

**Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas**  
Annual Meeting 2008, Morgantown, Indiana

Committee, Program and Affiliated Organization Reports  
March 6, 2008

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**Annual Meeting Planning Committee**  
Report to Annual Meeting 2008

Our committee continues to serve the Section of the Americas by assisting the office staff in planning and carrying out tasks so that we can worship, do business and make connections with each other at Annual Meeting.

We have been blessed with wonderful cooperation from FWCC staff and with helpful suggestions and comments from those attending prior meetings.

The committee met in October in Plainfield, Indiana, where we were hosted by Western Yearly Meeting and by Plainfield Friends Church. FWCC staff Louise Salinas and Margaret Fraser were present with us. We were lovingly cared for and are grateful to the ministry of Friends who open their hearts to us.

The Nominating Committee meeting was also held at the same facility at the same time; that innovation worked well. It meant that office staff needed only to take one weekend away from home, saving travel expense as well. We also found some cross-collaboration between members of the two groups.

Many on the committee had been to the Triennial in Dublin, and we hope to carry the joy and camaraderie of that meeting over to the 2008 annual session, which will be blessed by more Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) members than last year in Rhode Island.

We are especially working to make a more seamless transition between morning worship and worship on the occasion of business.

The members of the committee are from different regions and diverse worship traditions. We will continue to work with one another and with the office staff to make the Waycross meeting a blessed one for all who come.

I look forward to seeing Friends in Waycross

Roena Oesting, clerk of AMPC

## Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) Report to Annual Meeting 2008

As I write this report, it brings to mind some of the words from messages delivered during the Triennial session of FWCC last August in Ireland, related to the theme of "Finding the Prophetic Voice for Our Time," as well as others I read in several reports that many of you gave to your own Yearly Meetings. A Friend from Cuba Yearly Meeting challenged her YM to think about themselves as living letters to others, reminding them of some other occasions recounted in the New Testament, but also paralleling different types of letters with different types of ministries. I think of COAL as a collection of living letters, composed by all who represent their yearly meetings to others as we meet at Annual Meeting, to share the richness of our faith journeys throughout the year. I also believe that such richness is never fully contained in what we share in the few days we are together, but rather is a small sample of the lives of thousands of Friends across the Americas.

Throughout the year, the most significant of the events in which the Section of the Americas/COAL participated in that sharing were the different workshops carried on in North & South America and soon in Central America, and once again in South America before we meet.

In May 2007, with 9 people and two facilitators, representing 3 countries, the first Workshop for Interpreters was held at Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion. During five days, participants worked together and shared their experiences as volunteers in different conferences of our churches and meetings as well as other Quaker organizations and of the Church of the Brethren. Apart from the experiences, the time shared and fellowship in spiritual life created a sense of community, and we thank God for this event. This event is one sample of one of the ways to respond to the needs for more communication in a multicultural Section such as ours.

In the Southern sub-region of COAL a second Workshop for Potential Writers, mainly for Bolivia and Peru, was held in July 2007 in La Paz, and led by Friends Nancy and Harold Thomas. The work the participants have done so far will be shared at a third workshop, and we hope to hear more news about possible publications in that sub-region as an outcome of this joint work.

The First Workshop for Potential Writers in Central America was hosted by Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica. The workshop was led by professor Susan Yanos of Earlham School of Religion faculty, and supported by David Johns, also professor at ESR.

Twelve Friends from the Northern and Central American Sub-regions attended, and also visited amongst local Friends in Monteverde and San José. The very deep and intense sharing that took place during three days together resulted in works that are being translated into English and will be shared, after some editing, on the Section's web site. (For more information on this workshop, please see the report that will also appear on the Section's web site, in both languages.)

We are grateful for this way in which many meetings participate in the ministry of FWCC, by receiving and providing warm hospitality and facilitating face-to-face encounters. With these training workshops we help support the needs of Latin American Yearly Meetings to produce their own literature, and trust that those that have been trained will reproduce the model in their own areas.

**FWCC Triennial In Ireland:**

Fifteen Latin American Friends attended the Triennial. For all of them, the Triennial was above all a blessed experience that recharged their “spiritual batteries” as well as helped them connect with Friends from all around the globe.

#### Visitation in the sub regions:

- Mexican Friends were delighted to have Friend Chris Viavant, member of the Executive Committee, representing FWCC at the XXV General Meeting of Mexican Friends in November 2007 in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. Two Friends from Pacific Yearly Meeting attended too. It was the first time the General Meeting of Mexican Friends considered a manual of proceedings being prepared by a committee, which has been generally approved and is ready for the printer.
- This has been a year when different yearly meetings named new representatives to FWCC, and we pray that those named will be a blessing both to the yearly meetings and to FWCC as different Friends share God's gifts with others. The Annual Meeting will have an opportunity to welcome these new Friends from INELA Bolivia, Guatemala Embajadores, El Salvador, and Cuba, as far as we know.
- Annual Meeting 2008 will allow us to have a full contingent of Latin American Friends, and the COAL general assembly, as well as some visitation being planned in coordination with local Friends and the Visitation Planning Committee. There may be more problems to get some visas; some of the requirements to get those, especially for Cubans, have changed since 2004. As we labour with the visa process, we ask you to hold those involved in making arrangements, as well as those Friends who are to attend as representatives from the Latin American Yearly Meetings, in your thoughts and prayers, so that we can share and learn about the life of these meetings.
- *En Pocas Palabras*, COAL's electronic newsletter, continues to be published and shared amongst Friends, and we invite you to browse and read it, so you learn about recent news that has been sent to us by Latin American Yearly Meetings. One Friend concerned about disseminating this news amongst English-speaking Friends has volunteered to translate it into English, and we are thankful for that. Thank you Jeff Keith!
- As we approach the end of the Section's Campaign, we trust God will guide us to continue forward and implement many more opportunities for interaction amongst Friends in the Americas, to witness to God's love and Friends responses to God's call in our world. We pray the implementation and renewal of FWCC ministry in the Americas will be a blessing to all.

