

Friends World News

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

fwcc.world

FWCC

2021

Vol. 1

No. 191

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.

Contents

Greeting from the Acting General Secretary	1
Report from the FWCC Treasurer	2
Greetings from the incoming General Secretary, Tim Gee	4
Welcoming new faces to global Quaker service	6
Sustainability Programme and COP26	8
World Quaker Day 2021	10
FWCC Section Updates	11
Africa Section	11
Asia-West Pacific Section	12
Europe and Middle East Section	14
Section of the Americas	16

Cover image: Unique Western Australian flowers enjoyed at the Quaker Wheatbelt Weekend Away: Cunderdin, Western Australia, September 2021. Photo: Adrian Glamorgan

Thank you for your donations to FWCC, past, present and future.

- 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.

Please consider FWCC in your will.

For more about FWCC please visit our website: fwcc.world

Greetings from the Acting General Secretary

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens . . .”

— Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It is a privilege to bring greetings to Friends all over the world.

This past year has seen great change at the FWCC World Office. In July 2021, Gretchen Castle stood down as FWCC’s General Secretary after 9 years of service, to take up the role of dean at Earlham School of Religion in the USA. We were able to say farewell to Gretchen and express our deep appreciation at various events, both in person and online. Thank you to everyone who contributed to wishing her well on her next adventure.

We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming Tim Gee, FWCC’s incoming General Secretary from January 2022 and working together to serve the worldwide community of Friends. I am serving as Acting General Secretary for the 6-month transition period and in this role I have enjoyed many wonderful opportunities to meet and worship (virtually) with Friends around the world, drawing great strength, inspiration and encouragement from our community in all Sections of FWCC.

In the World Office our activities continue to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Staff still work mostly from home and whilst the way we work has changed in some important ways, our mission and core inspiration remain the same. We’ve become more accustomed to serving Friends remotely and have invested in much-needed updates to our office infrastructure including a new website and a new database and communications system, enabling us to reach Friends more effectively.

Thank you for your continued support of FWCC. I hope you will enjoy reading about our work and activities of the FWCC Sections in this annual edition of *Friends World News*.



Susanna Mattingly

Susanna Mattingly

ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY, FWCC WORLD OFFICE

Report from the FWCC Treasurer

Dear Friends,

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. Being charged with carrying out work on your behalf under the auspices of FWCC, we are very grateful for your support.

The World Office in London exists to form a link between Friends and Meetings throughout the world, and connect with many international bodies, working with the Quaker United Nations Offices to bring Quaker concerns to the world community. It is financed by contributions from the Sections.

In 2020 the financial position of FWCC improved as, owing to the global Covid pandemic, our activities were severely curtailed. The costs of travel, administration expenditure and other service costs reduced owing to the pandemic's impact. This sadly meant that meeting up in person – one of FWCC's reasons for existence – was limited. However, the use of Zoom technology ensured that the CEC and our other committees continued to keep in contact and discuss the work of the organisation. The online Sustainability conference was a particular success. Our regular income remained stable, and investments grew in value, despite substantial variations during the year. The ultimate surplus of income over expenditure resulted in an increase in overall reserves for future work of some £89k.

A transfer of £15k was made to add to funds for the World Plenary Meeting, which has presently been postponed to 2024 because of Covid-19. At the end of the year £72k had been accumulated specifically towards the cost of this event. Planning for this Meeting is underway. £15k has been allocated for the website project, and a transfer of a further £12k was set aside towards the costs of the replacement of the General Secretary in 2021.

We continued to hold the funding of the Young Adult Friends Development Fund. It is hoped that the fund will open again when we know it's safe for Friends to be together face to face. For obvious reasons, this has not been possible during the Covid-19 pandemic. The committee will continue to monitor the situation and decide when to reopen applications for the fund.

Our investments, (totalling £601k at 31 December 2020), are held in funds which do not support war-related, alcohol, tobacco, or fossil fuel related businesses. Where possible they are identified as ethical investments that contribute to peace and eco-justice.

