

**FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION**  
**Central Executive Committee**  
**Johannesburg, South Africa & Online**  
**24-28 July 2023**

**Present:**

Marj Angalot (Bohol Worship Group)	<i>Member at large (online for parts of meeting)</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>
Thuli Mbete (Southern Africa YM)	<i>Member at large</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>
Peter Shitemi	<i>Secretary Africa Section</i>
Bainito Wamalwa (East Africa YM-North)	<i>Clerk Africa Section</i>
Kenya Caridad Casanova Sales (Cuba Yearly Meeting)	<i>Assistant/recording clerk (online for parts of meetings)</i>

**Invited for joint IPC/CEC meeting (Monday morning only):**

Nancy Fee (Southern Africa YM)	<i>Co-Clerk IPC</i>	
	Dudu Mtshazo (Southern Africa YM)	<i>Member of IPC</i>
Benonia Nyakuwanikwa (Southern Africa YM)	<i>Member of IPC</i>	
<i>Staff from the conference company</i>		

**CEC 23-17 Opening worship**

LaVonna led our opening worship.

**CEC 23-18 Welcome**

Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the tech team.

**CEC 23-19 Agenda review**

We reviewed and agreed on the agenda for this meeting.

**CEC 23-20 Minutes of last meeting**

With minor amendments we approved the minutes of our meetings in February and April.

**CEC 23-21 Security briefing**

Machiel Kroezen, security advisor at the venue, gave us a security briefing. He briefed the Friends in South Africa about what they should do if there is a security incident at the hotel. Friends were also told that they should go with someone if they want to walk in the area outside the hotel as it may not be safe, and to inform Tim, if they leave the hotel. They were also advised to stay away

from the river which is not clean and has strong undercurrents!

Friends were given the opportunity to ask questions.

### **CEC 23-22 Conference company**

Staff from the conference company and the hotel management welcomed us to the venue.

We were given a presentation by the conference company about their work and how they have been supporting the planning of the WPM. We heard about other conferences that they had helped organise which had similarities with our WPM; large international, blended events with interpretation etc.

Friends asked questions on the following themes:

- Interpretation services
- Software platform
- Sustainability guidelines

It was clarified that the conference company has been contracted to liaise with the venue and deal with transport from the airport.

### **CEC 23-23 IPC report**

Bainito and Nancy, co-clerks of the IPC reported on the work of the recent meeting of the IPC. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated to the CEC shortly.

This was the second blended meeting of the IPC and their final meeting with an in person element before the WPM. We heard that many members of SAYM are involved in the work of the local arrangements committee.

Friends are all encouraged to watch the film made by SAYM about ubuntu.

The IPC is moving from a more generalist level of working to a more specific way of working through the IPC working groups. The working groups are now working together closely on the different elements of the WPM, for example, tech and language services.

We are trying out the venue this week by holding our meetings at the venue; positive feedback has been received from Friends about the venue. There are questions about sustainability and food which have been raised with the venue. Other issues for less mobile Friends have been raised about the venue. A positive meeting has been held with hotel staff today and there is time to make changes.

Nancy updated us on the details of the work of the IPC last week:

- The IPC received reports from most of their working groups and the local arrangements committee (see IPC minutes for more details)

- Registration has been exercising the IPC, unity has now been reached on registration and how it will work. The IPC and CEC have already been invited to register and the plan is for registration to go live for all Friends in mid-August
- We heard about the welcome bag for the WPM, including what the bag will be like and some of what will be included in the bag; the programme, information about the hotel and more
- The song book has been agreed
- A theme paper has been agreed for internal use and will be circulated to all Friends involved in the organisation of the WPM. At the moment the theme paper focuses on the ubuntu part of the theme. The programme working group has been working on the 3 different streams of the theme and the communications working group will be invited to work with them to improve the theme paper
- The communications working group is working on a study guide
- A finance report was received. Fundraising is going well, but we need to keep any additional costs to a minimum. Inflation is affecting the cost of flights
- The IPC doesn't anticipate many issues with visas, many people can get a visa on arrival. However Friends in some countries may have issues (Rwanda in particular, and perhaps some Latin American countries)
- For security reasons, it has been agreed that Friends will be asked to arrive at Johannesburg airport during daylight hours. This is to protect Friends and also drivers. Friends arriving during the night may be asked to stay at an airport hotel
- The language services working group is going to meet with the tech working group to look at the technical issues of interpretation and what is required
- Plans for hubs are developing, the tech group is working on this and the world office will be in touch with Friends who need support with this
- The programme working group reported on the 3 streams of the theme they are working on: ubuntu & community, care for creation and historical & continuing injustice. We heard that there are questions about where the Quaker world is on reparations - but there is work to be done on this
- Pre and post-WPM events are being planned along with excursions during the WPM
- A session was held about the planning process and how it is going. There are around 18 different groups working on the planning of the WPM. How can we support these groups well? We noted that the planning is well underway and that some of these groups will be winding up as their specific tasks are complete
- A revised timeline was approved by the IPC, particularly noting what work has already been completed. A lot has already been achieved, but there is a lot to do, and this is outlined in the timeline with deadlines noting who is responsible. The timeline will be circulated to the CEC
- The next meeting of the IPC will be online on the 11th November 2023

