

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION
Central Executive Committee
Videoconference Meeting
11 February 2023

CEC 23-01vc. Opening minute. We gathered by videoconference on 11th of the Second month 2023 at 12:00 pm UK time.

Present:

Michael Eccles (Britain YM)	Sec EMES
Jonathan Fletcher (Aotearoa/New Zealand YM)	Clerk AWP Section
Timothy Gee (Britain YM)	General Secretary FWCC
Adrian Glamorgan (Australia YM)	Sec AWP Section
Myron Guachalla Montano (Bolivia Central YM)	Member at large
Simon C. Lamb (Ireland YM)	Clerk FWCC
Thuli 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
Peter Shitemi	Executive Secretary, Africa Section
Bainito Wamalwa (East Africa YM-North)	Clerk Africa Section

Kenya Caridad Casanova Sales (Cuba Yearly Meeting) Assistant/ recording clerk

Invited:

Nancy Fee (Southern Africa YM)	Co-Clerk International. Planning Committee
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Prevented:

Ethel Livermore (Britain YM)	Clerk EMES
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A welcoming was given to Kenya Casanova Sales and Peter Shitemi, new members of the CEC.

In our opening worship, the clerk read the next fragment of John S Rowntree speaking at the 1895 Manchester Conference:

“ Is there perplexity and change in religious thought? Then God grant to our church the spirit of understanding which shall give her the eye of a seer, the voice of a prophet, the place and power of a leader.”

“Is there indifference to the higher life? Then, O Christ , convince us by Thy Spirit, thrill us with Thy divine passion, drown our selfishness in Thy invading love, lay on us the burden of the world’s suffering, drive us forth with the apostolic fervor of the early church!”

“ So Only can our Message be delivered – “Speak to the children of Israel and they go forward”

After listening to the quote, we had a period of silent worship.

CEC 23-02vc. Minutes of the last meetings. Friends make gave suggestions about the past minutes, and they were approved with some corrections to wording,

CEC 23-03vc IPC Decisions. Nancy Fee , Co-Clerk of the International. Planning

Committee gave a report on the IPC meeting. They met on Zoom recently, where they analyzed the draft of the WPM's program, a revised World Plenary budget, a progress report from the IPC working group and the LAC, a progress report from the World office, including plans for communication and fundraising activity, a revised WPM timeline and next IPC meeting .

The program of the World Plenary Meeting was presented. Friends asked some questions, made comments and gave suggestion about the program. Big progress has been made on it and Friends gave appreciation for that work. Recommendations were made about the schedule of the most important activities, or the events related to an specific Section, according to the time zone. Some Friends also recommended to separate the celebration of George Fox's birthday from the talent show.

CEC 23-04vc The WPM draft program is **approved**, considering that it is still a work in progress and small changes will be made.

CEC 23-05vc World Plenary Budget . The 2024 World Plenary Budget was presented Friends gave their considerations. A few changes were made: It was given a capacity of 20 people to CEC and IPC, it was added an item on air fare risk. Friends spoke about the importance of doing fundraising, better before than after the Conference.

Friends expressed their concern about the registration fee for Friends of the global North and global South and suggested that Friends from the north pay a minimum fee of £1000.00 and Friends from the south pay a minimum of £100.00, encouraging Friends to pay more if they are able.

CEC 23-06vc It is **approved** that the IPC, having heard our concerns, look where we stand and come back again to IPC meeting in May and CEC in July to keep working on which reserve will be moved to fund the deficit.

CEC 23-07vc Probable join meeting . The proposal was presented that for the IPC and CEC meetings in July, all the members of the CEC be invited to join the IPC meeting. The purposes of that is to be more efficient in decision making and to reduce expenses.

The idea is that the IPC meet for 3 days and then a further 4 days for the CEC.

The IPC clerks and other Friends expressed the problems and the advantages about this proposal.