2021 has started in a similar way, with limitations on FWCC in linking Friends in fellowship across the world, but inevitably some financial contributions received are down as Meetings throughout the world cope with the impact of Covid on their income. Our investments are holding their value well so far. The savings in budget from 2020 are enabling us to renew the website and improve communications, including updating the contact database to ensure efficient and relevant mailings to all our stakeholders. The benefits of this will soon be seen. For most of the year our staff have been working from home, meaning the office in Friends House, London, has been largely unused. The appointment of the new General Secretary from January 2022 means we can look forward to resuming our activities energetically as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic.

Peter Ullathorne

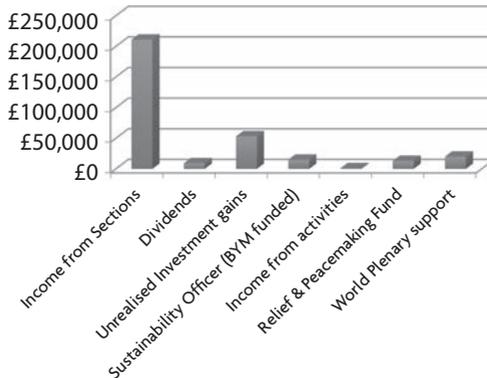
TREASURER, FWCC WORLD OFFICE

TREASURER@FWCC.WORLD

Income

FY 2020

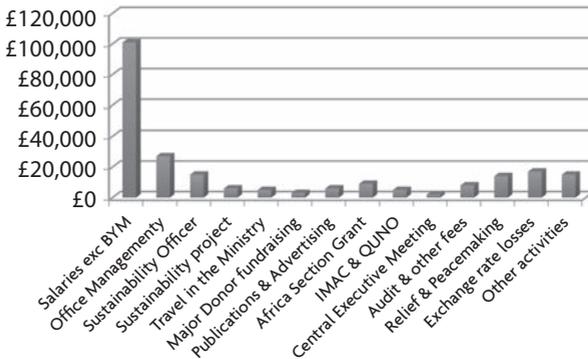
Total
Income
£322,000



Expenses

FY 2020

Total
Expenses
£233,000



Greetings from the incoming General Secretary, Tim Gee

Dear Friends,

Thank you for entrusting me with the role of FWCC General Secretary, beginning in January. The prospect of working for the global community of Friends, that enables so many to know God's love through the Quaker experience is a profound joy.

I am also aware of the phenomenal challenges of the times we are living through, described by Marie Odendaal of Southern Africa Yearly Meeting as the 'three pandemics' of coronavirus, human violence and global heating. All our work takes place in this context, as we experience the effects and seek to tackle the underlying causes.

My work to date has mostly been involved in campaigning; for peace, climate justice, equality and human rights. As a part of my role with FWCC, I hope to keep working for these causes, but in a way which is distinctive to Quakers.

I know that the individual change each of us makes will at times be difficult to assess. Nevertheless, I believe that if we act in faith doing the right things for the right reasons then we will be part of the great movement which will address the world's great problems.



I remind myself as often as I can of the Parable of the Sower which speaks of good seeds growing in fertile ground. The world isn't short of good ideas to get us out of the crises we face. What we do have is an overabundance of 'stony ground' – where people don't have "eyes to see or ears to hear". I believe though, that the global community of Friends can be the good earth, from which plants grow which gently break up the hard ground, and return it to nature again.

Earlier this year, giving ministry in a shared worship session with Kenyan and British Friends, FWCC Africa Section clerk Bainito Wamalwa cited Job: “There is hope for a tree if it is cut down, that it will sprout again...at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches.” This powerfully underlines for me the importance of our global community – in ancient woodlands trees do connect their roots underground and sustain, revive and rejuvenate one-another, but they cannot do so without water – which in our context is the living water of Christ.

We could think of ourselves as living through pandemics – or alternatively as living through storms (and some of us literally are living through storms). And how do trees weather storms? They connect, they reach out, and uphold one-another with their roots underground. In our Quaker community, those connections are built through love, joy, community and friendship, all of which are cultivated through FWCC.

