

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas
Annual Meeting 2007, Providence, RI, USA

Program, Business Agenda, Worship documents and Interpretation

Please print out and take with you.

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FWCC Annual Meeting 2007 **Small Worship Group Queries**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

*"They have scattered abroad their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever."*

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, people will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (New International Version)

Queries for Thursday:

We are gathered this weekend in the city of Providence. How do you see God's providence?
What happened to you when you "sowed generously" and "reaped generously?"

Queries for Friday:

What does "being rich in every way" mean to you?

Could this scripture really be True? If it isn't, why is it in the Bible? If it is, what does it say to you about the way you live your life?

Are you afraid to live as if this were really true?

Do you prefer the things you can acquire on your own to the gifts God could bless you with if you share what you have?

Queries for Saturday

How do you experience God sustaining and guiding you?

How have you responded out of your abundance to others?

How do you know what you receive is coming from God?

How do you praise God for his providence to you?

Worship at Annual Meeting

Providence, Rhode Island

March 2007

Especially in worship, we enter with reverence into communion with God

Morning Worship

After breakfast and before each morning business session, Friends will have the opportunity to worship together. We will be led by Friends from a different worship tradition each morning. Together we will experience some of the ways Friends find spiritual comfort, guidance, hope and strength.

Small worship groups; Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday afternoon

The worship groups are designed to provide a place to worship, pray and share together around our theme. We hope that everyone attending Annual Meeting will participate in their assigned worship group. We ask that you stay with the same group for all three sessions so that you may begin to know each other on a more personal level. This is a wonderful opportunity for heart-to-heart connections among Friends. Spoken contributions need to be brief, with time left between contributions so that we may understand the words and spirit of what has been said. Those listening will do so with respect, sincerity and prayerfulness. Experiences and thoughts shared with the group need to be held in confidence within the group.

Do not try to answer or debate what others in the group have offered. Speak from your own experience in truth and with love.

Because there will be very few Friends from Latin America this year, we anticipate that most groups will be English-language only; one or two may be Spanish-language only, or bi-lingual. We will make every effort to mix the participants in the group to ensure that Friends from different traditions and yearly meetings are included in each group.

Sunday Worship

As the final event of our Annual Meeting, we will gather together in worship.

Quiet Room

A room will be made available for those wishing a quiet place for retreat. Those wishing a place for silent reflection or prayer may use this room.

INTERPRETATION AT ANNUAL MEETING

As a multicultural Section of the Americas, we do our best to include all our representatives fully in the deliberations and worship of our Annual Meetings. To do so, we provide (oral) interpretation between English and Spanish during both meetings for business and for worship, and (written) translation into Spanish of advance documents and some of the minutes, before and after the Annual Meeting.

There are two ways the interpretation is handled at Annual Meeting:

1. We use simultaneous interpretation, with (usually) the Spanish-speaking reps listening through earphones, during speeches and other formal presentations, where one or more speakers are talking to a whole group,
2. We use consecutive interpretation during business sessions, when full-group participation is encouraged. Using simultaneous interpretation in this setting would relegate speakers of the non-dominant language to the sidelines as spectators, not full participants.

Each person speaking should offer a complete sentence or two at a time, then pause for interpretation **so that everyone can hear what is being said in both languages**. Remember to begin by stating your name and Yearly Meeting. *(See next page for more suggestions.)*

How You Can Help: To keep from slowing things down, there is a way that **everyone** present at the plenaries can help: PLEASE EDIT YOURSELF. If you believe God= Spirit is leading you to speak on the floor, please take a moment to listen to what the Spirit wants you to say BEFORE YOU BEGIN, and try to express it succinctly. Rambling makes it extremely difficult for the interpreters to do their job efficiently, and slows down the listening process for everyone, in all languages.

We know from past experience that, as Friends become accustomed to the flow of the process, it ends up not taking an excessive amount of additional time.

