



The past year for the Friends World Committee was a time of sustaining Resilience and Hope, which became the theme of both the 2021 World Quaker Day and the 2022 Section Meeting.

On October 3, 2021, the FWCC Traveling Ministry Corps hosted an online, bilingual, semi-programmed worship celebration for World Quaker Day. The inspiring talk by Carmen Rosa Paye Chura of Union Boliviana on the theme became a form of spiritual preparation for the Section Meeting. You can find this beautiful message and related queries on our Section Meeting website here: <https://bit.ly/3CQI1Ga>

The 2022 virtual Section Meeting had 33% participation from Latin American countries. Greater equity and involvement of Latin American Friends in all aspects of the Section's work is an important accomplishment we have cultivated over the last decade. Ten years ago, on average, 5 Friends from Latin American countries attended the Section Meetings. Today, we regularly have dozens or hundreds of Friends participating from these countries, proportional to their share of the Quaker population.

This experiment with a one day, virtual only event was so successful that we will be returning to annual meetings - in-person or hybrid in odd-numbered years, online-only in even-numbered years.

### **First-Ever African and Latin American Women's Conference**

Representatives from FWCC hosted the first-ever Latin American and African Women's Conference in October 2021. Approximately 50 women participated in this joyful event that they themed, "Who shall I send and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8) or "¿A quién enviaré y quién irá por nosotras?" in Spanish.



The preparation for this event was a great example of the power of the Friends World Committee to bring people together for worship and fellowship. Even the planning meetings brought together women from 5 countries in the Americas and 4 countries in Africa. Live interpretation was required with the coming together of so many different cultures, celebrating our faith.

The beauty of this event is that it was years in the making, starting with small conversations in 2015. In 2020, the widespread adoption of Zoom technology made possible the first FWCC All-Latin American Women's Conference.

The theme, “Bendecidas para Bendecir,” translates to “We are blessed to bless others.” This was the first conference to bring Latin American women together from the entire Section of the

Americas. Approximately 300 women attended from Cuba, El Salvador, United States, Bolivia, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

“We will forever hold in our hearts the images and sounds of women from Central and South America singing and performing music,” said Karen Gregorio de Calderón of FWCC Americas.

### Finances

### Fiscal Year 2022

### at 4/30/22

Total Ordinary Income:	\$639,106	Assets	\$2,168,625
Total Ordinary Expense:	\$439,309	Liabilities	\$ 198,430
Net Ordinary Income	\$199,797	Net Assets	\$1,970,195
Other Income (Unrealized losses)	-\$191,611		
Net Income	\$ 8,186		

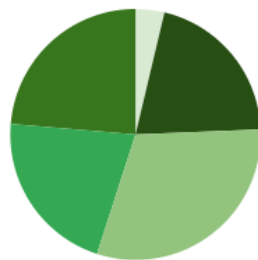
The most recent audited financial statements are available at <https://fwccamericas.org/donate>

### 2022 Income



- Households 46%
- Grants 9.5%
- Bequests 26%
- Yearly Meetings 6.1%
- Monthly Meetings 8.5%
- Investment Income 3.5%

### 2022 Expenses



- Section Meeting 3.7%
- World Office Sharing 20.6%
- Other Programs 30.6%
- Administration 21.4%
- Development 23.7%

### Financial Summary

In the second full year of the Covid-19 pandemic, our income held steady but our program expenses were again extraordinarily low. We had almost no travel costs, mostly online events and online materials. We also benefited from U.S. government pandemic support for non-profit organizations. We continued to prepare for a significant increase in program activities by investing in our fundraising team. Despite the significant decline in our investments, we drew much less than usual from our reserves, leaving us stronger for next year.

### *A few additional highlights for the year include:*

- We enhanced our online orientation program for new representatives, led by David Ruiz Trejo of Mexico Reunion General. Grant funding enabled us to build a more robust system of videos and online exercises that new representatives can use on their own schedule. David is bilingual and has been a gift to FWCC in assisting both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking Friends to use the new system.
- We co-hosted a series of online bilingual Bible studies with Beacon Hill Friends House, featuring leaders from Bolivia and El Salvador.
- We held our first online training for Spanish-English interpreters in February 2022. Friends from seven countries participated. It was open to Friends who are involved with other Quaker organizations who want to build language inclusion. Future sessions will be held in the coming year. Future project work includes an upgrade to our interpreter resources including an online, interactive glossary of Quaker words translated into the many languages Quakers speak around the world.
- The Section participated in the every-10-year census of religious congregations in the United States. The staff collected current membership data on Friends in the United States and delivered its findings to the American Association of Religious Statisticians. Analysis continues and will be reported in the coming year. This effort contributes to a large, upcoming project to create an interactive global map of Friends.
- In December 2021, we began a new series of Friendly Consultations. The first two were hybrid events, on hybrid worship and Spirit-led climate action. The next two will be via Zoom about the Quaker Peace Testimony today, in English, and about Missions, in Spanish.