May God guide us as we continue to share in the life of the spirit and find and recognize different prophetic gifts amongst Friends in our time.

In Peace,

Loida E. Fernández González , Executive Secretary, COAL

February 2008

## Development Committee Report to Annual Meeting 2008

The Development Committee was reconstituted at Annual Meeting 2007, having been on sabbatical while the Campaign Steering Committee had charge of the Campaign. The Committee met with the Executive Committee in November 2007, and has met since by conference call. We held one conference call jointly with the Campaign Steering Committee, to help "pass the baton." We expect to continue to meet by conference call, approximately bi-monthly, to ensure that our work does not lose momentum.

This is a transition year from the Campaign to non-Campaign mode. We do not see it as a return to the Section's pre-Campaign modes of thinking or of engaging with FWCC's friends and supporters throughout the Section. In the years preceding the Campaign, the Development Committee's task was limited to fundraising, and "fundraising" meant largely mailed appeal letters. The Campaign, by contrast, has engaged Friends through personal visits by staff and volunteers, events at local meetings, and an invigorated web presence. Those efforts need to continue.

The Development Committee sees its role as more than fundraising. We would like to further the work of the Section, deepen Friends' engagement with it, and, yes, make sure it has the funds to do that and do it well.

We have identified several areas we feel called to work on:

1. Bringing the FWCC experience to local meetings. We envision events that "show rather than tell" FWCC, bringing Friends together across traditions and cultures. This can include having staff present a slide show to small groups, with a light lunch or potluck, with invitations to FWCC supporters in the area. We can take better advantage of Friends coming from other parts of our Section or other Sections of FWCC. These are not "fundraisers;" their purpose is to invigorate the local meeting, while promoting FWCC's presence and identity. This information and fellowship create interest and connection, which over the long run will lead to financial support.

As a first step, we urged the staff and Visitation Planning Committee to actively seek meetings interested in hosting Latin American visitors before or after the 2008 Annual Meeting, with a goal of at least three events, and we understand that they have taken up that suggestion.

We also encouraged the staff to continue accepting (and soliciting) invitations from local meetings, to be combined where possible with visits to individual donors.

2. Looking at ways to keep people (including former representatives) engaged with FWCC and its work, such as asking them (you!) to host FWCC events in local meetings and retirement communities or to accompany staff on visits to prospective donors.

3. Facilitate a discussion with younger and tech-savvy Friends about how FWCC can and should enhance our Internet presence by participating in social networking sites such as YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, and Second Life ("Web 2.0"). Find one or more who will serve on this committee, to work with the staff on this task.

4. Encouraging all committees to look at their work – what they do, and how they do it – with one eye on how it will contribute to the Society of Friends and how it will promote and further FWCC. We're not interested in changing the focus to ourselves, but we would like committees to think about whether "the way we've always done it at least in my memory" is serving well now.

5. We encourage the Nominating Committee to bring names for the Development Committee that reflect a range of ages and experience as well as geographic diversity. Because we expect to meet largely by conference call, this should enable persons outside the United States to serve.

## Executive Committee Report to Annual Meeting 2008

What are the issues that the EC has considered this past year? The Campaign, health coverage for our employees, the state of FWCC worldwide, theme for the 2008 Annual Meeting, Visitation Planning Committee review, COAL, and work that will be done by the Development Committee in this next year. Minutes of the Executive Committee's meetings are made available to all representatives and you may learn more about our work from reading our minutes.

Who are we? We come from Alaska, Canada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, California, Washington, and Minnesota. We are members of large unprogrammed monthly meetings and large pastoral congregations as well as some very small and rural meetings or churches. We hope that our work with the committee will increase the understanding of what we all as Friends hold in common even if our practices may vary. We are committed to travel to each of the EC meetings, no matter how far from home.

In November we traveled to Bucks County, PA to a camp near New Hope. We prepared our own meals, walked in the woods when we had breaks, shared our space with deer and skunks, and enjoyed the feeling of being away from civilization. The Development Committee along with Henry Freeman joined us for part of the weekend. On Sunday morning many of us found a nearby meeting or two to worship with before we left for home.

The spring meeting took place at the Salt Lake City meeting house. Chris Viavant arranged home hospitality for us and found a local Friend who prepared some of our meals. We joined Friends from Salt Lake City meeting on Sunday morning for worship. Part of what we do is to relate to local Friends meetings and worship groups simply by attending.

FWCC celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2007. One of the celebrations took place in Dublin with all of the Triennial attendees joining in. If you have not seen the photos on the FWCC website, take a look. Another celebration was held in Haverford and Swarthmore where FWCC first began in 1937.

Elizabeth Mertic



*Friends Committee on Scouting*  
*Affiliated with Friends World Committee for Consultation*  
*Section of the Americas*

### Report to Annual Meeting 2008

The Friends Committee on Scouting has been fortunate to have some new younger Friends join our committee. This is helping to bring some new ideas to the table and has us looking at things in a new light.

One of the results of the new infusion of energy was to bravely hold the first ever International Friends Scout/Guide Gathering at the time of our annual meeting in Plainfield, Indiana in April 2007. The gathering was somewhat hampered by torrential rains continuing through most of the weekend, but the attendees had a good time anyway. It was a small group of 12, but we were pleased that three of them were young Friends. In addition to holding our business meeting, watching a Scout movie and doing various Scout things such as trading patches, we interacted with the local Plainfield Friends by joining the men's group who kindly prepared breakfast for us on Saturday. We also joined them in Meeting for Worship on Sunday morning, when David Hadley was presented with the Friends Award for his long involvement with the Scouting movement and with this committee. He was one of our founding members. The weekend gave us a good indication of what we need to do in preparation for any future gathering we will hold.