Bainito updated us on the YAF pre-WPM event plans:

- Dates have been agreed for this event: 1st - 5th August 2024

- The theme of the event will be based on Galatians 3:28: *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus*
- Objectives have been agreed along with a programme and the numbers of Friends who can attend
- Participation has been agreed: that the 20 YAFs from other countries who will be at the WPM will attend and that SAYM will be invited to send 10 YAFs (in addition to the 5 SAYM YAF helpers). Young Adult Friends attending the WPM on any category of place will be invited and encouraged to take part.
- The next meeting of the IPC YAF Working group will be in October

An opportunity was given to the CEC to ask questions on the following topics:

- When the theme paper will be ready
  - It was clarified that the theme paper is not for participants, however there is a planned study guide and also plans for each of the 3 streams to have a brief description on the registration form
- The 3 streams - 2 are expressed in a positive way and the third on historical injustice is more negative
  - Appreciation was expressed for this comment - it has been heard and the programme working group will think further on this. We noted that although colonialism and its historical injustices have affected all continents; the effects have been different
- About language - Everyone should be encouraged to speak simply, using few idioms or expressions/colloquialisms. These can be hard for speakers of other languages to understand
  - There are presently 3 official languages for the WPM (English, French & Spanish), but there is some scope for additional interpretation at hubs
  - It was noted that the 3 official languages are external to Africa; this is not entirely comfortable but may be the most practical approach. We considered whether Kiswahili could also be offered, or another language that is not a 'colonial' language
  - We will return to the issue of language later in the meeting
  - We might consider a further 'translation channel' assisting people in English, who use English as a second language and people with hearing difficulties.
- The issue of safeguarding was asked about
  - FWCC has a safeguarding policy in place. This will need to be reviewed before the event with a view to an event specific safeguarding procedure.

We agreed to ask the IPC to consider including an African language as an additional official language of the WPM, with the suggestion that this is Kiswahili.

The treasurer reminded us that we have a tight budget, which already has a deficit. It is important that we do not add additional elements to our event without considering the budgetary implications.

The CEC agreed with the report of the IPC and thanked them for their work.

### **CEC 23-24 Report on meeting with the venue**

Tim reported on a meeting between the hotel and the IPC co-clerks, Tim and the conference company. He reported that it was a positive meeting.

A number of issues were considered. The hotel is working on many of the environmental issues we were concerned about. In particular, food was discussed. The hotel responded positively to a request for a wider range of vegetarian food at the WPM. The hotel will be able to feed us all at the same time, by creating two serving stations. In terms of internet provision, there will be hardline connections in the main meeting room(s) as the wifi is less effective. Security was also discussed - there is an idea to have a shuttle which can take Friends who need to go to the shops.

Other issues were discussed and the hotel responded positively.