### **Traveling Ministry Corps**

The Executive Committee's attention to matters of consultation and intervisitation gave us an even greater appreciation of the wonderful service and achievements of the Traveling Ministry Corps. In January 2022, we celebrated the 2020-2021 Traveling Ministry Corps cohort. We are deeply indebted to those Friends, as well as to earlier members of the TMC. We are equally grateful for the work of the Traveling Ministry Corps Program Group from 2015 until 2022 and especially its final Clerk, Bill Ehri. We hope to build on the good work done by all of those Friends as we embark, with God's help, on new approaches to promoting fellowship and understanding among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends.

### **Weave A Legacy Society**

Thank you to the following Friends for weaving a lasting legacy of connections and understanding among branches of Quakerism for years to come by including the Friends World Committee in their will, trust, retirement or life insurance plans, or life income gift.

Anonymous (North Pacific YM)  
Anna and Keith Baker  
Asia and Lee Bennett  
Elizabeth Cazden  
Rosemary K. Coffey  
Nancy Craft  
Bob Fetter  
Margaret Fraser  
Ann Hardt

Patricia Hunt  
Gayle Matson  
Geeta Jyothi McGahey  
Florence Yarnall Fullerton  
Liz and Tom Gates  
LauraNell Obaugh  
Ruth Hyde Paine  
James R. Perkins  
Joseph G. Roberts

William Z. Shetter and Janette K. Shetter  
David Shiner  
Beverly Kirk Shull  
Christine H. and Gene Snyder  
Rev. Dr. Philip Stalions  
Jan Vogel Tappan  
Alice Vedova

Legacy gifts have been instrumental in FWCC's sustained success and continued growth. If you would like to make a planned gift, we can help you or refer you to qualified advisors. If you have already included FWCC in a bequest or other planned gift, please let us know if you are willing to be listed here.

<https://fwccamericas.org/get-involved/legacy-giving.shtml>

## Strengthening our Community of Friends A Visit to the Yearly Meetings of Bolivia



In January of this year, Executive Committee member Raúl Pérez Chacón (*El Salvador YM*) and two staff members, Executive Secretary Robin Mohr and COAL Coordinator Karen Gregorio de Calderón, spent a week visiting yearly meetings in Bolivia. This was an important visit, and they brought greetings and good will, which were gratefully reciprocated. Read more about this story in the News section of the website:

<https://fwccamericas.org/news>

### New Staff

The work of FWCC is largely done through the work of the Representatives who serve as volunteers. That said, the Section needs a small team to operate and we were blessed to find the talent we were seeking. In fiscal year 2022, FWCC hired Gil George (*Sierra-Cascades YM*), Operations Manager; Cara Palladino, Advancement Manager; David Ruiz Trejo (*Réunion General de los Amigos en México*), Online Community Shepherd; and Diane Zappas (*Philadelphia YM*), Advancement Manager. Keenan Lorenzato (*Pacific YM*) and Philip Maurer (*New England YM*) were short-term, part-time contractors for the census project.

### Strategic Impact Report

We are proud of our accomplishments, but we are not satisfied. We know there is more work for us to do. We are committed to continuing to seek God's will for Friends in the Americas, and following leadings that help us express this will. We invite all Friends to join us as we strive to become the Quakers the world needs. You can find a fuller report on our achievements during the 2015-2020 Weaving the Tapestry Strategic Plan on our website. <https://fwccamericas.org/about/our-work.shtml>

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## Officers of the Section of the Americas for 2021-2022

<https://fwccamericas.org/about/leadership.shtml>

<b>Clerk:</b>	David Shiner, <i>Illinois YM</i>
<b>Assistant Clerk:</b>	Julie Peyton, Assistant Clerk, <i>Sierra-Cascades YM of Friends</i>
<b>Recording Clerk:</b>	M. Foote Lund, <i>Ohio Valley &amp; Wilmington YMs</i>
<b>Assistant Recording Clerk:</b>	Milena Villca Mamani, <i>Iglesia Evangelica Union Boliviana Amigos</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Beverly Kirk Shull, <i>Ohio YM</i>