Our website is up and running, thanks to our Assistant Clerk, Dan Nelson, who spearheaded its redesign and development. The committee's website is found at: <http://scouting.quaker.org>. Be sure to check it out. The committee hopes Friends will take advantage of the site for information about the US and Canadian religious award programs for Scouts. If young Friends wish to earn the youth awards, the booklets can be downloaded for free. Likewise, the special recognition award for adults can also be downloaded.

The tally of awards earned during the past year is:

"That of God" (for children in grades 2-5) = 36

"Spirit of Truth" (for children in grades 6-12) = 4

"Friends Award" (adult recognition) = 4

We would like to see all these numbers increase. Thanks to those of you who spread the word about these awards in your meetings.

Betsy Wenny, Clerk  
 Friends Committee on Scouting



# FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

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## **Report to FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting 2008**

In 2007, Friends Peace Teams' work continued to grow. FPT took under its care Nadine Hoover's work in Indonesia that had been under the care of Alfred Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting. Projects in Indonesia include Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops in nonviolent conflict resolution, peace education for preschool teachers, relief work for victims of flooding and the 2004 tsunami, working with Indonesians to confront environmental degradation as well as human rights violations and the Conscience Studio where Indonesians and others can share their concerns about nonviolence and conscientious objection to war and military taxation.

In 2007, the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) finished the training of 48 Healing Companions in Rwanda and Burundi, began Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) workshops in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Western Province, Kenya. In Burundi a HROC training was developed for HIV positive women. Series of AVP workshops started in seven communities in Rwanda for people expelled from Tanzania. Cecile Nyiramana from Rwanda was a keynote speaker at FGC. (A Canadian speaking tour for Adrien Niyongabo from Burundi was cancelled because he was denied a visa.) Four workcamps were held during July for 21 American/Canadian workcampers, and more are planned for 2008. Five issues of PeaceWays-AGLI were published and distributed. David Zarembka, AGLI coordinator, moved to western Kenya to be closer to the programs in the region. Several AGLI staff and associates acted as election observers in the Kenyan elections at year end, and have been reporting on conditions following the violent response to the election results, which has affected many Kenyan Friends.

An exploratory team visited Guatemala and El Salvador in the spring. They visited a group of partially trained AVP facilitators in Guatemala and with Friends and other organizations in both countries. They co-facilitated two AVP workshops, and many of the people and groups with whom they met have requested more programs to promote nonviolence in their countries. Val Liveoak, the coordinator of the Latin America and Caribbean Program of Friends Peace Teams traveled to the region in the fall to follow up with further workshops, training nine new facilitators in Guatemala, and establishing an AVP program in El Salvador. In Colombia, AVP work continues. FPT began groundwork to bring a Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities program there, and plans further development of this project in 2008.

FPT has named Adrian Bishop to replace Val Liveoak as its representative to FWCC.

FPT's office offers educational materials for Monthly and Yearly Meetings about the regions where we work, and opportunities for short and long term volunteer work there. Your prayers and financial support is much needed. For more information about our work, please see FPT's display, talk to Val or Adrian, visit our website or contact our office at the address above,

Val Liveoak

**Lower Great Lakes Region**  
Report to Annual Meeting 2008

Lower Great Lakes had a busy year as several Friends from our region were inspired by and were challenged by attendance at the Dublin Triennial. We were especially called to consider the ways Ireland YM makes loving acceptance of different language and experience an integral part of who they are. We in Lower Great Lakes are trying to do the same. We were invited to share the Mid-West Fall Gathering last October in Richmond and enjoyed warm fellowship with a good group of Friends there. We were treated to a tour of the historical collection in the Earlham library, a visit to Earlham School of Religion and even had local "experts" to give us the architectural tour of Richmond. We will gather at the Section Meeting in Morgantown, Indiana in April. Then we are looking forward to our Fall Gathering to be held near Toronto the 26th to the 28th of September, 2008 hosted by Younge Street (Canadian) Half YM. All Friends are warmly welcomed to attend. Tell your friends.

The Lower Great Lakes region of FWCC is comprised of the following yearly meetings: Ohio Conservative, Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region, Lake Erie, Wilmington and Canadian YM (central part)

Mike Hinshaw, clerk

**Midwest Field Staff**  
 Report to Annual Meeting 2008  
 Susan Lee Barton

After the rush of 2006, it was good to get back to visitation this year! In addition to reconnecting with Friends I hadn't seen for a while, I attended several quarterly meetings I had not previously attended (Spiceland QM of Indiana YM, Blue River QM of Illinois YM, and Fairfield QM of Wilmington YM). Several yearly meetings are working on (or recently finished) revisions of their Faith & Practice guide, and several are considering financial relationships and expectations between monthly and yearly meetings. I was glad to be able to share how other Friends in our region are handling the same issues.

I had a very busy summer attending seven of the 10 yearly meetings in the Lower Great Lakes and Midwest Regions (Lake Erie, Wilmington, Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region, Ohio Valley, Western, Central, and Ohio YM's). A conflict of dates prevented me from attending the other three. I wanted to spread the news about the Section of the Americas meeting in the Midwest in 2008, and have been eager to find ways for Friends in these two regions to participate.

In May I had the great joy of welcoming Friends to my hometown instead of traveling elsewhere. I provided local staff support for the first FWCC training for interpreters, and very much enjoyed the role of hostess. Richmond Friends provided a potluck dinner one evening to get to know our guests.

