

# FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

## Central Executive Committee

### Online Meeting via Zoom

2 December 2023 at 11.00am UK time

#### Present:

Marj Angalot (Bohol Worship Group)	<i>Member at large</i>
Michael Eccles (Britain YM)	<i>Secretary Europe &amp; Middle East Section</i>
Jonathan Fletcher (Aotearoa/New Zealand YM)	<i>Clerk Asia West Pacific Section</i>
Timothy Gee (Britain YM)	<i>General Secretary FWCC WO</i>
Adrian Glamorgan (Australia YM)	<i>Secretary Asia West Pacific Section</i>
Myron Guachalla Montano (Bolivia Central YM)	<i>Member at large</i>
Simon C. Lamb (Ireland YM)	<i>Clerk FWCC</i>
Ethel Livermore (Britain YM)	<i>Clerk Europe &amp; Middle East Section</i>
Robin Mohr (Philadelphia YM)	<i>Secretary Section of the Americas</i>
Esther Mombo (Highlands YM)	<i>Assistant Clerk FWCC</i>
LaVonna Loesch (Great Plains YM)	<i>Clerk Section of the Americas</i>
Peter Ullathorne (Britain YM)	<i>Treasurer WO</i>
Bainito Wamalwa (East Africa YM-North)	<i>Clerk Africa Section</i>

#### Prevented:

Kenya Caridad Casanova Sales (Cuba Yearly Meeting)	<i>Assistant/recording clerk</i>
Thuli Mbete (Southern Africa YM)	<i>Member at large</i>

#### CEC 23-59 Opening worship

Following Simon's welcome to all those present, LaVonna led our opening worship and read some queries for Christmas and Advent written by the pastor at University Friends Meeting in Wichita.

#### CEC 23-60 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of our meeting in South Africa in August had been approved in that meeting. The following matters arising were noted:-

##### 1. Risk Assessment.

There were no changes to report so far, but the register is kept under constant review

##### 2. Safeguarding

Tim reported that we need an appropriate safeguarding policy to cover the Plenary. As a grantee of Britain Yearly Meeting we were subject to their Policy, which was very helpful for the UK operations, and for this we need to nominate a Link Trustee from amongst our committee; Tim will circulate the requirements for this role. We need to ascertain South African requirements and develop a policy to suit, including details of the pastoral care arrangements.

##### 3. QUNO NY MoU

The final version with a more detailed dispute resolution process has been agreed, and we approve this.

#### **4. Young Adult Friends Development Fund**

The proposed use of the two funds to support the Young Friends Gathering that precedes the Plenary was felt to be the most cost-effective and appropriate use of the funds, and indeed may be the best opportunity for a decade. It was agreed that the Young Adult Friends fund would be utilised in the first instance, retaining £5,000 for supporting a future gathering. Applications for support in respect of the Plenary were being submitted, and it was agreed that Section Clerks should be advised at an early stage of the applications so that they could be scrutinised in advance of the committee meeting to decide on the grants, which was expected to be in late January.

#### **CEC 23-61 General Secretary's Report**

Tim's report had been circulated in advance, and he highlighted

- Bookings for the World Plenary Meeting are coming in well, and he expects a large number to be forthcoming soon
- He had travelled extensively over the last two months including visiting Evangelical Friends in Hungary, QUNO and the CWC in Geneva, Hong Kong (for the AWPS gathering), and the Quaker Life representative council of Britain YM.
- QUNO was active in propagating Quaker views against the war in Palestine, and he had signed a public letter on our behalf
- Hezron Masitsa had now started as Peace & Justice Secretary and was making a positive contribution to the organisation's work.
- The events to mark the George Fox 400th anniversary were now starting; the Quaker Theology Discussion Group had held well-attended online sessions over the past two days

Tim was thanked for his report

#### **CEC 23-62 World Quaker Day**

Tim reported that World Quaker Day was successful in reaching about 10,000 Friends worldwide. The theme of Ubuntu is gaining traction although there are some people who have not come to a full appreciation yet. Bainito suggested that an explanation in very simple language would be helpful.

#### **CEC 23-63 IPC Update**

The minutes of the IPC meeting held on 11 November had been circulated and were received. The detailed programme for the onsite meeting had now been agreed. Ideas for the online programme and details of hubs are coming on well, and further details are expected soon. It was important to clarify what the online registration entailed. Friends may be reluctant to sign up (and pay for) for something that seems unclear at present. It was important to advise what the online programme involved, and to make the registration deadline clear.

## **CEC 23-64 Year to date accounts for Section and World Office**

The financial results from sections and the world office were circulated and discussed.

**EMES** had been awarded a five year grant by their major funder, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and this provided some stability. However, YMs in the section were finding it difficult to raise funds for the section, and consequently the World Office.

**SoA** reported on a highly successful fundraising campaign. Their targets had been exceeded, and new streams of work were being enabled, as well as completion of existing projects such as the Directory and the Glossary. Their regular programme was being delivered and the half-year figures were satisfactory.

**AWPS** is a relatively poor section, and was struggling to raise funds. They are looking at their reserves policy. They are also looking for a new treasurer.

**AS** was preparing figures for their section executive meeting on 13 December, so these were not available at present. We expect to receive these as soon as they are available.

**World Office** figures were largely on budget. Timing differences and the inclusion of WPM income made it difficult to interpret the accounts circulated, but it was felt that the position was sound.

It was suggested that sections should regularly submit their accounts to the IFC in advance of its meetings.

## **CEC 23 - 65 World Office Budget and Treasurer's Report**

The draft budget for the World Office for 2024 was presented. This envisaged a small deficit on the regular work, but overall a larger deficit once the World Plenary Meeting figures were incorporated. Salaries would increase by inflation, but the exact staff structure was under discussion. Susanna Mattingly had returned from maternity leave, but has now decided that she needs to spend more time with her young children and will be leaving FWCC in the next month. The working draft was accepted.

The Treasurer had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. The main points covered were:-

- The audited accounts had been signed by our Clerk and submitted to the Charity Commission, together with the Annual Return
- The WPM budget received by the last CEC meeting remains valid. Registration fees are being received. Payments to the Hotel for the accommodation have been made and more are due.
- The Treasurer repeated the list of reserve funds that will be used to support the WPM
- Investments remained fairly steady in value (around £500k), and cash held at the Co-op Bank, US Bank and CCLA was over £200k
- The IFC has not met since May, but the Treasurer will send them an up-to date report, and it was hoped that they would meet in February 2024

### **CEC 23 - 66 Next meeting**

We will next meet online on 10 February 2024 . We have also agreed to meet on the 6th April. We will plan to share out the unsociable hours for future meetings and ask Simon and Tim to decide the times of both meetings and to notify us as soon as is practical what time these meetings will be held at.

We have closed with a short period of worship.

Simon Lamb  
Clerk