Continuing the work of Gretchen Castle, Susanna Mattingly and so many others, this is what I hope to keep doing. It starts with saying hello, which this letter begins, and will be the priority for my first few months. If you want to talk about anything at all (en inglés o en español), my email will be on the website from January. I look forward to hearing from you.

In Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Gee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T" and "G".

Tim Gee
INCOMING GENERAL SECRETARY
FWCC WORLD OFFICE

Welcoming new faces to global Quaker service

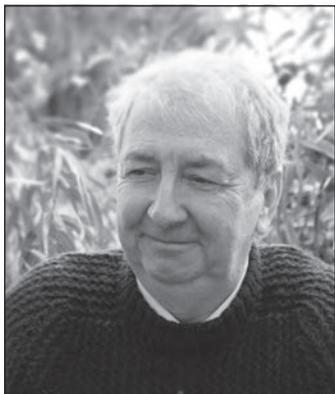
There have been a number of leadership changes at Quaker organisations, and within the FWCC Sections recently. We welcome these Friends to their roles in service and look forward to working with them.



Tim Gee ***Incoming General Secretary*** ***FWCC World Office***

Tim joins FWCC from Amnesty International in the UK, before which he worked for Britain Yearly Meeting, Christian Aid and Friends of the Earth. Upon his appointment, Simon Lamb, FWCC's clerk said "He brings an exuberance and energy, and he

brings a vision and desire to serve the global family of Friends which is grounded in a living, easily expressed faith in God." Tim will begin his employment at FWCC on 11 January 2022.



Adrian Glamorgan ***Section Secretary*** ***FWCC Asia West Pacific Section***

When not serving as Secretary, Adrian is an educator, writer-facilitator and broadcaster of "Understorey Asia", an occasional radio/podcast series on peace and environment issues linked with the weekly "Understorey" program broadcast each week from Perth, Western Australia, on Noongar land, with Elizabeth PO'.

photo by Susan Hill



Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge
Director
Quaker United Nations Office
Geneva

Nozizwe joins QUNO with broad experience in influential service in government, civil society and advocacy. She holds an honorary Doctorate of Law from Haverford College, diplomas in microbiology and adult education, a degree in social science and an honours degree in philosophy. Nozizwe is a member of the Quaker community in the Western Cape Meeting, South Africa.



Sarah Clarke
Director
Quaker United Nations Office
New York

Sarah joined QUNO New York on 1 November 2021. Sarah is a former Quaker UN Representative for New York from 2002–2014 with over 20 years of experience in peacebuilding and conflict transformation in international settings. She holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics and has spent most of her adult life living in the U.S. and Southeast Asia. Originally from Canada, Sarah is a member of Ottawa Monthly Meeting.

Sustainability Programme and COP26

The United Nations Conference on Climate Change – COP26 – took place in Glasgow, UK between 31 October and 12 November 2021, after being postponed for a year due to Covid-19. The conference brought together heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to try to agree how countries should tackle the climate crisis.

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) works under the name of FWCC at the UNFCCC climate negotiations, representing Friends at the global level and offering Quakers the chance to contribute to world affairs. A number of Quakers from around the world were present at COP26 in Glasgow, including staff members at the Quaker United Nations Office and Britain Yearly Meeting. We thank and uphold all staff for their tireless efforts to amplify the Quaker voice and speak on behalf of Friends worldwide on all matters of sustainability.

We were involved in organising several events for Friends worldwide during COP26. Event recordings are available on the FWCC website: fwcc.world/areas-of-work/sustainability/cop26



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

- An online FWCC **‘Quaker Conversation’ session on Food Security** with Professor Molly Anderson and Epa Ndahimana
- An online event bringing together **young Quakers from around the world** to share their experiences of climate breakdown and their hopes for the future
- An online event to hear **Quaker perspectives on the climate negotiations** from staff at QUNO and Britain Yearly Meeting
- An **official COP26 side event** in partnership with QUNO, Quaker Earthcare Witness and ACT Alliance exploring ‘fair share’ in finance for people affected by loss and damage

Alongside those participating in Glasgow, Quakers all around the world used the global focus on COP26 to call on governments to commit to essential climate targets and to place justice at the heart of solutions to climate breakdown, and protect life on earth.