In June I was delighted to attend the Conservative Friends' gathering hosted by the newest monthly meeting in Ohio Yearly Meeting, Keystone Fellowship Meeting in central Pennsylvania. Our caring hosts gave us a wonderful demonstration of how a few people with simple accommodations could take care of a crowd. It was a weekend of deep, centered worship and new friendships, and helped nurture me for the coming summer. On my way home from that gathering I attended the Quaker Camp, organized by current and former young adult Friends. I continue to be impressed as I get to know more young adult Friends who are interested in building bridges among Friends. In my FWCC interactions with younger Friends I usually learn something about myself, and am stretched to look at the "same old issues" in a new way. I continue to feel challenged to find ways for this organization I love to embrace younger generations and new ways of carrying out our mission without losing our focus. I encourage Friends of all ages to consider how we can better communicate and work together, not only across theological divides, but also across the age barriers we have erected.

I spent more time this year planning and implementing a regional gathering. The Midwest Region decided that instead of having one yearly meeting host as we have been doing, we would divide the tasks of program planning and local arrangements between two yearly meetings. We still need to smooth out some wrinkles in this new method, so I stepped in on some tasks. I am very grateful to several Friends in both Ohio Valley and Indiana Yearly Meetings who helped put this gathering together, and to First Friends of Richmond who did a wonderful job of hosting us. The Lower Great Lakes Region decided not to have a regional gathering right after the triennial this year, but are actively planning a 2008 regional gathering in Ontario.

Other work included presentations to three small worship groups, and of course the wonderful 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Pennsylvania. I am very pleased as I receive more requests for information and interest in visitation. Many Friends are once again seeing FWCC as a resource in my two regions. As the only person in my office, I find monthly staff conference calls, an annual staff meeting/retreat, and communication with other field staff very helpful as well as joyful.

As I have traveled among Friends this year, I have been interested to hear very similar themes rising up and the same Bible passages being studied in different groups. The idea of being living stones (Wilmington Yearly Meeting's theme from 1 Peter 2) was considered in numerous yearly meetings I attended. The story of the man at the pool of Bethesda in John 5 has Friends in several different yearly

meetings considering applications of Jesus' question, "Do you want to be healed?" (Wilmington YM is considering this throughout the year.) There are other quotes and topics which kept coming up. It highlighted for me that despite our talk of differences, the Spirit is clearly working among us and God directs our planning and consideration of speakers and themes for different settings with very similar spiritual needs and insights. Several meetings in my region continue to struggle to find balance for Friends to live out deeply held beliefs while interacting with yearly meeting members who have different ways of living God's love. At what point are we stretched beyond who we feel God calls us to be, and at what point do we need to simply embrace each other and love? This is a question I have heard voiced in a variety of ways, and I am grateful for FWCC who challenges me and others to keep asking the question and keep working with the creative tension as we seek God's path together.

**Midwest Region**  
Report to Annual Meeting 2008

Dear Friends,

Soon the FWCC Annual Meeting will take place in our region. We hope you are planning to attend!

In September of 2007 a Midwest Regional Gathering was hosted by First Friends in Richmond, IN. Friday evening included time to get acquainted followed by worship with some singing. Then it was off to local host families.

The schedule Saturday included worship followed by a four-person panel presentation, sharing thoughts and reflections from the Triennial. Following lunch there were small group discussions reflecting on the panel presentations.

Rachel Dean and Micah Bales made a presentation about convergent Friends, followed by discussion and questions

Sunday found Friends worshipping among local Friends Meetings.

As we meet at Annual Meeting our major consideration will include our thoughts about having a regional gathering later in 2008. We will ask ourselves questions such as who will host, where it will be, and what possible program ideas are.

We look forward to seeing you there!

-Vaughn Peebles, Regional Clerk.

## FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Section of the Americas

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### Nominating Committee Report, March 2008

This Nominating Committee report proposes the names of Friends who are recommended to fill Section positions beginning April 7, 2008. *The names of those recommended for assignment or reassignment are in italics.* Friends who are prospective new committee members are encouraged to attend meetings of their committees on committee day before the Annual Meeting when their committee assignment becomes official. Note that committee assignments are not necessarily congruent with the terms to which representatives are named by their yearly meetings. Committee members are urged to continue attending Annual Meetings to complete their service with their committee if at all possible. This permits continuity of committee activity.

Representatives named by the Yearly Meetings are considered for assignments to positions in which they have expertise and interest, and in the light of their availability. Selections are based on information available to members of the Nominating Committee, including that gleaned from interest indicator forms that were mailed to representatives in the fall. Names are listed in three columns based on the date on which the representative's committee assignment ends. Committee members are normally given three-year assignments that end at the conclusion of an Annual Meeting. Potential nominees and persons continuing to serve on a committee for more than three months beyond the end of a term as representative may be recommended for co-option when their terms are about to expire. Names of co-opted representatives (starred in the Representative List) are here followed by a Ac@

The Nominating Committee gives careful consideration to the nomination of persons to the various committees and positions of the Section. An essential priority of the committee is to provide balanced representation on committees, such as: by region, by gender, and by the Branch of Quaker experience. The identifying code following each name on this report indicates the Yearly Meeting to which the representative belongs, plus an initial denoting the region. For an explanation of these codes, and for the assignment of the Yearly Meetings to FWCC Regions, consult the last page of this report.

The Naming Committee and the Nominating Committee are selected by the Annual Meeting and are listed on pages 2 and 3 of this report.

