Plenary Meeting, due to an apparent change of policy by the Catholic Church authorities. The Local Arrangements Committee has located a hotel and adjacent Baptist conference camp near Cuzco, Peru, which appears suitable to our needs, and appears to be available for dates comparable to what we had previously planned. The LAC would work as before to make sure that many local Friends can join in for the weekend. The Cuzco region is at a higher altitude than Arequipa, which would need to be clearly communicated to prospective attendees so that they can consider in advance any health issues this may cause.

Having had an opportunity to consider this proposal, we leave the International Planning Committee and the General Secretary at liberty to proceed as way opens, during the date range of 12 to 27 January 2016.

**CEC 15-1vc.** The Central Executive Committee gathered by videoconference at 6:00 pm UK time on March 27, 2015.

Present:

Rachel Bewley-Bateman (Ireland YM)	Clerk EME Section
Gretchen Castle (Philadelphia YM)	General Sec FWCC
Elizabeth Cazden (New England YM)	Clerk Central Executive Committee
Ronis Chapman (Australia YM)	Exec Sec AWP Section
Ramón Gonzalez-Longoria (Cuba YM)	Clerk FWCC (*audio only)
Marisa Johnson (Britain YM)	Exec Sec EME Section
Simon Lamb (Ireland YM)	Assistant Clerk FWCC
Alastair Reid (Britain YM)	Treasurer FWCC
Benigno Sanchez-Eppler (New England YM)	Clerk Section of the Americas

Invited: Jessica Bishop (Central & Southern Africa YM); Harry Albright (Britain YM, communications consultant); Diana Talyansky, technical consultant.

Regrets:

John Fitzgerald (Ireland YM)	Member at large (YAF)
Joshuah Lilande (Lugari YM)	Clerk Africa Section
Patricia Macgregor (Aotearoa/New Zealand YM)	Clerk AWP Section
Churchill Malimo (Nairobi YM)	Exec Sec Africa Section
Cristela Martinez (El Salvador YM)	Member at Large (COAL)
Robin Mohr (Philadelphia YM)	Exec Sec Section of the Americas
Dorothy Selebwa (Kakamega YM)	Member at large

Participants on the call introduced themselves. We welcomed Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, who assumed the Clerkship of the Section of the Americas at the recent Section meeting in

Mexico City. We regret that several members of the CEC were either not available at this time or were not able to overcome technical difficulties to participate.

**CEC 15-2vc. Nominations.**

(a) Following on CEC 14-32, we have received a recommendation from Gretchen Castle, Alastair Reid, and the Nominating Committee to appoint Jessica Bishop (Central and Southern Africa YM, in transition to Britain YM) as FWCC Assistant Treasurer. We note that she has already begun work, including attending the IPC meeting in Peru. We approve this recommendation, those not present on this conference call having signified their approval later by electronic mail.

(b) On recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve the following reappointments to the QUNO-NY committee, for terms ending 31 December 2017:

Welling Hall (New Association of Friends, Section of the Americas)

Penny Heymans (Norway YM, EMES)

Those not present on the conference call approved these names later by electronic mail.

(c) We have heard that a name has been proposed to fill the existing vacancy on the QUNO-Geneva committee, from the AWPS. The Nominating Committee has not yet had a full opportunity to consider this name, however. We have heard no concerns about the person named, but would prefer to hold this matter until we receive a recommendation in good order from the Nominating Committee.

**CEC 15-3vc. Strategic Plan.**

Gretchen Castle spoke to the written proposal prepared by the Strategy Working Group (Gretchen, Simon, John, and Alastair) for restructuring the governance of the World Office, which was previously circulated to all participants. This is a preliminary proposal for feedback from the CEC, with fuller consideration at our meeting in June, and looking forward to presenting a proposal to the IRM in Peru. Under our current structure, changes to the Constitution and legal framework must be approved by the IRM. This proposal is intended to help achieve a healthy long-term organization.

Gretchen explained that a major thrust of this proposal is to have larger world meetings of representatives less frequently, every 8 to 12 years, rather than smaller meetings every 3 to 5 years plus a larger World Conference “once a generation.” This would address concerns about both the financial burdens and the carbon footprint of air travel for these meetings. Larger meetings (800 to 1,000 attenders) also encourage yearly meetings to appoint representatives with better gender balance and more diverse ages. In between these worldwide meetings, the World Office would have flexibility to find ways to encourage connections among Sections, including use of electronic media and encouraging attendance at existing events across Sections.