The CEC raised the following questions/points in response to this:

- Although most of us are staying in rooms with only one bed, the hotel also has a number of twin rooms which means there will be enough beds for everyone
- If there is a need to get medicine, will we be able to have a driver available to go to a local pharmacy if anyone needs medication. We plan to have a participant who is a doctor from South Africa. The staff in the hotel are first aiders. A room will be provided for medical support for participants
- We asked that a map of the hotel grounds could be provided (for the welcome pack)
- Can ear plugs be provided in the welcome pack too
- Water bottles - Friends should be encouraged to bring their own, and some could be provided
- We should remind Friends in a community agreement that they need to be quiet in the corridors so as not to disturb others who are sleeping
- If the hotel are doing the registration we need to find a quick and efficient way for this to be done; could we provide the information in advance to speed things up
- The programme has the core items in the middle of the day SA time when as many people as possible can be online - we also need to think about different parts of the world
- Advice needs to be given to participants about plugs so they can bring the right adapter with them
- Use of the wifi, participants may need to be asked to disconnect from the wifi during sessions to allow more bandwidth for the zoom sessions. Can we restrict the bandwidth available per device? We can find out if this is necessary if we are using a 'hard line'.
- There is one key note speaker who the local arrangements committee is inviting. Other speakers will be taken from the participants
- We need to speak with the hotel about heating/air conditioning to make sure that Friends are comfortable

- During the WPM there will be a structure of communication with the hotel so that they do not receive conflicting message from us
- Notices are often more relevant for in person participants, however it is important that it is made clear whether notices are for all participants, or just for those either in person or online
- It is possible for Whova to provide space for Quaker organisations to publicise themselves. We also note that we will need to practise using Whova from 3 months before the beginning of the event

We ask Tim to follow up on these points in conjunction with the IPC & local arrangements committee.

### **CEC 23-25 Outcome of WPM**

We note and are in agreement with the following extract of minute 2023/27 from the IPC's recent meeting:

The goal is to create enough structure to be able to support this consultation and discernment to happen. We hope this will lead to a concluding minute or epistle that speaks truth to the situation at this time as we understand it. Ultimately this will be as God leads us.

We want to be clear what the outcomes of the 2024 WPM will be:

- We considered how we hope the work of the WPM will be fed back into Sections and their work. We hope that Sections will feel strengthened by the WPM.
- We noted that since the last WPM communication has changed considerably and Friends are now able to communicate at a global level easily thanks to online communication

We will return to this this afternoon.

### **CEC 23-26 WPM risk assessment and mitigation plan**

We note that the IPC approved the risk assessment and mitigation plan last week, with minor amendments, part of their minute 2023/22 reads:

The IPC accepts the risk assessment, with a few amendments suggested in the meeting today, and recommends that the CEC approves it.

Tim introduced the current plan to us and noted that a separate safeguarding policy is also in place for all FWCC events.

We expressed gratitude for the work that has gone into the risk assessment and approved it, noting that it is a living document and will be updated as new risks are identified. We ask that this is a standing item on future CEC agendas until the WPM has taken place.

### **CEC 23-27 WPM Budget**

The Treasurer presented the budget for the WPM. There was a discussion on pricing of on-line attendees, hubs and those attending in person. We recommend that pay-as-led be the basis of participation online.

We thanked the Treasurer for his presentation

### **CEC 23-28 Study guide & songbook**

The General Secretary advised that the study guide is being worked on by the communications working group. It is intended that the guide will be ready for distribution in March 2024.

Work is proceeding on the songbook which we hope will also be ready for distribution in March 2024.

### **CEC 23-29 Outcome of the WPM**

There was discussion on the declaration/Minute/Report to come out of the WPM

It was agreed that we would look to appoint 2 people for each stream to be the 'listeners' for that theme. These 6 people will be the nucleus of the drafting group for the declaration. The 6 people will be identified after registrations have closed.

It was also noted that there is a need for an archive group to take material from the WPM including the *Whova* record and turn it into a record of the WPM. A short video showing the spirit of the WPM will also be produced.

### **CEC 23-30 Programme for the WPM**

Michael introduced the latest draft of the programme. A number of timing issues were raised. The programme working group will consider these.

It was requested that the programme working group look at producing programme(s) for online participants.

It was agreed that a small group (Adrian, Ethel, Robin) will look at programme flexibility and making provision for online participants and forward their thinking to the Programme working group before the end of the CEC.

### **CEC 23-31 Consent Agenda**

10. International Membership Applications Committee Report (Consent Agenda)
11. Staff Advisory Committee Report (Consent Agenda)

12. IFC Minutes (Consent Agenda)

14. Quaker United Nation Office Reports (Consent Agenda)

These items were all approved with celebration of the establishment of a new Yearly Meeting in EMES.