Faith and Science: Towards COP26

Over the past year FWCC has taken part in a series of online meetings of religious leaders and scientists organised by the British and the Italian Embassies together with the Holy See, setting out a vision for tackling the climate crisis and building momentum for COP26. On 4 October 2021, Gretchen Castle represented FWCC and Quakers worldwide as faith leaders met at the Vatican to share their appeal to the political leaders attending COP26. We thank Gretchen for representing Friends in this work. [fwcc.world/faith-and-science](https://www.fwcc.world/faith-and-science)



Gretchen Castle, representing FWCC and Quakers worldwide, speaks at “Faith and Science: Towards COP26” conference at the Vatican, 4 October 2021.

World Quaker Day 2021

World Quaker Day took place on Sunday 3 October 2021. We saw Friends from around the world celebrating the 7th annual event online and in-person. The theme was *Resilience and hope: drawing strength from our Quaker faith*.

We asked Friends to explore three questions, either alone or together with their worship group, church or meeting:

1. How do you understand resilience and hope?
2. What elements of your Quaker faith enable you to have resilience and hope?
3. How does being part of an international Quaker community help provide you with strength?



We received reports from Quakers all around the world, sharing how they celebrated World Quaker Day. One such report came from the Matinecock Meeting House in Locust Valley, New York where a young child had written a letter to George Fox telling him how big his dream had become. The letter read:

Dear Mr Fox,

Today it's World Quaker Day! It is the day that people all over the world celebrate being Quaker.

When you started the Quaker religion, it was small. Now it has spread all over Europe, North America, South America, Africa and more! You have taught so many people to

believe that God is everywhere, and in everyone. Today, many people live by that message.

From, Brinley

As ever we are grateful for your reports in the form of pictures, videos, and written reflections. You can find all the 2021 reports online at www.worldquakerday.org. Next year we will be celebrating World Quaker Day on **Sunday 2 October 2022**. The theme is ***Becoming the Quakers the World Needs***. We look forward to celebrating with you all!

News from the FWCC Sections:

Section Secretaries share their reports

Africa Section

We bring you greetings from our Section. We are grateful to God for this far He has brought us as we approach the end of 2021 amidst challenges brought about by COVID-19. God's goodness and His mercies have continued to sustain us (Psalms 23:6). We are excited to share with you the following updates from our Section.

World Quaker Day

Quakers in Africa joined the world in celebrating this year's World Quaker Day on 3rd October, 2021. The theme for this year was *Resilience and Hope: Drawing Strength from Our Quaker Faith*. Friends in Africa based the theme on the Bible verse; Job 14:7-8:

For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground.

The climax of the celebration was a worship service held at Machinjoni Friends Church, East Africa Yearly Meeting North. The church, with the support of Pastor Leonard Ashivaga and Bernard Kadasia (Clerk), hosted the WQD event in their church, which was well attended with over 500 members. Friends from other churches in Kenya



The Clerk of the Africa Section Bainito Wamalwa addressing the congregation at Machinjoni Friends Church

and a few from Rwanda, Southern Africa YM joined the worship via Zoom. The Kitale praise and worship members sang very uplifting music. Pastor Moses Adika shared the sermon from Kawangware Friends Church, Nairobi Yearly Meeting. We had planned to hold the celebration jointly with Friends from Asia West Pacific, but this did not happen because of technological challenges.