If the world meetings of representatives take place less often, it seems unwise to retain the current decision-making role of the International Representatives’ Meeting. The proposal therefore gives more decision-making to the Central Executive Committee, including approving its own at-large members, on recommendation by the Nominating Committee. The CEC would also have authority to make changes to the Constitution, with whatever consultation seems appropriate with Sections and yearly meetings. The proposal also includes a back-stop provision for reclaiming the organization in the unlikely event that the CEC moves in directions that Friends find unacceptable.

The proposal also changes the officers of FWCC to have a single Clerk for both IRMs and the CEC, plus a Recording (minuting) Clerk. It also provides that Sections may designate someone (preferably a member of the Section Executive Committee) to serve on the CEC in place of the Section Clerk. It increases the number of at-large CEC members from three to four-to-six, which should allow more diverse representation.

This proposal also includes changing the legal framework for our organization to a new “Charitable Incorporated Organization” under the Charity Laws of England and Wales, which provides liability protection for officers and the CEC. Britain Yearly Meeting and a number of other charities are in process of making this change, which seems advisable for FWCC as well. It would be best to make this change at the same time as the other structural changes.

Alastair Reid noted that the working group felt that 8 to 12 years was far too long to expect CEC members and officers to serve; they have proposed three-year terms, staggered to allow orderly rotation, with each person limited to three three-year terms. This will balance continuity and rotation. It will be important in this new structure to maintain good consultation with yearly meetings and Sections, especially if constitutional changes are felt to be necessary. The group intends to make the Constitution broad enough that it will not require frequent amendment. It may be useful to have a separate “Policies and Procedures” document (comparable to By-Laws) that spells out more details, and is easier to change as circumstances warrant.

Alastair also clarified that the new Charities law requires that the authoritative governing body for a charity be one that can meet regularly, preferably at least once a year. This virtually requires that the CEC be legally considered the decision-making body, since we are not in a position financially or organizationally to hold IRMs more frequently than every 3 to 5 years.

Simon added that having larger meetings less often should mean more people having the experience of a world gathering, rather than the same people coming over and over. It may also be easier to raise funds for larger more visible meetings.

A number of comments were offered in response to this proposal. Several expressed unease with shifting the authority and “membership” of FWCC from the International Representatives to the relatively small CEC. In particular several Friends were uncomfortable with allowing the CEC to make future changes to the Constitution itself, and with having it a self-perpetuating body that would approve its own members (or at least the at-large members). Constitutional changes should not be needed frequently, and could wait for an IRM, or at least could be considered and ratified by each Section, not just the CEC. Most Friends’ meetings would not allow an executive committee or interim decision-making body to be able to name its own membership. These two questions need more threshing and consideration.

Our Friends’ practices should not be dictated by the needs of the governmental bodies, and we do have the option of retaining our current structure. We should not lose our identity as a Quaker organization, with procedures that have functioned well in many different situations and cultures. We have traditionally said that FWCC’s “members” are all the members of all of its constituent yearly meetings and groups, and especially those who have been appointed as representatives. Can we retain that understanding in our internal functioning, and in our conversations among Friends, while moving the formal decision-making to the executive committee? We need to be careful that we are not saying different things to the Charities Commission and to our Friends’ constituents. We need to retain the “consultation” part of our purpose in our governance. Even if legally the CEC becomes the governing body, we can have a process of consultation and ratification through Sections and yearly meetings. This could

strengthen our channels of listening and discussion and lead to better alternatives, and would give Friends around the world more engagement with and connection with what is going on at the world level.

On the other hand, Friends welcomed the sense in this document that the reformulated CEC would have more flexibility in how to bring Friends together. This could include facilitating gatherings around specific issues; when people are eager to consult with each other, they will find ways to fund it. It would also be wonderful to have representatives from each Section at every Section meeting, to see how Truth prospers in that part of the world, and provide cross-connections and cross-fertilization in addition to the periodic world-level gatherings. We need to keep bringing Friends together in person, not just electronically with people looking at each other's faces on little screens, but this can happen outside of large gatherings, through individual travel or small gatherings.