**CEC 23-32 International Nominations Committee**

This report was agreed, and the recommendation to appoint Andrea de Ávila (Reunión General de México) as the representative (Section of the Americas) to QUNO New York starting in January 2024 was accepted. This is a 3 year appointment.

**CEC 23-33 Worship**

We began the day with worship led by Jonathan Fletcher exploring ‘a new beginning’.

**CEC 23-34 International Membership Applications Committee**

The name of Ludwig Quirog was brought to us by the International Membership Applications Committee and was accepted as a member of the International Membership Application Committee. This will be for three years beginning in January 2024, with informal attendance prior to this.

**CEC 23-35 Reports from Secretaries of Friends World Committee for Consultation**

The following reports (and attached written reports) are adopted:

*Robin Mohr, FWCC Section of the Americas:* Besides the report, Robin spoke of:

- the fundraising campaign,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way through the target, and amounts forthcoming.
- Money includes for interpretation (including training) at the World Plenary, and an English-Spanish glossary which will be available online
- Interactive map (see report for link) is progressing well for the Americas. We are looking forward to incorporating all the local meetings of the rest of the world (or as many as possible), and keeping it updated. We hope to include Quaker-related institutions and extra content. This year has been developing the format. Gil George has been working with the software mapping company. There will be an online form to fill out. This will be shared with Section Secretaries to fill out. It might be in two phases (a) what’s already known - initial data collection; (b) what needs to be researched or added via link on the webpage. It is not clear yet how extra content will be incorporated: it will probably wait until the first phase is completed and the software is working well. The CEC reflected on:
  - the implications of this innovation for different Sections and for meetings that are not affiliated to FWCC. The hope and invitation is for them to participate.
  - Updating and maintaining over time eg. closure of meetings
  - Security/safety implications for participation in some places



- There is research into the decrease in attendance. The estimate is about 15%, to be confirmed.
- There is a project to close meetings with dignity, legal structures and pastoral care. Emily Provance has been generating materials.

*Adrian Glamorgan, FWCC Asia West Pacific*

- “A new beginning” (Quakers Aotearoa New Zealand Advices and Queries) might describe the last couple of years of FWCC AWPS
- Section Meeting in Hong Kong 19-23 October 2023: face to face. Tim Gee (FWCC World) and Sarah Clarke (QUNO New York) have accepted to participate.
- May 2024 Annual Consultation of Yearly Meetings and Groups
- Life cycle for Quaker membership needs to be rethought. IMAC only comes in at the point of applying for membership. We may need a new mentoring structure, using Quaker education and online meetings and pastoral, spiritual care for those who are isolated. CEC decided to set up a small group during this week to brainstorm possibilities:
- Climate Action Network has been active - an example of establishing a community of interest
- The Secretary works 1 day a week, plus some work for FWCC World Office focussed on the QUNO 75th anniversary.
- Travelling in the Ministry: Japan including Friends Girls Schools, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila Evangelical Friends, Bohol Unprogrammed, Friends Peace Teams, QUNO Geneva, and South Asia Interest Group. Recording video of people welcoming to their church or meeting.
  - The role of travelling in the ministry in Quaker life and development of community
  - Learned that young (and young middle aged people) can be drawn to Quakers
  - Security needs to be understood as a sensitive issue in some places
  - Unprogrammed meetings in Asia West Pacific should not be automatically thought of as ‘Liberal Quakers’, which is not a term that is used by meetings in our Section.
  - QUNO doesn’t campaign, but there are opportunities for FWCC Section to provide resources that connect QUNO and local meetings in Asia West Pacific
  - We hope to foreground notable Quakers from our Section so that they are recognised by other Friends around the world
- The Secretary also attended Britain Yearly Meeting, the Europe and Middle East Section Meeting and Switzerland Yearly Meeting in person as well as speaking online at Aotearoa/ New Zealand Yearly Meeting.
- Language inclusion is important: encouraging Friends who don’t speak an Asian language to learn. Also hoping to join the English-Spanish glossary
- Militarisation of the region and democracies e.g. the Australia/UK/US (AUKUS) military/security/weapons agreement/arms deal, which is a concern.
- Discussion:
  - How can we do things differently? Re-examine our outreach methodology?

- Rethinking international membership to acknowledge technology, access to online meetings and Quaker education. Tim, Myron, Michael, Bainito, Jonathan, Adrian will speak tonight to report back tomorrow.