Travel in the ministry to the Great Lakes Region

We requested support from the World Office for travel to the Great Lakes Region to connect and build fellowship with Friends in the region. The visit was successful in that the team met and interacted with the leadership of Kibimba and Kwibuka Yearly Meeting, and the two factions in CEEACO (DR Congo) and initiated a process for unity and reconciliation. We request that you join us in holding these processes in the Light. The Team also met with over 80 Young Friends from Burundi and encouraged them to be more involved with the activities of FWCC, including their participation in the World Plenary Meeting. The Section also visited and participated in annual conferences in Kenya and Uganda Yearly Meetings.

Distribution of communication equipment

We purchased routers and are in the process of installing them in select Yearly Meetings to improve communication among Friends in the Section. We are glad to report that some YMs are already using them to connect with Friends, both locally and beyond. There are some that are still struggling and we are providing the necessary support once they reach out to us. We see this is a process of learning and we trust that there will be improvement with time.

Hezron Masitsa
AFRICA SECTION ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
MASITSAHC@GMAIL.COM

Asia West Pacific Section

Overview of the Asia West Pacific — our context

The Asia West Pacific Section is the most populous region of the world. Challenges arising in the region have major ramifications for the rest of the planet. These challenges are made all the more complex because they frequently compound with each other. Some examples:

1. **Covid-19 and public health concerns:** As of mid-October 2021, India has had just under 450,000 deaths recorded out of a total of about 34 million cases. Myanmar has been highlighted by the UNHCR as having a particular Covid concern, with the UN special rapporteur for human rights in Myanmar pointing out that covid-19 can't be addressed if doctors and nurses are being attacked

or arrested. Indonesia has also had serious outbreaks. As expected, the most vulnerable in the region have been affected.

2. **Food security:** Afghanistan and North Korea are of particular concern, though Indigenous people, women, and the poor have been also affected by their reduced access to basic food supplies because of covid-10.
3. **Refugees:** In early October 2021, there were 4.2 million refugees and Asylum seekers in the Asia-Pacific region, 2.3 million stateless persons, and 9.8 million people of concern to UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. Covid has led to funding gaps for official refugee agencies like the UNHCR – currently a 52% gap globally.
4. **Militarisation:** There have been anxieties expressed about superpower rivalries in the region. The newly declared AUKUS alliance between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, has led to some anxiety that South, Southeast Asia and East Asian countries could become frontline states, as tensions rise. Australia's proposal to acquire nuclear submarines may have quickened other countries' aspirations to do the same.
5. **Climate Change and the "Third Pole":** The Tibetan Plateau and the Himalaya contain 60 billion tonnes of freshwater, the biggest reserve after the Arctic and Antarctic region.

Potentially Quaker values fit well into many existing Asian West Pacific contexts: aspirations for peace, simplicity, equality, community, integrity and earthcare have their own indigenous versions in countries across the Section. Nevertheless, for the moment our numbers are small.

As new Secretary of the Section since 1 July, I've been seeking to get to know Friends in various meetings, aided by their use of Zoom for Meetings for Worship, our wonderful Section Gathering organised by departing Secretary Ronis Chapman, and opportunities like World Quaker Day, Thursday online Meetings for Worship, Zoom Chats, and joining Friends Peace Teams get-togethers, as well as meeting up with other section secretaries monthly.

Our new FWCC AWPS Clerk Jonathan Fletcher and Assistant Secretary, Marj Angalot, are supportive of the Section developing partnerships with Woodbrooke, Silver Wattle, and The Settlement, in order for those Asian and West Pacific Friends not familiar with European settings, or not yet trained in their own meeting, to learn more about the practices of Friends, and to get to the essence of Quaker processes – like clerking. Our newly appointed representative to QUNO Geneva, William Knox will also contribute to the international perspective, as Aletia Dundas, our New York representative, also has for quite some time. Harold Wilkinson, our longstanding Treasurer, is also keen for him and I to plan for some long term fundraising objectives (including the short term fundraising for QUNO New York).

Asia West Pacific Section has also cooperated with groups preparing for Glasgow COP26, and the voices of young people at preparatory gatherings facilitated by our Quaker Global Sustainability Group will include participation from a Young Friend Ludwig Quirog, from Bohol, in the Philippines.

