

**FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION**  
**Central Executive Committee**  
**Videoconference Meeting**  
**6 November 2021**

**CEC 21-46vc. Opening minute.** We have gathered by videoconference on 6 November 2021 at 11:00 am UK time.

**Present:**

Elizabeth Cazden (New England YM)	Assistant Clerk FWCC
Michael Eccles (Britain YM)	Sec EMES
Jonathan Fletcher (Aotearoa/New Zealand YM)	Acting Clerk AWP Section
Adrian Glamorgan (Australia YM)	Sec AWP Section
Myron Guachalla Montano (Bolivia Central YM)	Member at large
Simon C. Lamb (Ireland YM)	Clerk FWCC
Ethel Livermore (Britain YM)	Clerk EMES
Hezron C. Masitsa (Nairobi YM)	Acting Sec Africa Section
Susanna Mattingly (Britain YM)	Acting General Sec FWCC
Thule Mbete (Southern Africa YM)	Member at large
Robin Mohr (Philadelphia YM)	Sec Section of the Americas
Esther Mombo (Highlands YM)	Assistant Clerk FWCC
David Shiner (Illinois YM)	Clerk Section of the Americas
Peter Ullathorne (Britain YM)	Treasurer
Bainito Wamalwa (East Africa YM-North)	Clerk Africa Section

**Invited:**

Nancy Fee (Southern Africa YM)	IPC Co-clerk
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In our opening worship, mindful of the ongoing COP26 global climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, we heard a minute of Britain (then London) YM (1988):

Our planet is seriously ill and we can feel the pain. We have been reminded of the many ways in which the future health of the earth is under threat as a result of our selfishness, ignorance and greed. Our earth needs attention, respect, love, care and prayer.

In comfortable Britain we are largely insulated from the effects of the environmental crisis. It is the poor of the world who suffer first.

As a Religious Society of Friends we see the stewardship of God's creation as a major concern. The environmental crisis is at root a spiritual and religious crisis; we are called to look again at the real purpose of being on this earth, which is to till it and keep it so as to reveal the glory of God for generations to come.

It is a stony road ahead but our faith will uphold us; the power to act is God's power which is mediated through each of us as we give and receive support one from another. We can all listen if we will to the sounds of the earth, tuning into it with joy.

(Britain YM Faith & Practice 25.02)

We welcome Adrian Glamorgan (Australia YM), the new Secretary of the AWP Section, for his first official meeting as a member of the CEC.

We have shared briefly special memories from World Quaker Day, some from our local meetings and some from around the world. Some 84 Friends joined the joint Asia-West Pacific/Africa Section worship; many of us joined online worship in another Section as well as our own. Several of us led activities for children in our local meetings. The World Office has enjoyed reading the reports from throughout the world; one children's class wrote letters to George Fox to tell him how widely his message has spread around the world.

**CEC 21-47vc. Previous minutes.** We give final approval to the minutes of the meetings of 10-14 June 2021 (after two minor edits), 17 July, and 24 July, which were circulated in advance. We further ratify and approve a minute that was previously approved by e-mail, which is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

**CEC 21-48vc. World Office Report.** The Acting General Secretary reported on the office's work since our last meeting. Staffing has been challenging due to resignations, but she has felt well-supported by the Clerk and Treasurer. Faith Biddle completed a lot of Communications work before leaving, including a revised website and database. She has contracted with Holly Spencer (France YM) for one day per week to manage the new series of Quaker Conversations. Two volunteers are tending the Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts during this interim period. The newly named Staff Advisory Committee met with the staff (by Zoom) on 27 October and should be helpful support to the staff.

She has attended online meetings of the Heads of Quaker Agencies and will attend the upcoming in-person meeting in London in December. They have focused on relationship-building and transition, as five of the seven organisations are undergoing changes in senior leadership. She is working with Tim Gee and the other staff on the transition to his service.