*Peter Shitemi, FWCC Africa*

- Peter spoke from a prepared document (included in the papers)
- Peter has enjoyed meeting new Friends and new cultures, and the joy of working for the Lord
- Peter noted that he was the only Africa Section staff member, and finding volunteers was challenging at present
- FWCC Africa office, used since 1971, at Friend International Centre has been no longer available. Local (intra-YM) conflicts have kept FWCC Africa away. It is hoped that the office space may be reoccupied from October 2023, following a meeting with the incoming clerk.
- Plans for World Quaker Day are underway

*Michael Eccles, FWCC Europe and Middle East Section*

- There are two staff, both four days a week
- There is a new EMES Central European Yearly Meeting: a new transnational meeting arising from Central European Gathering, which has existed for 20-30 years. There are people of many ages. Peace, conscientious objection, and openness may be factors attracting membership
- The war by Russian in Ukraine has been a preoccupation for Friends. Central European Yearly Meeting is now doing the work re fundraising
- EMES Annual Meeting at Woodbrooke in May
- The Youthgroup met in person in Strasbourg for the first time
- An application to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust is in progress. EMES has been asked to present a five year budget
- Online meetings have helped grow Friends in the Section. Italian and Spanish Friends are thinking about steps towards formalising. A few Yearly Meetings have declining numbers and EMES is thinking about how to support them (YMs are independent of EMES).
- Work on sustainability proceeds
- For World Quaker Day EMES is organising a semi-programmed worship at 2pm SAST / Central European Time (to be confirmed)
- The EMES Executive Committee is thinking about language: English is the operating language of EMES. It would be hard to choose a 2nd language, but think about making website more accessible and interpretation online on zoom.

**CEC 23-36 Report of the FWCC General Secretary**

The General Secretary spoke from a prepared report, which is appended.

Comments:

- The George Fox materials are valued

- We appreciate that not all World staff are based in England
- Social media: it's important to clarify what we want to achieve?

#### CEC Role Descriptions:

- We will add "Required attendance of induction training and attendance at occasional professional development opportunities for trustees" to the role descriptions (eg charity trust, safety or finance training).
  - We will continue to offer staff courses related to role description to reinforce their abilities
  - There are QUNC (QUNO) role descriptions (courtesy of Nominations Committee) to be signed off. We will look at these later in the meeting.
  - There are discussions about whether the treasurer has to live in the UK. There is nothing in the constitution or Charity Commission for England and Wales website that says they should be resident, but awareness Charity Commission requirements (including when they are updated) and particularly money laundering provisions is important
  - The terms of reference for CEC are covered in part 8 of the constitution. Role descriptions build on this.
  - It is desirable that the treasurer is resident in a complementary timezone
- The CEC approved the role descriptions with amendments detailed above

#### **CEC 23-37 Young Adults Development Fund**

- The requirement for Young Friends at present is to provide a matching 50% amount to travel, preferably across Sections, has not been particularly effective or necessarily equitable. There is 200,000 GBP currently in the fund. This is a proposal to amend terms to allow full bursaries (travel and fees) for Young Friends to FWCC events.
- We discussed questions about:
  - Support from local meeting
  - Remembering the *purpose* of this fund, for Young Friends' use rather than FWCCs,
  - whether it should be disbursed from the annual interest rather than the capital, making it available for a longer time
  - Explaining the objectives of the fund. Aimed at strengthening connections at Plenary, for example
  - The World Plenary is a critical event. We also want to have cross-sectional travel upheld.
  - We need to look at percentage contribution, and status of it being a FWCC event
  - £30 000 available for World Plenary is warranted. We will review again next year.

A draft proposal will be brought back from the Committee that oversees the grants.

### **CEC 23-38: Review of the General Secretary evaluation process**

The small group of Friends asked to review the General Secretary's evaluation process (Michael Eccles, Jonathan Fletcher, Esther Mombo and Myron Guachalla Montaña) introduced their report which is appended.

They see the key purposes of the evaluation as: to ensure that the organisation sets its objectives and priorities for the coming year; that the General Secretary and all involved are enabled to give of their best to achieve these objectives and priorities; and that lessons learnt from evaluating performance will guide and improve future performance.

We agree to adopt their proposals and this process will now replace the CEC evaluation of the General Secretary. A short report to the CEC from the Clerk on the appraisal will be included in the consent agenda at the following meeting.