Rachel Bewley-Bateman commented on the advantages of becoming what in the business world is called a "Limited Liability Company," recounting the struggle over this issue in her family's business. We do have to conform to a certain extent with the legal framework, in order to exist as a charity, so we need to work out how to give unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and give unto the Friends' community what belongs to it.

The Strategy Working Group will take these comments into consideration and may bring a revised proposal to our meeting in June, where there will be ample time for fuller consideration and discernment. We are encouraged to prepare for that discernment by thinking about the various options and issues that have been raised.

#### **CEC 15-4vc. Financial Report on 2014 outcomes.**

Alastair Reid presented a written and oral summary of the expected 2014 financial outcomes. At the June meeting, we should have a fully audited report for approval and submission to the Charities Commission. Things look better than budgeted; income has been higher than anticipated, particularly from trusts. The changes in staffing structure have produced significant savings and seem to be working well for staff. Travel and *Friends World News* have come in above budget. The CEC costs (especially for travel) for the 2014 meeting in Ireland were higher than planned, but were offset by a restricted grant from a trust for that purpose. Alastair expects to be able to record an increase in the General Fund of about £9,000.

Alastair also prepared a rough spreadsheet of the various restricted and designated funds, showing activity during the year. This includes proposed transfers from the General Fund to board-designated funds, which we will consider in June, and transfers from restricted funds to offset actual matching expenses.

Members of the CEC were encouraged to send questions for clarification by e-mail, if needed, before our meeting in June.

#### **CEC 15-5vc. Young Friends Funds.**

Alastair Reid has notified us that the governing group from the World Gathering of Young Friends (WGYF) has decided to lay itself down. On dissolution, they plan to transfer funds of approximately £30,000 from their own accounts to FWCC. In addition, we are already holding two designated reserve funds, the Young Adult Friends Fund (£9,344) and the Future World Gathering of Young Friends Fund (£6,190). We are asked to retain £5,000 for future Young Friends activities, but are otherwise free to decide how to use the remaining funds approximating £40,000.

There is a need to clarify the WGYF group's request for the restriction on the £5,000 fund, and we ask Alastair and Simon (plus John Fitzgerald) to secure the minutes of the WGYF meeting.

We note that this conversation overlaps with the ongoing consideration of the future of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (see CEC 14-21). There will be discussion and discernment at the 2016 Peru meeting of the general question of youth work. The WGYF money could be helpful in furthering that consultation. It also overlaps with larger concerns about the involvement of young people in the global Society of Friends.

We will return to this question for discernment when we meet in June. Friends are encouraged to think creatively about how these funds could be used to promote work with and by young Friends; it is easy to articulate that concern but more difficult to translate it into specific fundable programs.

#### **CEC 15-6vc. Use of large gift.**

We received a background paper relating to an unrestricted gift of \$125,000 from the family of a deceased FWCC volunteer and donor. It is up to the CEC to discern how best to use it in ways that honor the donor and family. Especially in light of the donor's long-standing interests and giving patterns, it should probably not be put away into endowment, but rather used strategically to promote our activities over the longer term, such as providing seed money for new ventures – "to use money to make money." For example, we might hire a young intern to make videos that would raise the visibility of FWCC and thus contribute to our fundraising capacity across the Sections and the World Office.

This question will also be considered further at our June meeting. Friends are encouraged to think creatively of ways to use this gift.

#### **CEC 15-7vc. International Planning Committee Report.**

Simon Lamb spoke briefly about the work of the International Planning Committee in moving the 2016 Plenary Meeting forward. The IPC stayed at the Baptist Center in Pisac, Peru, and visited the adjacent hotel, and found them both quite suitable to our needs. Contracts have been executed with both venues, and a deposit paid to the hotel. The Baptist Center accommodations are simpler, and participants will be charged less to stay there. Simon also noted there are several other hotels nearby, which gives us some flexibility to expand the number of open space participants. This will help the overall budget for the event. The IPC set up subcommittees to handle different aspects of the meeting, and all seem to be working diligently and well to develop the program and the arrangements. The Local Arrangements Committee is well on its way to providing for our needs, including pre- and post-gathering excursions, the opening session, transport, and planning for about 150 local Friends coming in for the weekend (at their own expense). Young Friends in both Bolivia and Peru are excited about this opportunity and are raising money to get themselves there. The IPC is looking for ways to encourage participation by young Friends in the entire Plenary Meeting.