#### Officers

<b>Clerk</b>	<i>Ray Treadway-c</i>	<i>NC/D</i>
<b>Assistant Clerk</b>	<i>Martha Davis</i>	<i>IC/F</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Cathy Habschmidt-c</i>	<i>OV/C</i>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<i>Elizabeth Willey</i>	<i>NP/E</i>
<b>Recording Clerk</b>	<i>Paul Mitchell</i>	<i>NF/D</i>
<b>Asst. Recording Clerk</b>	<i>Jeff Keith</i>	<i>PH/A</i>

12/08 - AM 2009		12/09 - AM 2010		12/10 - AM 2011	
<b>Executive Committee</b> <i>Clerk: Ray Treadway-c</i> <i>Asst. Clerk: Martha Davis</i>		<b>Rec. Clerk: Paul Mitchell</b> <i>Asst. Rec. Clk.: Jeff Keith</i>		<b>Treasurer: Cathy Habschmidt –c</b> <i>(ex officio)</i> <b>Asst Treasurer: Elizabeth Willey</b>	
Jeff Keith Clemence Mershon –c Bill Schoder-Ehri Marie K Hawkins Martha Davis	PH/A LE/B AC/E OC/B IC/F	Ray Treadway-c Ron Mattson Bill Medlin David Brindle <i>Tom Hil-cl</i>	NC/D GP/G WS/C ND/D OV/C, WL/B	<i>Paul Mitchell</i> <i>Chris Viavant</i> <i>Mike Hinshaw</i> <i>Foote Lund</i> <i>open</i>	<i>NF/D</i> <i>IM/H</i> <i>LE/B</i> <i>OV/C</i>
<b>Development Committee</b>		<b>Clerk: George Rubin</b>			
George Rubin Chris Viavant Elizabeth Cazden-c	NY/A IM/H NE/A	David Hadley Ellie Caldwell	WS/C SE/D	<i>Jay Marshall</i> <i>Hal Weaver</i>	<i>IN/C</i> <i>NE/A</i>
<b>Finance Committee</b>		<b>Clerk: Foote Lund</b> <b>Treasurer: Cathy Habschmidt -c</b>		<b>Asst. Treasurer: Elizabeth Willey</b>	
Valerie Matthews Jerry Peterson Cathy Habschmidt-c	NY/A IM/H OV/C	Rosemary Coffey Virginia Dawson <i>Elizabeth Willey-c</i>	LE/B CN/A NP/E	<i>Foote Lund</i> <i>Open</i> <i>Open</i>	<i>WL/B</i>
<b>Personnel Committee</b>		<b>Clerk: J.P. Lund</b>			
Sheila Bach J.P. Lund	BA/D OV/C	John Porter Neil Holzman	NF/D PH/A	<i>Open</i> <i>Open</i>	
<b>Bilingual Communications Committee</b>		<b>Clerk: David Hernandez</b>			
Benigno Sanchez-Eppler-c Sage Taylor-Hudson	NE/A BA/D	Uriel Orellana-c <i>Beth Green-Nagle</i>	BA/D GP/F	<i>Sara Palmer</i> <i>David Hernandez</i>	<i>PH/A</i> <i>SC/G</i>
<b>Site Selection Committee</b>		<b>Co-Clerks: Clémence Mershon –c</b> <b>Maggie Edmondson-c</b>			
Clemence Mershon –c Maggie Edmondson	LE/B NE/A	Janet Leslie <i>Open</i>	PA/H	<i>Gayle Matson</i> <i>Open</i>	<i>NP/E</i>
<b>Annual Meeting Planning Committee</b>		<b>Clerk: Roena Oesting</b>			
Ruth Hadley-c Roena Oesting-c David Male-c	WS/C PA/H OC/B	Bob Fetter-c Margaret Stolfus	BA/D IF/F	<i>Open</i>	

12/08 - AM 2009		12/09 - AM 2010		12/10 - AM 2011	
<b>Nominating Committee</b>		<b>Clerk Ron Mattson</b>			
Jane Snyder-c Peggie Baxter-c David Hernandez-c	NP/E NF/D SC/G	Ron Mattson Adrene Brown John Norris	GP/G WS/C IN/C	<i>Barbara Aikman-c Libby Curry Open</i>	<i>CN/A WL/B</i>
<b>Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee</b>		<b>Clerk: Sharon Hayden</b>			
Martha Davis-c Krystin Schmidt-c	IC/F OV/C. WL/B	Sharon Hayden-c Owen Javins	NW/E NP/E	<i>Bill Schoder-Ehri Open</i>	<i>AC/E</i>
<b>Visitation Planning Committee</b>		<b>Co-Clerks: Nancy Craft-c, Raelyn Joyce-c</b>			
Nancy Craft-c <i>Brenda McKinney</i>	NC/D <i>NF/D</i>	Sara Wolcott Violetta Gwynn	PA/H WL/B	<i>Barbara Gosney Raelyn Joyce-c</i>	<i>NC/D LE/B</i>
<b>Wider Quaker Fellowship Committee</b>		<b>Clerk: Open</b>			
Chris Coffin Faye Chapman Julie Peyton	IF/F OC/B NW/E	Judy Inskeep-c Norma Wallman	NY/A WS/C	<i>Robin Mohr Tina Coffin</i>	<i>PA/H SC/G</i>
<b>Youth Committee</b>		<b>Clerk: Open</b>			
Greg Woods Rachel Dean	IL/C OV/C	Jeff Keith Jose Luis Calderon	PH/A GS/I	<i>Sallie Prugh Open</i>	<i>SA/D</i>