We agree that it is good practice to allow time without staff at our face to face meetings.

We ask the clerk to put 'time without staff' on the agenda of future in person meetings.

### **CEC 23-39: Finance**

The accounts and trustee report were presented and approved. Simon Lamb is authorised to sign, then Peter Ullathorne will lodge with the charities commission.

Questions were asked about the liability to the Pensions Trust and longer term planning, and making sure that our 2024 budget includes funds for the 2024 CEC travel and meeting costs.

World Plenary Meeting:

At the last CEC we discussed how we would finance the World Plenary Meeting deficit by including the Young Adult Friends Fund and the Young Adult Friends Development Fund. The preference is to retain some flexibility as to what we draw from each.

We have some funds collected and put aside for the World Plenary. The aim is to continue fundraising, in the knowledge we have a fallback if needed.

Should these funds be shown in our budget for the World Plenary? All funds given for the World Plenary will be spent on the World Plenary.

Sale of some investments was approved by the International Finance Committee to allow the liquidity necessary.

### **CEC 23-40: Global Fundraising Campaign**

Last year the Central Executive Committee agreed a fundraising target of £288,000, to fund a Justice and Peace Secretary for five years (£144,000) and the World Plenary Meeting (£144,000).

The Europe and Middle East Section is aiming to raise £30,000, and AWPS around £5000 towards the World Office goals. The Section of the Americas has a target of £200,000 towards the World Office goals as part of a wider campaign. We agreed to aim to fill the remaining £45,000 by major donor fundraising led by the World Office. The Africa Section did not put forward a target but expressed a hope and intent to encourage some of the wealthier Yearly Meetings in Africa to cover some of the travel for WPM delegates in their section.

At present (estimates):

Africa: 10 YMs have said they will pay for their own travel. Estimated value: £5000

World Office: £125,000 from major donors

EMES: £13,755

Americas: £132,400

We calculate that this adds up to about £276,155 at present. This is very positive, and quite close to our target. However the World Plenary budget is £85,000 in deficit, so the next goal will be to try and reach a balanced budget. We note as well that our regular fundraising for ordinary operations is down, so we will need to keep fundraising to compensate for this.

A conversation about the future of fundraising followed, as challenges, opportunities and predictions were shared.

### **CEC 23-41 Worship**

Peter Shitemi led us in worship based on First Corinthians 12.12 reminding us that as Friends we are all parts of the same body.

### **CEC 23-42 Language at the World Plenary Meeting**

Further to our discussion on Monday about languages at the WPM, we heard that it may not be necessary to provide interpretation into French at the WPM. Few Friends are likely to need this interpretation.

We agree that it would be more useful to have Kiswahili as one of the languages of the WPM as this will include a much larger number of Friends.

We also agree to stop using the term 'official language', and we note that informal (whispered) interpretation may be provided into as many languages as are needed by Friends present. We will refer to the languages that we will provide interpretation and translation between as 'conference languages', which will be English, Kiswahili and Spanish.

We ask that an additional question is included on the registration form asking if Friends will need interpretation into a language that is not one of the conference languages.

We will send a copy of this minute to the IPC and their language services working group.

### **CEC 23-43 International Membership**

Further to our consideration of international membership yesterday during the Section reports, we heard back from the small group that met yesterday evening. They spent time thinking about international membership considering if there are ways it could be operated differently. For example could an online yearly meeting be created to support isolated international members and others?

The group told us that they consider that many international members do not have an in person meeting for worship that they can attend easily. It was suggested that international members should be offered pastoral care and invited to attend Section gatherings.

We also considered if there is a changed need for the role of IMAC and Sections and how they support and cultivate seekers into Quaker membership.

We are aware that at present international membership is not available to people who live in a country where there is a YM, as they have to join that YM. However we are also aware that since worship is now held online there are people who attend online worship who live in a country where there is a YM, but their only connection with Quakers is through their online meeting for worship. There are also Friends who are in conflict with their meetings who might benefit from an alternative type of membership, although we don't want to become a place only for Friends who have disagreements with their YMs.

We have explored the idea of setting up a global YM. It would need structures similar to other YMs, such as eldership and pastoral care. If it was set up by FWCC it would be affiliated to the world office and not a Section as all others are. An online YM could include all types of Friends by offering different styles of worship on different days. Another option would be to set up more than one online YM in different parts of the world, not necessarily using the current structure of Sections. Another option might be to consider 'unattached' members of Sections.