Gretchen added that all participants will be asked to participate in one of four consultations: youth leadership and ministry at the worldwide level, encouraging membership and religious formation, FWCC's governance structure and constitution, and continuing the Kabarak Call to give Friends a voice on ecojustice.

Members of the CEC were encouraged to draw attention within their Sections to the opportunity to apply for open spaces, which is now available (thanks to Harry) on the World

Office website. Friends were also encouraged to review the World Office website and the Facebook page, which already includes photographs. There is also a four-minute promotional video, prepared by volunteers Ben and Rachel Guaraldi (New England YM), which can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/cNKVPIyH3qg>. Gretchen also clarified that there will be a need to raise funds for the Travel and Accommodations Fund.

**CEC 15-8vc. Plans for June meeting.**

Gretchen encouraged all CEC members to work closely with Kim Bond in the office, and with Marissa and local Friends, to firm up their plans for the June meeting as quickly as possible. Rachel reiterated the warm invitation to join EMES at its meeting immediately before the CEC

**CEC 15-9vc. Closing & appreciations.**

In closing, we thank Diana Talyansky for her work before and during this call to help us adapt to electronic technology. We will have an opportunity in June to debrief and to learn more about how to do our business together in this new way.

**CEC 15-10e. Appreciation.**

We note that the videoconference meeting held 27 March 2015 was the final CEC meeting for Rachel Bewley-Bateman, who will be stepping down as EMES Clerk effective at the end of the upcoming EMES meeting in June. Rachel has faithfully served and enthusiastically supported FWCC over many years, having attended the World Conferences in 1967 and 2012. She was an active member of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2007 Triennial in Dublin. We are grateful for her service and support, and look forward to seeing her at the EMES meeting in June and then welcoming the new EMES Clerk to our meeting following the Section meeting.

## **SHORT-TERM CRISIS FUNDRAISING CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES**

As the World Office, we support the Sections in their work and we serve to strengthen the work across Sections. The promptings of the Spirit may lead us to respond to a crisis situation where Friends meetings or churches are affected. We may be able to offer the opportunity for Friends around the world to give to those Friends. Each situation must be considered separately, knowing we cannot address as much need as some Friends might want. FWCC is not an international aid organisation and there are many organisations to which Friends can give. We do have structures in place to assist in transferring funds across currencies, and given our small staff we must be thoughtful about this use of resources. Still there is occasionally a place for the World Office and the Sections to offer Friends the opportunity to give directly to those in the world family of Friends who are in exceptional need.

### **Queries for Discernment on taking on a project:**

- Is our spiritual discernment clear that FWCC is called to undertake this piece of work?
- Is there an opportunity for Friends to give funds to assist other Friends in need due to a natural or political disaster, where there is human suffering and immediate need?
- Is the need in a location where FWCC has a relationship with one or several Quaker churches or meetings with whom we can work?
- Is the relevant Section taking the lead, and does the Section's leadership see a role for the World Office to add to Section capacity?
- Is the concern widely shared rather than coming from only one or two individuals or local meetings?
- Will coordinating an appeal further the aims of the Section and the World Office by promoting meaningful connections among Friends?
- Are other Quaker bodies already engaged in the region and able to serve this role? Would FWCC's involvement strengthen, or duplicate, the work of other organizations?

### **Procedures:**

1 Any project must be approved by an ad hoc committee consisting of the FWCC Clerk, the CEC clerk, the relevant Section clerk, the relevant Section secretary, and the World Office General Secretary.

2 Monies are collected as pass-through funds, reserving an appropriate percentage (generally not to exceed 10 to 15%) to cover administrative costs, transaction fees, and exchange rates.

3 The World Office will work with any Sections where funds may be collected and agree on how to transfer funds, either to the World Office or directly to the area of need.

4 Monies are distributed through a meeting structure or a partner organisation with banking and accounting procedures to ensure proper handling of funds. Funds are to be distributed as quickly as practicable.

5 We will establish contact with other Quaker groups involved in the area to coordinate efforts and/or strengthen connections.

6 There should be a mechanism for retaining donor data.

7 There is a mechanism for reporting back to donors and to the broader FWCC constituency.

8 As a time-limited appeal, when funds are fully expended, the Section Secretary shall submit a final report to the CEC.

9 The fundraising and accounting shall comply in all respects with the Charity Laws of England and Wales.

(Approved by CEC, 23 June 2014; revised by CEC, 10 June 2015)