The Global Sustainability Group, a network of Quaker agencies working on environmental sustainability and justice, has met every two months to foster collaborative work. It now includes members from all Sections. Adrian Glamorgan and Bainito Wamalwa have participated in it as well.

The Clerk represented FWCC at the recent meeting of QUNC-Geneva, and will do the same for the upcoming meeting of QUNC-NY. The office is working with both QUNO offices about a possible online event to mark the retirement of QUNO Directors Andrew Tomlinson (NY) and Jonathan Wooley (Geneva), and welcome the incoming Directors Sarah Clarke (NY) and Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge (Geneva). The office is engaged in negotiating revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding between FWCC and AFSC for governance of the QUNO-NY work. A small working group has formed to work on details. Marisa Johnson has agreed to help represent FWCC at these meetings. The final document is expected in June 2022; the Clerk will sign it for FWCC.

Two programmes have been developed for and with Young Adult Friends. The first was an online interactive event on 31 October, at the start of COP26, where young Friends from Bolivia, Burundi, the United States, and the Philippines shared their experiences of the climate crisis and their hopes for the future. Second, the Office is working with a Young Friends planning committee and Woodbrooke on an intergenerational course, "The foundations and future of Quaker change-making," to begin 17 November.

The funding application submitted previously for the Sustainability-Justice work was not funded, but we have been invited to resubmit it for the next round this month. Tim Gee has helped with these applications and is worked with her on other options if that is not successful.

We deeply appreciate Susanna's work and are impressed at the amount and high quality of the work during this interim period.

**CEC 21-49vc. International Planning Committee.** IPC Co-clerk Nancy Fee (Southern Africa YM) has provided an extensive report on the committee’s deliberations at its meeting from 7-10 October. The committee is working well together and all members are very engaged. She presented further comments, highlighting the issues still outstanding. The uncertainties about the global pandemic continue to make planning challenging for all, including the potential venues. We are grateful for these reports, and support the general direction the IPC is working in. We look forward to further reports as details become clear and decisions are required.

We have heard concerns raised by Southern Africa YM about their continued hosting of the 2024 World Plenary Meeting, especially in light of the uncertain situation within the country. The Clerk, Treasurer, and Acting General Secretary have joined meetings with local Friends to listen to and consider those concerns. The IPC has sought to make the meeting more manageable by reducing the size and contracting with a professional conference planner. The IPC and LAC are working to establish a risk register for the meeting, which seems very helpful. It may be advisable to move the location from Durban to another location with Southern Africa YM; the CEC is open to such a move if the IPC recommends it.

We appreciate all the work of the IPC and look forward to hearing any further concerns as plans proceed and more information is available.

**CEC 21--50vc. Global Fundraising Campaign.** We have received a written update on the progress of the Global Fundraising Campaign, including progress in each Section formulating goals for that Section’s work. We note that the World Office goals that Gretchen Castle drafted before she left all focused on funding additional staff in the London office, which may not be the greatest need or the most attractive model for potential donors and funders. The Campaign Steering Committee has not yet been fully formed. We agreed that we need a called meeting dedicated to this issue in January 2022, after Tim Gee has started work as General Secretary. We ask Robin Mohr, Susanna Mattingly, Adrian Glamorgan, Ethel Livermore, and Bainito Wamalwa to develop a proposal for us to consider at that time and clarify the questions to be discerned.

**CEC 21-51vc. COP26 Report.** The Acting General Secretary has presented a written report on the office’s activities in support of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26), taking place in Glasgow, UK, from 31 October to 12 November. FWCC has been an active member of the Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC) which plans for the interfaith presence at the COP meetings. The group organised a series of three online interactive events in October 2020, March 2021, and September 2021 in advance of COP26, which the Acting General Secretary spoke at and moderated. During the COP26 meeting the office has convened an online meeting of Young Friends from around the world to share what is happening in their countries, and an online event to hear reflections on the COP26 negotiations from Lindsey Fielder Cook, Representative for Climate Change at QUNO Geneva, and Olivia Hanks, Economics and Sustainability Programme Manager for Britain Yearly Meeting.