East Asia has a population of 1.6 billion, South Asia a population of 1.94 billion. We Quakers may be few in number, amongst so many, but the heart of our togetherness is honouring the insights of Friends' spiritual practices: individual discernment, our Meetings for Worship, our testimonies living these spiritual insights, the courage it takes to live life adventurously, and the contribution involved in helping out in our local communities. And when I meet people in these different meetings across half the globe, I find inspiring company. And as we face the various challenges, including the expensive "luxury" of threatened war, we can be reminded of Ham Sok-Hon's encouragement to those who consider the path of violence: "Put your sword down and think hard," and embrace instead a cosmopolitan view of the world, and each other. For as Ham, our Korean philosopher insists to all those facing the harsh realities, "We must unconditionally cherish an optimistic future."

Adrian Glamorgan

AWPS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ADRIAN@FWCCAWPS.ORG

Europe and Middle East Section

Despite Covid, 2021 has been a year of stability for EMES in many ways. Our staff and executive committee have remained the same and together we have been able to build on our experience last year with online working.

Our Annual Meeting (AM) was held in May, over 100 Friends gathered online to consider the theme: *And truth flourishes as the rose, and the lilies do grow among the thorns . . . for the seed Christ is over all* (George Fox, 1663): Discerning how we rebuild and grow with hope. It was the largest and most diverse AM held for several years with Friends attending from many parts of the Section including the Middle East. The AM made the decision that EMES will have appointed elders on an ongoing basis; it also approved some work priorities for the next year which included reviewing our communications, holding a language specific gathering and updating the EMES constitution.

We have continued to hold three monthly online gatherings for Friends:

1. Representatives and role holders gatherings which bring Friends together for worship and fellowship and to give them the chance to better engage in the work of EMES.

2. Peace & Service Consultation gatherings which consider topics such as resilience and collaboration.
3. The EMES Youthgroup for 14–18 year olds – run bilingually in English and German – bringing together Young Friends from several countries to worship, play, create and talk about different topics such as sustainability, peer support, Quakers & Jesus and our Quaker stories.



It feels like EMES is a stronger and closer community due to more frequent meetings and opportunities to meet Friends online. We continue to work in partnership with Woodbrooke running online worship throughout the week. We also work with other partners including Europe & Middle East Young Friends, the Quaker Council for European Affairs and the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva.

Although some travel has been possible in Europe this year, most yearly meetings have been held online, with a few hybrid meetings. We have continued to encourage Friends to visit each other for worship around the Section and further afield. In July we held an online gathering for the international members in EMES. Unfortunately it has not been possible for us to carry out any in person pastoral visits in 2021.

The *Quaker in Europe* course, founded over a decade ago by EMES has been revamped and run in English this summer, and French Friends hope to run a French version before the end of the year.

We have been reviewing the criteria for our *Spiritual Growth Fund* and are planning a relaunch in 2022. During this year we have given 2 grants for translation work. Our *Digital Equality Fund* has given 4 grants in 2021 helping Friends to get online with support to buy a computer, or internet connection and by providing training in Zoom.

EMES is currently consulting Friends and meetings on a draft sustainable travel, events & communications policy which we hope to bring to the Annual Meeting in 2022 for

approval and action. With that in mind, we are looking forward to Friends being able to meet each other in person around the Section and to carrying out pastoral visits to support isolated Friends and smaller worship groups.

We are also looking forward to meeting Friends at our Annual Meeting in Paris in 2022, hoping this time that some of us will be able to gather in the same room, while others join us online.

Michael Eccles

EMES EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

MICHAEL@FWCCEMES.ORG

Section of the Americas

Traveling Ministry Corps Pivots to Online Events

Record numbers of Friends benefited from the many Zoom programs we held to help Friends stay connected – from regional gatherings to the first all-Latin America Friends Women’s Conference, three Spanish language programs for children and youth and several programs to help yearly meetings host their annual sessions online.

