

## **2023 Annual Representative Report**

### **Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas**

As the GPYM representative to FWCC, I have served on the Nominating Committee for the past year, meeting monthly via Zoom. I also serve as a member of the Bilingual Communications Resource Group, and this year I helped with interpretation during committee meetings as well as the Section Meeting. I was able to attend the 2023 Section Meeting in person thanks to the financial support from GPYM for my travel expenses.

FWCC held its first-ever hybrid section meeting from March 23 - 26, 2023 at Haw River State Park in Greensboro, North Carolina. Over 100 Friends gathered in-person, and an equal number joined online. Reflecting the diversity of Quakerism in the Americas, the event included programmed and unprogrammed worship led by Friends of varying traditions, and was conducted in both Spanish and English. The theme was “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs.” Noah Merrill gave the keynote address, which is available on FWCC’s website. The Biblical theme was God’s great commandment to love God and one another. This theme inspired 7 workshops centered on strengthening relationships. Contemplating the invitation to joyfully accept our places in the covenant community, the concluding minute referenced Isaiah 6:8: “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

#### **FWCC Projects:**

**Online Interactive Map Tool:** FWCC has developed a new online interactive map tool. It allows Friends to find a Quaker Meeting or Church anywhere in the Americas from their smartphones or computers - and even connect to hybrid or online Meetings for Worship. FWCC will be expanding the map tool to create an online interactive global directory of Friends.

**Interpretation Resources and Training:** FWCC Section of the Americas is increasing translation and interpretation support and services to meet their commitment to linguistic and decision-making equity for Spanish and English speakers. Representatives from countries in Central and South America are represented on every committee. All documents are in Spanish and English, and the Section Meeting and all committee meetings are bilingual. Skilled interpreters and translators are critical to the full participation of all members of the FWCC Americas family. Providing more resources for interpretation is an important part of the strategy to build equity of participation in FWCC Americas.

**Formal Interpreter Training:** For the first time in years, FWCC Americas offered a formal training for interpreters just before the section meeting. There will also be interpreter training for the World Plenary interpretation team.

**Interactive Online Glossary:** FWCC is creating an interactive, online glossary of Quaker terminology in the many languages Quakers speak globally. This glossary will update and expand the current Spanish-English glossary that is a pdf document, and it will be an online, sharable resource.

**Consultation and Intervisitation Program Group:** FWCC approved this program group at the section meeting. It will plan and facilitate gatherings on topics of interest to Friends in the Section of the Americas. Those gatherings include consultations (meetings to discuss a topic or to get advice) and intervisitation (in-person visits to a Friends church or meetinghouse). Consultations that have already been offered include hybrid worship, Spirit-led climate action, and Missions.

**World Quaker Day 2022:** On October 2, 2022, Friends were encouraged to visit a different Quaker meeting or church than they regularly attend, and there was excellent participation. [This Twitter thread](#) has reports from around the world about how Friends spent World Quaker Day. Friends Journal also published [a reflection on World Quaker Day](#).

**World Quaker Day 2023** will be on Sunday, October 1. The theme will be the same as the World Plenary and will be preparatory.

**The World Plenary:** The World Plenary will be in August 2024 and will be hybrid, with in-person events held in South Africa. The theme is “Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God’s call to cherish creation – and one another.” There is a video, FAQ and spiritual preparation available.

**Global Campaign:** FWCC has launched a global fundraising campaign, Becoming the Quakers the World Needs. This is about building resources needed for the Section to operate, such as bilingual support and services, a new interactive global directory of Friends online, travel support for the World Plenary and more. FWCC has already raised \$800,000 of the \$1.25 million of this campaign during the quiet phase and some of the projects have begun. This is a once-every-15 year campaign, so FWCC is asking each monthly and Yearly Meeting to review and respond to a letter requesting support. [www.fwccamericas.org/becoming](http://www.fwccamericas.org/becoming)

**FWCC Mission:** Answering God's call to universal love, the Friends World Committee for Consultation brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Green-Nagle, Hominy Friends Meeting and Tahlequah Friends Fellowship