## Regional Clerks and Yearly Meeting Codes

- A. Northeast – Open**  
Philadelphia, New England, New York, Eastern Canadian
- B. Lower Great Lakes –Open**  
Lake Erie, Ohio, Wilmington, Central Canadian, (*Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region*)
- C. Midwest - Open**  
Illinois, Western, Indiana, Ohio Valley, (Central)
- D. Southeast – Tim Lamm (SA/D)**  
Baltimore, North Carolina (U), North Carolina (C), Southern Appalachian, Southeastern, Jamaica
- E. Northwest – Anna Baker**  
Western Canadian, North Pacific, Alaska, Alaska Friends Conference, Northwest
- F. North High Plains – Open**  
Northern, Iowa (U), Iowa (C), Missouri Valley Friends Conference
- G. South High Plains –Betty Richardson (SC/G)**  
Evangelical Friends Church Mid America Yearly Meeting , Great Plains, South Central, (*Rocky Mountain*)
- H. Southwest – Cheryl Speir-Phillips (IM/H)**  
Pacific, Intermountain, Western Association of Friends, (*Evangelical Friends Church - Southwest*)
- I. Latin America -**  
Mexico General Meeting, Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador, Bolivia-Amigos Central, INELA Bolivia, INELA-Perú, Costa Rica, Iglesia Evangélica Embajadores Amigos – Guatemala, (*Bolivia-Estrella de Belén, Bolivia – Santidad, Bolivia – Amigos Unión, Mexico ARIEA, Guatemala Iglesia Nacional*)

### Yearly Meeting Codes

<p>AC Alaska Fds Conference            AL Alaska Yearly Meeting            BA Baltimore Yearly Meeting            BC Bolivia-Central            BI INELA-Bolivia            CB Cuba Yearly Meeting            CN Canadian Yearly Meeting            CO Colombia (Bogotá MM)            CR Costa Rica (Monteverde MM)            ES El Salvador Yearly Meeting            GE Guatemala Embajadores Amigos            GS Guatemala Santidad YM            GP Great Plains Yearly Meeting            HN Honduras Yearly Meeting            IC Iowa Yearly Meeting (Cons)            IF Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM)            IL Illinois Yearly Meeting            IM Intermountain Yearly Meeting            IN Indiana Yearly Meeting            JA Jamaica Yearly Meeting            LE Lake Erie Yearly Meeting            MA EFC Mid America Yearly Meeting            MX Mexico General Meeting            NC North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Cons)            NE New England Yearly Meeting            NF North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM)            NO Northern Yearly Meeting            NP North Pacific Yearly Meeting            NY New York Yearly Meeting            NW Northwest Yearly Meeting</p>	<p>OC Ohio Yearly Meeting            OV Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting            PA Pacific Yearly Meeting            PE INELA-Perú            PH Philadelphia Yearly Meeting            SA Southern Appalachian YM &amp; A            SC South Central Yearly Meeting            SE Southeastern Yearly Meeting            WA Western Association of Friends            WL Wilmington Yearly Meeting            WS Western Yearly Meeting</p> <p>Unaffiliated Yearly Meetings and groups</p> <p>BO Bolivia-Estrella de Belén            BS Bolivia Santidad            BU Bolivia-Amigos Unión            CT Central Yearly Meeting            EF Evangelical Friends Church-ER            GT Guatemala Iglesia Nacional            MY Mexico ARIEA            RM Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting            SW Evangelical Friends Church -Southwest</p>
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**Northeast Region**  
Report to Annual Meeting 2008

The 2007 Northeast Regional Gathering met over the weekend of October 19/21 at the Mercy Center in Madison, Connecticut. Given that we began our weekend during the final hours of a deluge and enjoyed hospitality from the Sisters of Mercy literally at the water's edge on the north shore of Long Island Sound it seems fitting and proper that our touchstone was *The Living Water*.

We were twenty one in number from one Canadian province and from seven states.

Water; water everywhere, in bottles, earthenware vessels, in pans and jugs; water from home, from our taps and wells, and water from convenience stores; water in glasses and pitchers on our tables in the cafeteria. We brought water from home and poured it into containers and told stories about water, whether about storms, phosphorescence, falling into a swimming pool or wondering at rainbows.

Two major issues arose from our gathering: understanding the market-driven pressures to take water from the earth and sell it in plastic bottles and the environmental consequences of draining aquifers and disposing of the bottles themselves - not to mention sharp corporate practices in obtaining exclusive access to what belongs to all.

We learned about court and legislative struggles over these matters and of some of the resources employed in resisting the rush to privatization. We were aided in this study by both a 2005 minute of the Birmingham, Michigan, Friends Meeting and a series of provocative queries concerning water.

Water also supports much biblical meaning. We explored the history of foot washing, whether simply to remove the dust of the road or the symbolic cleansing begun by Pope John XXIII almost fifty years ago. This seemed an unpromising topic but scholarship revealed unexpected layers of meaning.

Edward Sargent, clerk

**Northwest Region**  
Report to Annual Meeting 2008

The FWCC Northwest Region held a Region Gathering in Portland, Oregon March 2 – 3, 2007. This gathering of 130 people was well represented from both Northwest and North Pacific Yearly Meetings. Our theme was "Poverty, Compassion, and Economic Justice." Colin Saxton, Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting was the keynote speaker. Prior to becoming Superintendent, Colin pastored in NWYM and was clerk of the board for Right Sharing of World Resources. The verses chosen for our gathering was Matthew 25:35-36,40. *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these bothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* He suggested we embrace an alternative reality where Friends might (1) be in God; (2) have the ability to see invisible people; (3) and assess their limits and costs. Friends are to consider not what they could do, but what they are called to do.