First Virtual Section Meeting of the Americas

We more than doubled the attendance record from the last Section Meeting. This powerful and inspiring meeting enriched the spiritual lives of a record number of attendees, including people whose age, health status, or time and budgetary constraints prevented them from attending in-person Section Meetings. We are particularly pleased that at least four times the number of Latin American Friends participated – one-third of total registration, which more closely reflects the actual distribution of Friends in the Americas. We also welcomed the newly created Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends and the Friends Church of North Carolina into our FWCC family.

The rich and varied programming over 10 days included home and interest groups, morning devotionals, Bible studies, regional meetings, social hours, two music/talent festivals in which many young Latin American brothers and sisters shared their gifts. The workshops ranged from “Friends Worldwide Working Together on Sustainability” and “Alternatives to Traditional Committee Structures” to “Supporting Clearness and Faithfulness” and “Connecting with Indigenous People Through the Land”.

In preparation for the Section Meeting, we created new bilingual orientation videos like the Guide to Quaker Business Practices and How To Work With An Interpreter, and held Zoom orientations for first-time participants and Representatives. All registrants also received access to the introductory course of our new online orientation program for Representatives.

Training Program for Representatives

In January 2021, we launched the new FWCC Online Orientation in English and Spanish to provide Representatives with information they need to know to be successful in this role. We had been planning this training program since 2019, and it is now more important than ever.

Using short videos and activities, Representatives are able to participate in this training program on their own schedule, without having to travel.

25 Yearly Meeting Tech Grants Awarded!

Thanks to a quick proposal and generosity of Friends from the Delaware Valley, we were able to provide 25 applicants with \$1,000 grants – 15 to yearly meetings in the U.S. and 10 outside of the U.S. that responded between June and September 2020.

We are pleased that the yearly meetings that received grants represent the rich diversity of Quakerism in the Americas theologically, culturally, and geographically. The yearly meetings also range in size from smaller meetings in Central America to large North American meetings representing thousands of members across multiple states.

“Many thanks” and “God bless you” sum up the many thanks we received from recipients.

Central American Disaster Relief Efforts

Special members of our FWCC family responded generously to help our Central American Friends, particularly in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala, severely impacted by hurricanes ETA and IOTA. We raised and sent more than \$11,500 through six Quaker channels, according to the size of the relief work underway, without regard to affiliation with FWCC. The beneficiaries were: Honduras Yearly Meeting, Shalom Jireh/FM Vida in Guatemala, Ambassadors Friends Monthly Meeting, Chaplains of Iglesia Amigos de Santidad, El Salvador Yearly Meeting, and National Friends Church of Guatemala. (fwccamericas.org/_wp/2021/01/13/hurricane-relief-efforts/)

Robin Mohr

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ROBINM@FWCCAMERICAS.ORG



WORLD OFFICE

173 Euston Road
London NW1 2AX, UK

ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY: Susanna Mattingly

PHONE (OUTSIDE THE UK): +44 207 663 1199

PHONE (INSIDE THE UK): 020 7663 1199

E-MAIL: susannam@fwcc.world

fwcc.world

UK Charity 211647

AFRICA SECTION

PO Box 41946 - 00100

Nairobi, Kenya

ACTING SECTION SECRETARY: Hezron Masitsa

PHONES: +254 727 150 794 / +254 733 549 071

E-MAIL: info@fwccas.org

www.fwccas.org

ASIA-WEST PACIFIC SECTION

35 Clifton Crescent

Mt Lawley

Western Australia 6050

Australia

SECTION SECRETARY: Adrian Glamorgan

SIGNAL: +61 450 732 100

E-mail: adrian@fwccawps.org

www.fwccawps.org

EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST SECTION

Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road

Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LJ, UK

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Michael Eccles

PHONE: +44(0)7934310715

E-MAIL: michael@fwccemes.org

www.fwccemes.org

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

1506 Race Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102, USA

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Robin Mohr

PHONE: +1 215 241 7250

E-MAIL: robinm@fwccamericas.org

www.fwccamericas.org

