



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
SECTION OF THE AMERICAS
Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos
SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

2023 Annual Report May 2022 - April 2023

Becoming the Quakers the World Needs

For the Section of the Americas, “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs” was the theme of both the 2022 World Quaker Day and the 2023 Section Meeting. From a global perspective, Quakers are forming and building community, working toward the testimonies of peace, equity, justice and care for the earth.

2023 Section Meeting

FWCC held its first-ever hybrid Section Meeting from March 23 - 26, 2023 and by many counts, it was a great success. Over 100 Friends gathered at Haw River State Park in Greensboro, NC. and an equal number joined online. The Biblical theme of God’s great commandment to love God and one another inspired seven workshops centered on strengthening relationships.

Reflecting the diversity of Quakerism in the Americas, the Section Meeting included programmed and unprogrammed worship led by Friends of varying traditions, and was conducted in both Spanish and English. 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!”

Friends gathered in-person for the FWCC Americas 2023 Section meeting



Noah Merrill, Secretary for New England Yearly Meeting, gave the plenary address, which was focused on Quakers rediscovering and reclaiming our hope, often born of lament, and going back to when Jesus first called us Friends on the night before His crucifixion. That same night, Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. In the language Jesus spoke, gethsemane means ‘the place where olives are pressed.’ Noah said, “The prayers Jesus prays, here in Gethsemane, bring us to the heart of the spiritual journey, to the depths of suffering and the human condition, and to the Way into which God invites us. . . . We are like olives. The Religious Society of Friends is like an olive tree, and the fruits of the Spirit born from lives lived in this Friendship, are like the olive oil pressed from our willing hearts. And so, let us go to... *Cont. on p. 4*

Current Projects

FWCC launched a global fundraising campaign, *Becoming the Quakers the World Needs*. This will build resources needed for the Section to operate (including the projects described below) as well as some new programs. Important elements include bilingual support and services, a new interactive global directory of Friends online, travel support for the World Plenary and more.



As of fiscal year end, FWCC had already raised over \$800,000 of the \$1.25 million of this campaign during the quiet phase and some of the projects have begun (see below). FWCC is asking each monthly and yearly meeting to support these new tools for the Society of Friends.

Interpreters are a critical part of keeping the FWCC family together. For the first time in years, FWCC Americas offered a formal training for interpreters just before the 2023 section meeting. Providing more resources for

interpreters is an important part of the strategy to maintain equity in who is involved with FWCC Americas. This formal training was made possible by the funds donated to the *Becoming the Quakers the World Needs Global Campaign*.

FWCC is increasing translation and interpretation support and services. We've been executing the strategy to ensure equity in who makes decisions about global operations. We are volunteer-led, and Representatives from countries in Central and South America are represented on every committee. This means they must have live translation/interpretation for every committee meeting. FWCC is also creating an online, interactive glossary of Quaker terminology in the languages Quakers speak around the world.



FWCC is creating an online interactive global directory of Friends. The new online interactive map tool debuted at the Section Meeting that allows Friends to find a Quaker Meeting or Church anywhere in the Americas from their smartphones or computers - and even find online Meetings for Worship.

FWCC Americas has begun organizing consultations on topics that matter to Friends and to the wider world and formed a consultations program group, which was approved during the Section Meeting. A job description was posted for these new volunteer opportunities. Consultations we have already offered include hybrid worship, Spirit-led climate action and missions. The workshops during the 2023 section meeting were part of a consultation about building relationships.

This campaign is enabling us to create the precious, sacred spaces to connect and build community among Friends - both virtually and in meetings and churches. Our next step is to build the tools that Friends need in the 21st century. There is a special campaign website with the complete information, including videos, downloadable budgets for projects and more, here: www.fwccamericas.org/becoming We'll also be using this website to update you on the progress of these projects. Please consider a special gift this year.

Weave A Legacy Society

An additional goal for the Campaign is to add 25 new members to the Weave a Legacy Society. So far, we have added 4. 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)	Ann Hardt	James R. Perkins
Carl and Margery Post Abbott	Patricia Hunt	Joseph G. Roberts
Constance Archbald	Christel Jorgenson	William Z. Shetter and Janette K. Shetter
Anna and Keith Baker	Gayle Matson	David Shiner
Asia and Lee Bennett	Geeta Jyothi McGahey	Beverly Kirk Shull
Elizabeth Cazden	Florence Yarnall Fullerton	Christine H. and Gene Snyder
Rosemary K. Coffey	Lucy Fullerton	Rev. Dr. Philip Stations
Nancy Craft	Liz and Tom Gates	Jonathan Vogel-Borne and Minga
Bob Fetter	Robin and Christopher Mohr	Claggett-Borne
Margaret Fraser	LauraNell Obaugh	Jan Vogel Tappan
Cathy Habschmidt	Ruth Hyde Paine	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.