We had many interesting workshops to choose from These included: Opportunity to reflect on the talk by Colin Saxton; "Rescuing the weak."; "Quetzaltepeque to Quetzaltenango: Quaker Life, Quaker Action and Quaker interrelations in Guatemala, 2006", report on the tour following Annual Meeting in Guatemala; "Right Sharing of World Resources – Learning from the Women of Tamil Nadu"; "Peace Through Pieces" sharing about healing in Burundi through quilt making; "World Gathering of Young Friends"; "Finding Jesus in Baggy Pants homeless youth---Friends Reaching Out to the Homeless Youth"; "Love is a Tough Call" and "The Spirituality of Simplicity."

Friends attended from Northwest Yearly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and Canadian Western Half-Yearly Meeting.

Anna Baker, clerk

*“Ye are called to Peace.” George Fox*

### **Request to Annual Meeting to Address the Establishment of a Peace Committee and the Laying Down of the Peace Issues Working Group – 2008**

The Peace Issues Working Group (PIWG) was established by the Annual Meeting in 2002, with the charge: *“to encourage the work of Friends working with other faith organizations to manifest the Spirit and Love of Christ in the face of the growing dangers of global war and terrorism.”*

Over a span of five years the PIWG has worked to address this charge. In 2003 it held a very successful Peace Conference and published the proceedings. Since then the PIWG has continued to encourage Friends' peace work through workshops, and supported a successful interfaith regional gathering with Quaker House in 2004. In June 2006 the PIWG collaborated with the Quaker Initiative to End Torture in putting on the first Quaker Conference on Torture. The work of the PIWG to further the work of peace-building among Quakers and other faith groups has been influential in creating understanding and a climate of change.

The PIWG realizes that its charge, established in 2002, is no less important today than it was then. The dangers of global war and terrorism remain unabated. Other crises affecting humankind, present in 2002, have since become better recognized. These include climate change, dwindling natural resources, population pressures, and failed and failing states. We anticipate that competition among nations for dwindling water and food supplies, and other resources, accelerating numbers of desperate refugees worldwide, and the increasing inability of governments to provide for and safeguard their people, will likely lead to more widespread conflict, and could threaten civilization as a whole.

The PIWG's recognition of these looming dangers strengthens our conviction that this is no time for business as usual. This is a time for us all to look ahead and explore deeply and prayerfully everything that our Section might do to contribute to peace throughout the Americas. Accordingly, the PIWG believes that it is now time that its temporary mandate be set aside and that the PIWG be replaced by a permanent Peace Committee within FWCC Section of the Americas.

The PIWG formally requested approval of a standing Peace Committee for the Section at the 2007 Annual Meeting. Discussion during the PIWG presentation of this request concerned the nature and functions of such a committee, specifically its mandate, objectives, financial needs, and anticipated staff support requirements. Since then, PIWG members have considered together these requirements. Our conclusions are outlined as follows:

Mandate. The Peace Committee is charged to manifest the Spirit and Love of Christ in identifying, connecting with and helping bring to fruition the yearnings for peace that are felt by Quakers throughout our hemisphere. This includes listening deeply to disparate voices for peace, seeking greater understanding of the factors influencing peace, and nurturing a right spirit within and between individuals and groups so as to advance the Quaker peace testimony in our hemisphere. It also includes encouraging and inspiring actions that contribute to these goals.

Objectives.

1. To better understand the issues faced by Quakers in our hemisphere that impact peace, and the societal environments within which Quakers live that influence the search for peace.
2. To promote dialogue and conversation among Quakers on peace issues, seek common ground, and thereby build greater trust and confidence among different groups of Quakers.
3. To publicize the understandings we reach and the challenges we face in our search for peace.
4. To nurture actions by Quakers in our hemisphere that promote peace.
5. To cooperate with QUNO and with other Quaker and non-Quaker organizations involved in the search for peace.

Financial and staff support. The PIWG requests that one half-time staff position be devoted exclusively to the Peace Committee. This individual will work in close coordination with the Committee to help meet its objectives, fulfill its mandate, and carry out its continuing activities. The Peace Committee will also need to have money budgeted for official travel, meetings, publicizing its work, and other requirements. While recognizing that budgetary constraints exist, the PIWG believes strongly that the importance of the work of the Peace Committee argues for concomitant funding. It is noted that money left over from the 2003 Peace Conference and other past activities conducted by the PIWG is being held by FWCC. The PIWG asks that these funds also continue to be used solely for peace activities.

Peace Issues Working Group

**Personnel Committee**  
Report to Annual Meeting 2008

During the year the Personnel Committee conducted a number of interviews with office and field staff at the FWCC's headquarters in Philadelphia. We discussed numerous issues with staff, including the employee's relationships with other staff members, their satisfactions and dissatisfactions with the job, any problems with compensation and benefits, and other issues. As always, these discussions covered a wide range of issues and were hopefully helpful to staff.

The Committee also finished its work revising the Personnel Manual. This project has occupied the committee's attention for several years. The Manual includes FWCC's policies concerning employees. These policies include the organization's policies with respect to benefits, vacations, sick leave, sexual harassment, and many other issues. The committee carefully reviewed each section of the manual and made many revisions. This task is now completed.

Two other issues which occupied the committee's attention during the year included the ongoing process of revising the organization's approach to health insurance and beginning an evaluation of the overall compensation package of employees. The committee began collecting data from many other Quaker organizations. During the next year the committee will carefully review this data to make sure that the organization is providing compensation and benefits which are reasonable in the light of the compensation packages provided by similar Quaker organizations.

A. Hays Butler  
Clerk  
Personnel Committee

**Quaker United Nations – New York**  
Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2008

Recent practice has been for one of the senior staff members for QUNO- New York to write this report to the Section of the Americas. It was decided that it might be helpful this time for the report to come from the one who represents the Section on the QUNO-New York Committee.