We ask the general secretary to bring proposals to a future CEC meeting with different options, including the setting up of a global online YM, for our consideration. We realise this may not be until after the WPM, as there may be discussions on this topic there.

We are all encouraged to consider this in our meetings and Sections during the period before the WPM.

### **CEC 23-44 World Plenary Meeting - use of meeting rooms at the venue**

We have spent time considering the use of meeting rooms and different needs by groups and committees during the WPM at the venue.

We note the following groups needing space during the WPM:

- Home groups (approximately 23-27 depending on spaces)
- Stream groups (3)
- Early morning worship

- Early morning bible study
- Pastoral care team (ongoing throughout the WPM)
- Tech team
- Language services
- Office
- Exhibitions & craft/market place (soko)
- Section meetings
- Interest groups
- Community connections

We note that the following spaces are available to us (possible home group numbers or other use in brackets)

- Ballroom (Heron & Sunbird)(4)
- Swift (2)
- Bishop (2)
- Darter (2)
- Kestrel (1)
- Harrier (1)
- Falcon (1)
- Kite (1)
- Weaver (1)
- Balcony? (will be cold in the early morning/late afternoon)
- Kingfisher (office, tech, language services)
- Meeting room (info desk/conference company)
- Bar (1)
- Foyer (2)
- 4 bedroom suites (4)
- Dining room
- Wine cellar? (1)
- Gym?

*Swift, bishop & darter are interconnected and separated by panels.*

We will send a copy of this minute to the IPC and ask them to consider this further at their next meeting.

### **CEC 23-45 QUNO New York Memorandum of Understanding**

Tim has introduced a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the American Friends Service Committee and FWCC. We have had a wide ranging discussion about the relationships between FWCC, QUNO and AFSC. A lot of work has gone into revising this document and we thank those Friends concerned for their work.

We ask that the General Secretary and Clerk arrange for the CEC to send an annual letter to the two QUNO offices with our news and greetings.

We approve the new MoU and authorise the clerk to sign this on our behalf.

### **CEC 23-46 Towards our future**

Robin and Michael introduced the Towards our Future paper prepared by our long term discernment group. We then spent time in small groups (by Section and then by role) considering our responses to the paper before coming back together as a whole group to share our thoughts.

We will return to this tomorrow.

Thursday 27 July 2023

### **CEC 23-47**

Ethel opened the meeting with a reading from the introduction to the BYM Advices and Queries

### **CEC 23-48 Minutes**

The minutes of yesterday's meeting were reviewed, amended and then accepted.

### **CEC 23- 49 Report on the two Quaker United Nations Offices**

Hezron Masitsa joined the meeting (by zoom) and presented the reports. The 2022 Annual Report of the Quaker United Nations Committee and the QUNO Geneva Update to Friends World Committee on Consultation are appended.

A briefing document has been prepared for new representatives on QUNC to help them understand both QUNO and their role.

He encouraged Friends to use QUNO as a way of engaging with the international community on important global issues including: environment and climate change, peace building, human rights, and migration and refugees.

There was discussion on the QUNO summer school and how Friends may support attendees with funding to attend, and encourage graduates from the summer school to give seminars and hold online meetings with Friends. We talked about QUNO summer school resources complementing this.

### **CEC 23-50 Preparing for the business of the World Plenary Meeting**

Tim presented the paper on this subject (appended) and briefed the CEC on the policy and action issues that may come out of the WPM. The WPM might give QUNO a mandate for acting on historical injustice and reparations. An informal group of experts including QUNO director Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge has asked for reparations to be included on the agenda.

It was recognised that reparations is a complex matter and there is both a need to ensure that people understand the breadth of the term and to recognise that the understanding and appropriate response is very much contextualised. The United Nations basic principles and guidelines on reparations is a useful guide which we hope to share with WPM participants and use as a guide.



Beyond this though, we are agreed that healing historical and continuing injustices is centrally important, including repairing relationships, and being spiritually - including Biblically - rooted, with reference to repentance, reconciliation and jubilee. We must ensure that Friends also look honestly and openly at ourselves and the past and present of the world family of Friends from a spiritual and practical point of view. Articulating this (and supporting Friends to engage with this) will be part of the work of the Justice and Peace Secretary.