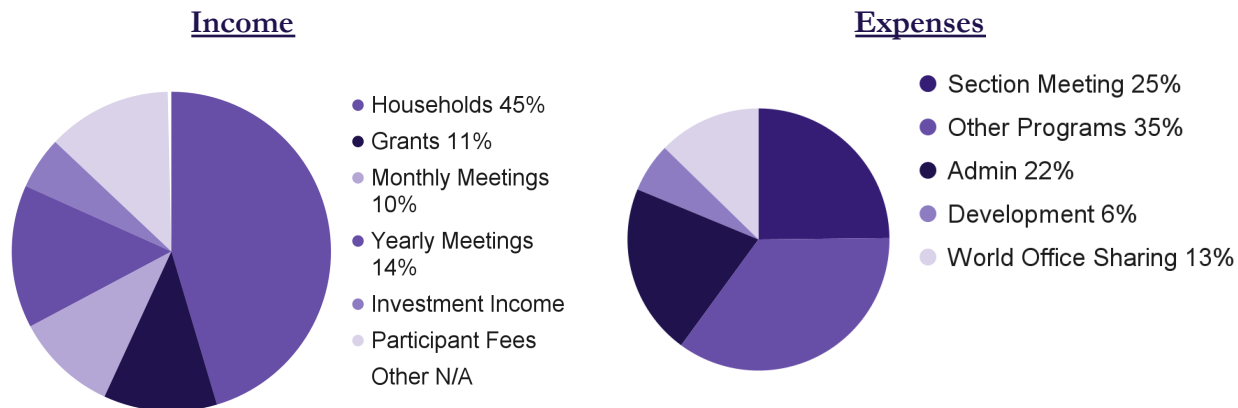
<https://fwccamericas.org/get-involved/legacy-giving.shtml>

2023 Financials

at 4/30/23

Total Ordinary Income: \$399,676	Assets \$2,460,808
Total Ordinary Expense: \$530,315	Liabilities \$159,245
Net Ordinary Income \$(-130,639)	Net Assets \$2,301,563
Other Income \$131,211	
Net Income \$193	

2023 was a record year in terms of new donors, with over 100 new donors who became part of our community. This is the result of our new social media promotions and electronic appeals. One of the truisms of fundraising is that we should anticipate lower donations to the general fund during a capital campaign. FWCC shared a projection at the Section meeting of \$255,000 in total anticipated donations for the general fund and we surpassed that by almost \$30,000 more than projected. This helped us spend nearly \$20,000 less from reserves than budgeted and end the year with a positive net income. The below charts represent our financial position for 2023 not including the global campaign.



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

Cont. from p. 1 “Gethsemane, the place where the olives are pressed. To go with the Lord to Gethsemane is to stand at the threshold, though our bodies may quake, with eyes and ears and hands and hearts wide open to the stirrings, the springtime of this new world. This Hope reaches out, not just to move through policies and programs, through social movements and economic choices, through social services and schools and feeding programs, but to reach and forgive and free even the secret desires of the heart.

“For the Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” As we turn again to each daily act of faithfulness, as we go together into the world anew, how will our lives make visible the Hope that inspires us? What fruits will be borne from this journey?” Full transcript available at fwccamericas.org/news

Children in Guatemala celebrated World Quaker Day by learning about Quaker history.

2022 World Quaker Day



The 2022 World Quaker Day was a global intervisitation success! We asked Friends to visit a different Quaker meeting or church than they regularly attend, and they delivered. You can find images from World Quaker Day on the reports page of WorldQuakerDay.org. There is also a beautiful visual thread on Twitter here:

<https://bit.ly/3rkIDjH> It shows many Friends around the world and how they spent World Quaker Day. Friends Journal published a reflection by Tim Gee, FWCC General Secretary, that focused on the bible verse for the day: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/world-quaker-day/>

“You are the light of the world. A house built on a hill cannot be hidden.” Matthew 5:14

Intervisitation is an important part of FWCC’s work. As Friends, if we are going to work toward world peace, we must first find peace with each other. To this end, members of FWCC Americas’ executive committee began visiting the annual sessions of each affiliated yearly meeting. This will continue through the coming year.

Officers of the Section of the Americas for 2022-2023

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

Clerk:	David Shiner, <i>Illinois YM</i>
Assistant Clerk:	Julie Peyton, <i>Sierra-Cascades YM of Friends</i>
Recording Clerk:	Mary Carter Haynes, <i>Jamaica YM</i>
Assistant Recording Clerk:	Milena Villca Mamani, <i>Iglesia Evangelica Union Boliviana Amigos</i>
Treasurer:	Beverly Kirk Shull, <i>Ohio YM (Conservative)</i>
Assistant Treasurer:	Glenn Morison, <i>Canadian YM</i>

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