

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION
Central Executive Committee
Videoconference Meeting
11 June 2022

CEC 22-13vc. Opening minute. We have gathered by videoconference on 11 June 2022 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
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
Ethel Livermore (Britain YM)	Clerk EMES
Hezron C. Masitsa (Nairobi YM)	Acting Sec Africa Section
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)	Co-Clerk Internat. Planning Committee
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In our opening worship, we were reminded that in community, we are to bear one another's burdens and in this way fulfil the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). We also heard words from French writer Albert Camus:

In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love.

In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile.

In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm.

In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.

CEC 22-14vc. Minutes. We have received and reviewed the minutes of our meetings of 22 January and 26 March 2022, and approve them subject to one minor amendment.

CEC 22-15vc. World Plenary Meeting. We have welcomed Nancy Fee (Southern Africa YM), Co-clerk of the International Planning Committee (IPC), who spoke to a written report and the IPC's recommendations.

The IPC recommends a meeting of nine days, similar to previous World Plenaries, which allows time for a balance of worship, business, small groups, and excursions, and time for the meeting to become a gathered body that strengthens connections. The proposed dates are 5 to 13 August 2024, with early arrivals from 3 August and the IPC and CEC remaining until 15 August. The online portion of the meeting may extend beyond those dates; the blended format has not yet been firmed up, pending more work by the Program Working

Group. The IPC reaffirmed its recommendation from our last meeting that the venue be the Riverside Sun.

Nancy noted that the IPC Working Groups have mostly held their initial meetings. One Section's names have not yet reached them; the Clerk and Section Secretary agreed to follow up, as they thought this had been done.

We have approved the IPC recommendation that the Plenary be planned for the Riverside Sun, Gauteng Province, to run from 5 to 13 August 2024, with some arrivals and departures between 3 and 15 August. We authorize the IPC Co-Clerks and the General Secretary to negotiate an appropriate contract with Riverside Sun. We encourage the office to begin promoting this event, to ensure full participation both in person and online.

CEC 22-16vc. Trustees Report. We have reviewed a draft Trustees' Report for calendar 2021, without the financial reports that are not yet available from the auditors. We have made a few editorial changes, and approve this text subject to minor editing. We look forward to receiving the financial portions at a later time for our consideration before it is submitted to the Charities Commission before 30 September 2022.

CEC 22-17vc. Nominations Committee. The Clerk noted that the person who had agreed to clerk the International Nominations Committee has been prevented by family responsibilities, hampering the committee's functioning. He further noted that Marissa Johnson (Britain YM) is available and willing to serve in this role. We note that she also currently serves as clerk of the International Membership committee, but these two roles do not seem to conflict in the immediate term. We are glad to approve Marissa Johnson to clerk INC to 31 December 2022 in the first instance, and will give this matter further consideration at our meeting in October 2022.

CEC 22-18vc. General Secretary's Report. Tim Gee spoke to his written report circulated in advance. He has been sending greetings to yearly meetings and similar gatherings as they occur during the year. He has supported the work of EMES and the Central European Gathering concerning Ukraine, and helped facilitate ecumenical connections including with Russian Orthodox clerics who have advocated for a peaceful resolution. He has attended meetings of both QUNO committees, and noted that FWCC representatives have wanted better orientation to this service, including clarifying how they should report back to their Sections. World Quaker Day publicity will go out in late June. Plans are developing for commemorating George Fox's 400th Birthday in 2024.

With respect to office staffing, he noted that Susanna will be taking maternity leave later this year. He hopes to provide for cover by redistributing tasks, and engaging someone to handle coordination of the QUNO work. He plans to engage a human resources consultant to look at all of our staffing policies, with a proposal to come to the full CEC in October.

He continues to enjoy the work. He has had a number of opportunities to speak or travel among Friends, sometimes on short notice, and has had to do considerable discernment on which invitations to accept.

CEC 22-19vc. Communications and Fundraising Plan, 2022-24. The General Secretary has spoken to his written report concerning fundraising and the linked issues of communication. A number of these items require CEC consideration.

- a. **Fundraising for the World Plenary Meeting and the larger Global Fundraising Campaign.** After considerable discussion, we **approve** a World Office fundraising goal of £288,000 as outlined, taking into account what the Sections have offered and expecting

that the World Office will do some major donor and Trusts and Foundations fundraising, in consultation with the Sections, to fill the gap.

b. World Quaker Day. Following the World Office's recommendation, we confirm that the central "ask" for meetings worldwide is that Friends either attend another meeting (in person or virtually), or receive a visitor from another meeting. We hope the CEC will be able to participate in this intervisitation, possibly by hosting an online meeting for worship from our Nairobi site.

c. George Fox's birthday. The General Secretary has proposed putting together a resource pack for meetings around the world, working with a number of other Quaker offices and interested Friends. He sees this as an effective promotional project for FWCC in the lead-up to the World Plenary Meeting, with most of the work completed well before the WPM.