We ask that the title of the third stream starts with the word 'healing', and the rest of the title and description is discerned by the Programme subgroup looking at this.

We discussed the other 2 streams for the WPM. All three themes are about repairing and establishing right relationships which involves reparations, repentance and forgiveness. Discussion needs to be considered, and done with sensitivity. The WPM is also an opportunity to come to the basis of a clear spiritually rooted programme on care for creation. We ask for this minute to be sent to the IPC.

### **CEC 23-51: Report on feedback from QSN members to inform strategy and goals as a network**

We thank Evan Welkin for his work on this and agree to continue with the Global Quaker Sustainability Network who we also thank for their valuable work. We also noted some drawbacks with carbon offsetting as an approach, which is not held in high regard in the climate justice movements we support.

We agree to set up a 'climate emergency fund' as described in the paper as a replacement for our carbon offsetting fund. Exactly what we call this may be changed. This fund, once established, could be promoted as a place for Quakers and Quaker groups to put what would have been their carbon offsetting contributions. It is, of course, a supplement to, not a replacement for, looking for ways to reduce our climate footprint.

We ask for a report on the scheme after its first two full years of operation so that we can review it.

We were reminded of the online sustainability conference that FWCC held a few years ago and note that there funds in our reserves for a similar event in the future.

### **CEC 23-52: Young Adult Friends Development Fund**

We agreed revisions to the criteria for the Young Adult Development Fund as provided in the appended paper. We note that the website will need updating to reflect these changes, particularly the date applications close.

A proposal for how applications for funding from the Young Adults Friends Fund (YAFF) for attendance at the WPM will be managed will be brought to the December CEC meeting by the Treasurer and General Secretary.

### **CEC 23-53: Towards our future: Strategic Directions for FWCC**

Michael introduced a revised version of this paper based on yesterday's conversation, and explained the changes that have been made to the draft.

The paper was discussed and a number of changes made to the paper, which was then approved to be sent out to Sections for their consideration and response by 30 April 2024.

In advance of the WPM, the Long-Term Discernment Working Group will consider the Section responses and present a final draft for confirmation by the CEC. The paper will then be presented at the WPM.

### **CEC 23-54 Location of 2025 CEC face to face meeting**

Where to hold the 2025 CEC face-to-face meeting was discussed. It was agreed that a venue in AWPS would be timely with the preferred locations being the Philippines or India.

We also discussed the idea of holding this or another meeting with 3 or 4 hubs.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Secretary of the AWPS will explore options at their next Section meeting and come back to the CEC with a proposal to be considered.

### **CEC 23-55 CEC face to face meeting 2024**

It was agreed that the CEC will meet for two days - evening of the 12th to lunchtime on the 14th of August 2024 at the Methodist centre in Johannesburg immediately after the WPM.

It was also agreed that the IPC would arrive at the WPM the night before the start of the WPM (4th of August) with the intention of meeting that evening or on the morning of the 5th.

### **CEC 23-56 Memorial Meeting for Worship**

We met for worship to remember and celebrate the spirit of Christ in the lives of:

David Blamires  
Egil Magne Hovdenak  
Gillian Robertson  
Gregor Angermund  
Grete Olsen  
Jeanne-Henriette Louis  
Jenny Butterfield  
Karin Ern

Nancy Negelspach  
Rafael Rand  
Roger Andrianaly  
Solveig Slatto  
Tofte Frykman  
Zoltan Ferenczi  
Clyde Nelson Baker  
Jeanette Baker  
Ray Treadway  
Margaret R Kanost  
Sadrach Quisberth  
J Binford Farlow  
David Stanfield  
Billy M Britt  
Carson H Grantham  
Janic M Greene  
Peter Newby  
Simeon Shitemi  
Rachel Sabwa  
Chrispo Amadadi  
Epainitus Adego  
Simon Vuhasio  
Tadayo Mauka

### **CEC 23-57 - Next meeting**

We will next meet online on 2 December at 11am UTC (GMT). We will find a way in future to share out the unsociable hours. We ask the General Secretary and secretaries to make suggestions for this.

### **CEC 23-58 - Evaluation**

We evaluated our meeting and work together, with reflections stored in a separate document.

We have approved the minutes and closed with worship.