We **approved** that the IPC clerks contact the other members of the IPC -that are not in the CEC, to have a discussion on whether they agree or not with this idea, and if they accept it, the clerk will propose an agenda -for the time table for that- . If they are not happy, we will have to reconsider.

CEC 23-08vc We listened to the **General Secretary's update report**. He spoke of his virtual visit to Southern Africa Yearly Meeting exploring the theme of Ubuntu. It was also the theme of the January Young Quaker Christian Association.

A statement about the peace testimony and war in Ukraine was published in some Quaker periodicals. The General Secretary met with AFSC who are able to send some resources to Friends welcoming refugees in central Europe. He also met with the Daily Meeting for Worship for Ukraine.

The fundraising for the WPM shows a good start, especially with a significant pledge from Britain Yearly Meeting and the Jan Voogd fund (Australia) and the leadership shown by the Section of the Americas on the global fundraising campaign.

A draft was made of the George Fox 400 birthday pack, including stories, a dramatic reading, Bible study, suggested craft activity and prompts for worship sharing, among other things, putting together the contribution of all the Sections.

He related his participation in the Annual Meeting of General Secretaries of Christian World Communions, along with Esther Mombo.
This report finished with the goals of the General Secretary for this new year.

Friends expressed their appreciation for the work of the General Secretary and to the world office for the support to African Young Friends.

CEC 23-09vc World Office Communications & Fundraising . The General Secretary presented the report. We **approved** the next proposal :

1. To make the key World Office messages of 2023 as follows:
 - (a) Engage with the theme of the World Plenary
 - (b) Book for the World Plenary (&/or contact your section to find out more)
 - (c) Pay for someone else to take part in the World Plenary in person or online
2. To make the key ask for World Quaker Day 2023:
 - (a) Engage with the theme of the World Plenary
 - (b) Book for the World Plenary
 - (c) Make a collection for someone to take part in the World Plenary who would not be able to participate otherwise
3. To aim for a 2-3 year Justice and Peace Programme subject to extension to support the journey towards and beyond the World Plenary, rather than a 5 year programme at this stage
4. To produce the following resources to assist Sections to reach their goals
 - (a) An issue of Friends World News and annual review, themed around the World Plenary and Sections' forward plans, in the first half of the year
 - (b) A webpage giving updates on the targets and progress towards them
 - (c) A way of donating, possibly connected to the World Plenary bookings page, which allows people to buy tickets for people who would not be able to afford it otherwise
 - (d) A comprehensive written online Q and A to help answer the questions people might have about the WPM
 - (e) An open offer to any Yearly Meeting or Quaker group meeting in hybrid form to give a live Q and A session about the World Plenary Meeting, in coordination with Sections
 - (f) Articles in Quaker publications about the theme of the WPM, including a possible illustration to build on it
 - (g) Resources for World Quaker Day, which will have the same theme.
Currently a video and a piece of writing on Ubuntu are both in process from SAYM and the communications working group.

CEC 23-10 vc It is **approved** to recruit a Justice and Peace Secretary on a two-year contract, and that from now on , all our fundraising efforts be based on the WPM until it is finished, and then, after the WPM we try to extend the contract of the Justice and Peace Secretary. That will be the person of the World Office staff members responsible for enacting the position of the WPM.

Friends spoke about how good it would be that some members of the CEC be available to speak in a different section than his/her own and give a Q and A session about the World Plenary Meeting.

CEC 23-11vc Nominations. The INC is making efforts to find an additional member at large for the CEC. Ethel is stepping down from the IFC, so we will need a new clerk for that Committee. The INC will be contacted to work on that.

CEC 23-12 vc Planning for July Meeting. The members of the CEC will need to keep in contact with the World Office about flights, visas (the ones that require it) and other arrangements.

CEC 23-13vc 2024 Budget. The treasurer presented the 2024 Budget and it is **approved**.

CEC 23-14vc Closing worship. We closed with silent worship, with the expectation to meet again in July, in person.

Simon C. Lamb,
Clerk

Kenya Caridad Casanova Sales
Asst./Recording Clerk