We approve the World Office moving forward with a coordinating role in this global project, in partnership with other Quaker organisations. We look forward to hearing more details at our next meeting.

d. Quaker Youth Pilgrimage for 2024. The General Secretary has proposed this project, to take place in Britain in July 2024. Several Friends expressed hesitations about taking on this project while also planning a Young Friends event connected with the World Plenary in South Africa the following month. The Assistant Clerk agreed to compile a packet of back minutes on the decisions to lay down the previous Youth Pilgrimage project and instead dedicate the funds to grant-making to local youth projects. We defer any decision on this until the October meeting.

CEC 22-20vc. Long Term Planning. Robin Mohr spoke briefly to a written report that has just been circulated from the Long-Term Planning working group, which has met monthly since January 2022. They have considered how FWCC can become more equal, more vibrant, and more digitally connected, including how the CEC functions and some questions for the wider family of Friends. They have provided a brainstorming list, some provocative or surprising, some a continuation of existing directions. The working group welcomes comments, suggestions, and feedback from CEC members, as early as possible, and expects that we will have further consideration of this at the October meeting.

CEC 22-21vc. Financial Update. Treasurer Peter Ullathorne has provided a partial financial report, noting that the audited accounts for 2021 have been delayed due to staffing issues at our auditors. The IFC will meet as soon as these are finalized, and then present the accounts for the CEC's review. The report circulated in March 2022 remains the best available estimate of the out-turn for 2021.

The day-to-day work of the World Office has been proceeding smoothly, and expenditure is largely within the agreed budget. Additional funding was agreed and paid for assisting Africa Section with training, and this will be drawn from the C.B.Taylor Fund. He will work with the General Secretary to rework figures for staff costs to accommodate Susanna Mattingly's maternity leave.

The main issue with finances currently is the drop in value of our investment portfolios, a contrast to the gain of in market value of over £100,000 during 2020 and 2021. With the dramatic changes in markets arising from the Ukraine crisis, investment values have been very volatile, and as of 10 June the paper loss amounts to around £82,000.

As of 10 June we held the following:

At Rathbone Greenbank (UK)		£210k
At Friends Fiduciary (FF)	<i>US dollar value</i>	<i>Sterling value</i>
Quaker Growth & Income Fund (£1=\$1.25)	\$502k (USA)	£402k
At CCLA COIF Ethical Investment Fund (UK)		£101k
Total value		£713k

This compares with a figure of £795k on 31 December 2021. IFC discussed the general situation at its meeting in February and agreed that no action should be taken on the investments; the reserves remain adequate, there is no immediate cash requirement, and history had generally shown that markets would return to the long-term trend after such fluctuations. However, IFC will continue monitoring the situation.

Looking ahead, the CEC meeting in Kenya this September/October will be a large expense for which there should be adequate designated funds available. The work of the IPC planning the WPM for 2024 is moving towards gathering costing information for the agreed format, and the Finance Working Group will be considering this at its meeting next week (17 June). A skeleton budget has been drafted and this will be fleshed out as the costs become clearer.

We appreciate the Treasurer's diligence and that of the IFC in monitoring our financial condition. We look forward to reviewing the final 2021 accounts when available, and hope they can be accepted via e-mail without requiring an additional videoconference meeting.

CEC 22-22vc. Sustainability evaluation. The General Secretary reported that Susanna Mattingly has done a good evaluation and summary of her work as Sustainability Programme Manager, which the office will circulate for our information and will also be shared with Britain YM which was her formal employer for this work.

CEC 22-23vc. Plans for Upcoming Meeting. Bainito Wamalwa and the office are working on the details of our forthcoming in-person meeting in Nairobi. It is important to firm up travel plans as quickly as possible; the office is working on tickets for those who need that service. Bainito and Herzon will send out further information shortly concerning the venue and visa process. We confirm that the schedule includes dinner on Saturday, 1 October, with local Friends, for those who are able, and participation in World Quaker Day worship in local meetings. The CEC will hold its first gathering on the evening of Sunday, 2 October, for worship and gathering, with business sessions to begin Monday morning, 3 October, and end on Friday evening, God willing, or Saturday morning if needed. Departures should be planned for late Saturday or Sunday, 8-9 October.

CEC 22-24vc. Adjournment. We closed with a period of worship, intending to meet next in Nairobi, Kenya, beginning 2 October 2022, God willing.

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