The Acting General Secretary also reported that Gretchen Castle attended a meeting of faith leaders at the Vatican on October 4, 2021, as part of the preparation for the COP26 meeting, which she had committed to before stepping back from her formal role as FWCC General Secretary. She signed on FWCC’s behalf a statement entitled “Faith and Science: Appeal from faith leaders to politicians at COP26.” A copy of the statement is on the FWCC website, [Faith and Science: Appeal from faith leaders to politicians at COP26](#). We thank Gretchen Castle for faithfully representing Friends in this work.

**CEC 21-52vc. Financial Update.** Treasurer Peter Ullathorne and IFC Clerk Ethel Livermore have reported on the recent IFC meeting. The Treasurer expects the 2021 fiscal year to end close to break-even, as expense savings due to reduced travel have balanced reduced contributions. The investments have done very well. For FY 2022, he expects lower levels of contribution to continue, but expenditures are likely to increase with a return to more normal travel patterns, including an in-person CEC meeting. The fund-raising campaign will be critical in determining what will be possible in future years. In addition, the global economy shows considerable uncertainty, especially the risk of inflation.

The Treasurer has established a small second investment account with CCLA, due to a delay in transferring signatures on Rathbone account. CCLA has lower fees and better returns. It has significant Quaker involvement and handles funds for other Quaker institutions within the UK. The IFC proposes to move more of the World Office's investments to CCLA's management.

CEC authorizes Treasurer and IFC to make this change as they see fit, trusting that both the financial integrity and the social investment policies of our investment managers will be maintained. We note that our Treasurer has declared a conflict of interest in that he engaged on the ethical investments committee of CCLA, in an unpaid capacity.

**CEC 21-53vc. Africa Section Travel Request.** It was reported that the Acting General Secretary received a request for World Office support for travel by the Africa Section Clerk and Acting Secretary to visit Friends in the Great Lakes region and interview an applicant for International Membership. The total amount requested was \$3,730 USD (£2,696 GBP). Pursuant to the policy on use of the C.B. Taylor Fund, this request was forwarded to the three clerks and the Treasurer for their consideration. After due consideration, they approved the request and the funds were provided.

**CEC 21-54vc. Future Meeting Dates.** We have set future meetings for 22 January 2022 (dedicated to Global Fundraising) at 11:00 am UK time, 26 March 2022 at 11:00 am UK time, and an in-person meeting (with virtual option) in June 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, adjacent to the International Planning Committee. The office and the clerk will inform the CEC of the exact dates and location as soon as those are set.

**CEC 21-55vc.** We note with sorrow the passing of Tom Hill (Baltimore YM), a previous clerk of the Section of the Americas and of the Interim Committee (predecessor of the CEC), on 21 August 2021, following a fall. A hybrid in-person and online memorial meeting was held on 18 September 2021, hosted by his home meeting in Virginia, USA, which a number of long-time FWCC past staff and CEC members were able to attend virtually.

**CEC 21-56vc. Closing worship.** We hold in prayer the ongoing COP26 meeting in Glasgow, that the politicians, activists, faith leaders, and all those gathered in Glasgow may listen to each other's hearts and to the still small voice of the Spirit.

Simon C. Lamb, Clerk  
Elizabeth Cazden, Assistant/Recording Clerk  
Esther Mombo, Assistant Clerk

## APPENDIX

**CEC 21-45e. QUNO Nomination.** The International Nominations Committee has considered and now recommends the name of William Knox (Britain YM / Singapore

Worship Group/ AWPS) to serve on the QUNO Geneva Committee for a 3 year term commencing 15th day of 10th month, 2021. We have considered this recommendation and approve the nomination. (approved by e-mail 8-11 Oct. 2021, ratified 6 Nov. 2021.)