Interpreting in worship: Several years ago the Bilingual Committee considered how to handle worship sessions, recognizing that interpretation in worship can be disruptive. We decided to do so anyway, when a Latin American Friend commented that the idea of **A**nderstanding where the words come from, **@**without understanding the words, was mostly a lovely, North American **A**manticism. **@**

Why We Rely on Volunteer and Staff Interpreters: Frankly, MONEY. To hire sufficient professional interpreters to do the job properly would cost nearly \$10,000, which FWCC simply doesn't have. That doesn't include rental costs for proper booths and equipment, or the interpreters=expenses of room, board & travel, which we do cover now for our one volunteer who comes strictly to interpret.

The interpreters appreciate your cooperation to help make it possible for all our representatives to participate in Annual Meeting on a equal footing, as Friends, as reps and as children of God.

*Submitted by Vicki Hain Poorman,
Bilingual Committee Support Staff and Interpreter*

INTERPRETING AT F.W.C.C. GATHERINGS

Renato Lings, 2002

From Part 3: SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER

Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways.

Advices & Queries, Britain YM, 1995

3.3 BASIC GUIDELINES

In business sessions, stand up to speak. Wait until the clerk recognizes you. Use a microphone if one is available near you. Then clearly and slowly state your name and your yearly meeting. Pause for the interpreter(s) to do their job.

Please speak slowly, clearly and in a loud voice. Please wait to speak until God has given you a clear thought to share. Word games, puns, difficult jargon, colloquialisms or slang cannot be communicated adequately into another language in just a split second.

Speak in complete thoughts of one or two sentences and then pause for interpreting. This will give you time to organize yourself succinctly.

Some names you want to mention may be unfamiliar to the interpreters (and other listeners). Make sure to pronounce them clearly.

Among interpreters it is a well-known fact that numbers are tricky. Please slow down when you mention hard facts and figures, particularly years, dates, and percentages. Many numbers could well be repeated for luck.

If you are to give an address or a sermon, calculate the time carefully. If you are planning to speak for fifteen minutes, with simultaneous interpreting your presentation may take one or two minutes longer. With consecutive interpreting the total space will take up at least 30 minutes. **Important:** check with the organizers whether simultaneous or consecutive interpreting will be used.

Since you are to speak slowly, remember that a short address will be more gratefully received than a lengthy one.

Whenever you quote from the Bible, make sure to give the exact references to the interpreters in advance. If you decide to quote from the Bible while you are speaking, give the reference and then pause until the interpreters signal that they have found it.

Make yourself available to the interpreter(s). They need to tune in to you ahead of time and vice versa. This will ensure better communication, make you less nervous and enable everyone to be sensitive to the Spirit.

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Friends World Committee for Consultation
Section of the Americas

2007 Annual Meeting Business Agenda

Friday, March 16th 1st Session

Worship and Introductions

1. Minutes of 2006 *Elizabeth Mertic*
2. Naming Committee Report and Action *George Rubin*
3. Nominating Committee Report – first reading *Dawn Amos*
4. Treasurer’s Report *Cathy Habschmidt*
5. 2008 Budget – Presentation and Overview *Elizabeth Willey*
6. Peace Issues Working Group Request for Committee Status *George Rubin*

Announcements

Saturday, March 17th 2nd Session

7. Greetings from the World Office and Triennial Update *Nancy Irving*
8. Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) Report *Luis Carlos Ramirez R.*
9. 2006 QYP participant report *Nataly Moran*
10. Campaign Report *Cathy Habschmidt, Margaret Fraser, Louise Salinas*
11. Affiliation requests: Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, Youth Service Opportunities Project

Remembrances

Announcements

Sunday, March 18th 3rd Session

12. Site Selection Report and Invitation to Annual Meeting 2008 *Jeanette Norton, Clemence Ravaçon Mershon*
13. 2008 Budget, 2nd Presentation *Elizabeth Willey*
14. Nominating Committee, 2nd report *Dawn Amos*
15. 2006 Naming Committee report *George Rubin*
16. Proposed Nominations for 2007 Naming Committee

Announcements

1:00-3:00	Regional Meetings for: <i>Midwest, Southwest, Southeast, North & South High Plains</i>	<i>Moses Brown</i>
	Workshops and Presentations for those not in regional meetings:	<i>Moses Brown</i>
	A. <i>Convergent Friends: Reclaiming the Power of Primitive Quakerism in a Postmodern World</i> C.Wess Daniels, David Male, Robin Mohr, Shawna Roberts	
	B. <i>Militarism in the Americas: Trying What Love Can Do:</i> Peace Issues Working Group, Bridget Moix	
3:15-4:45	Small Worship Groups meet	<i>Moses Brown</i>
5:00-7:00	Dinner and free time	<i>Moses Brown</i>
7:30	Evening with local Friends	<i>Moses Brown</i>

Sunday, March 18th

7:00-8:00	Breakfast	<i>Hotel</i>
8:00-9:00	Time for packing, hotel check out	
9:00-11:30	Morning worship, followed by the 3 rd Business Session	<i>Moses Brown</i>
11:30-12:30	Closing worship	<i>Moses Brown</i>
12:30	Lunch, departures	<i>Moses Brown</i>
	<i>Annual Meeting Planning Committee meets over lunch</i>	<i>Moses Brown</i>
12:30-2:00	Executive Committee, committee clerks and staff meet over lunch	<i>Moses Brown</i>
2:00	Optional excursion to Newport departs	

God is able to provide you with **every blessing** in abundance so that by always having enough of everything, you may **share abundantly....**

2 Corinthians 9:8



2007 Annual Meeting

Friends World Committee for Consultation
Section of the Americas

Moses Brown School
and
Radisson Providence Harbor Hotel
Providence, Rhode Island, USA

March 15-18, 2007

Wednesday March 14th

9:00-5:00 Committee of Latin American Friends Executive
Committee *closed session*

5:00-6:30 Dinner Hotel

7:00-9:00 Annual Meeting Planning Committee *Moses Brown*
Bilingual Communications & Interpreters *Moses Brown*
Executive Committee *Hotel*

Thursday March 15th

7:00-8:00 Breakfast Hotel

8:30-9:00 Morning Worship *Moses Brown*

COMMITTEE MEETINGS all at Moses Brown

9:00-12:00 *Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (open), Site Selection (open), Visitation Planning, Finance, Wider Quaker Fellowship (open after 2 pm), Nominating*

12:00-1:00 Lunch Moses Brown

1:00-5:00 *Continuation of Committee Meetings: Development 1-3 (open), Finance with Executive, Campaign Steering, CEC, IFC, 2-5*
Moses Brown

3:00 *QUNO Update, Lon Fendall, Rob Callard* *Moses Brown*

5:00-7:00 Dinner and free time Moses Brown
Dinner Meetings for: Regional Clerks, Worship Group Leaders, New YM Representatives to the Section.

7:15-8:00 Opening Session *Moses Brown*

8:00-9:00 Small Worship Groups meet *Moses Brown*

9:30 Interest Groups: *Hotel*
QUNO Update, Lon Fendall, Rob Callard
Quaker Initiative to End Torture update, John Calvi

Friday March 16th

7:00-8:00 Breakfast hotel

8:30-12:00 Morning Worship, followed by the
1st Business Session *Moses Brown*

12:00-1:00 Lunch Moses Brown
1:00-3:00 Regional Meetings for: *Lower Great Lakes, Northeast, Northwest* *Moses Brown*

Workshops and Presentations for those not in regional meetings: *Moses Brown*

A. *Convergent Friends: Reclaiming the Power of Primitive Quakerism in a Postmodern World* C.Wess Daniels, David Male, Robin Mohr, Shawna Roberts

B. *Militarism in the Americas: Trying What Love Can Do:* Peace Issues Working Group, Bridget Moix

3:15-4:45 Small Worship Groups meet *Moses Brown*

5:00-7:00 Dinner and free time Moses Brown
Dinner meeting for Campaign Steering Committee

7:30 Worship and Keynote Address: *Moses Brown*
Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Director of Peace and Nonviolence Studies at the University of Rhode Island

9:30 Interest Group: *Hotel*
Peace through Pieces: Burundi Quilting Ministry, Patty Federighi

Saturday March 17th

7:00-8:00 Breakfast Hotel
Breakfast meeting for those going to the Dublin Triennial

8:30-12:00 Morning Worship, followed by the
2nd Business Session *Moses Brown*

12:00-1:00 Lunch Moses Brown