I want to first say what a daunting and at the same time an enjoyable experience it has been to participate in five meetings of the advisory committee for the Quaker UN program in New York. The daunting part is the size and diversity of the Friends constituency in the Section of the Americas. It's almost beyond imagination to think of taking into account the perspectives and concerns of all Friends in the section during the deliberations of the committee, much less to be able to report back to the section's constituency. The enjoyable part is to learn so much in the meetings about the United Nations itself and about the Quaker witness in its offices in New York.

My first meeting as a member of the committee coincided with a substantial reorganization of its structure. In keeping with the makeup of the "sister" group in Geneva, the committee now includes an equal number of members chosen by the sections of the Friends World Committee and the American Friends Service Committee. To be able to hear the perspectives of persons from the four sections of FWCC, along with an equally diverse group from AFSC has seemed to have been an enhancement of the effectiveness of the committee. The fifth FWCC member, Nancy Irving, General Secretary of the World Office, has added significant strength to the Quaker representation. An additional bonus for FWCC is the participation of Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary of the Section of the Americas.

Just before leaving for my first committee meeting in October, 2005, committee members received a message saying the QUNO- NY director of 7 years had resigned and would be leaving in a few weeks. I turned to my colleague at George Fox University, Tom Head, for a helpful briefing on what this might mean and how the newly transformed committee might become effective. Tom had served previously on the New York committee and was then on the Geneva committee. At that time and numerous times since, Tom has been a great help to me in understanding QUNO.

I wish I could say that the departure of that director in 2005, Jack Patterson, was the last significant staff change during my time on the committee. I served on the search committee for Jack's successor as director and the report to the section a year ago announced that Rob Callard had begun his work as the new director. But Rob decided in mid-year not to continue on the staff and again I was involved in the search process for a director. During this time, David Atwood, from the staff of QUNO Geneva, provided excellent interim leadership to the New York program.

As I write this report, the AFSC staff, the hiring part of the AFSC/FWCC partnership, has announced the appointment of a new director, Andrew Tomlinson. Andrew is clerk of Chatham-Summit Monthly Meeting in New Jersey and has many years of global experience, primarily in international finance. His most recent position has been as president of a socially responsible investment fund. His perspective as a British citizen will add breadth to the staff.

Friends in the Section of the Americas who want a bit of a refresher course on the work of Quakers in the United Nations will find excellent help from the QUNO newsletter, which can be accessed on the web site, [www.quno.org](http://www.quno.org). Topics covered in the January, 2008 issue of the newsletter include:

- The Role of QUNO and AFSC in hosting dialogue sessions with President Ahmadinejad of Iran.
- QUNO's work with respect to UN peacekeeping and peacemaking in Congo.
- UN peacemaking in Northern Uganda
- The new UN entity, the Peacebuilding Commission

An in-depth glimpse of the committee's recent work may be found in the committee's minute to AFSC's international program committee, written on October 20, 2007. The minute is too lengthy to include here, but could be made available to interested persons. For this request and other inquiries, feel free to contact me: [lfendall@georgefox.edu](mailto:lfendall@georgefox.edu).

Lon Fendall, representing the Section of the Americas on the QUNO- NY committee

**Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee**  
Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2008

This year has been both challenging and hopeful for the QYP committee and its European counterpart.

In the active works are plans and arrangements for the 2008 Pilgrimage which will take place in Scotland, England and Ireland. The main challenge for the committee this past year has been to choose from among the wealth of applicants for both the leader positions as well as the pilgrims themselves. With about 20 leader applicants and 30 youth applicants we were set with the task of choosing 2 leaders and the 14 pilgrims (with a list of alternates). The quality of both the leader and pilgrim applications was outstanding.

The 2008 QYP leaders chosen are Tom Dix and Margaret Lechner. Both have extensive experience in organizing and working with groups of youth and both have a mature understanding of the variety of expressions of our faith within the Society of Friends. In terms of Pilgrim selection we will have youth from Mexico, Canada and the United States representing a wide spectrum of Quaker meetings and churches.

As many of you already know, we strive to select pilgrims to reflect the theological and geographical diversity of our section. We also strive for some balance of gender and age. Most of the pilgrim applicants who were not selected will be eligible to apply for the 2010 Pilgrimage set to be held in the Pacific Northwest.

In planning for the 2010 Pilgrimage, the committee met in the fall of '07 and sketched out a possible itinerary, assigning some preliminary tasks to committee members to help set up the basic infrastructure of the session.

This year's pilgrimage will be more costly to the pilgrims than ever before. This is due to increased costs of travel and the differential in costs of living in Great Britain. We ask that Friends seek to support the 2008 Pilgrims both spiritually and financially, encouraging your Yearly and Monthly church bodies to hold the Pilgrims and Leaders in the Light and assist them in their fund raising.

Let us celebrate together the future of the FWCC vision as we hold these few Friends in our prayers while they build community, understanding and grow in the love of the Divine.

Respectfully submitted for the  
Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee  
Section of the Americas

Bill Schoder-Ehri

## RIGHT SHARING of WORLD RESOURCES 2007 report to FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting

RSWR experienced another year of consistent and steady growth. In all of the areas in which we work; Quakers in the United States, among Friends in Kenya and other places in the world, and in India and Sierra Leone, our program has continued to develop deeper roots and grow more abundantly the fruits of our labors.

In the United States, Friends provided RSWR with a 2007 income which was 10% above the 2007 budget. RSWR's annual income is now 181% above the annual income of the first year following its separation from FWCC. As a Quaker ministry, RSWR remains unique in two ways.

First, financial support comes almost entirely from Quakers in the United States. RSWR is a ministry of Friends. a of all grants disbursed go to Quaker groups in the developing world. Increasingly, RSWR is a ministry to Friends.

Second, RSWR works with the poorest of the poor (those families who live on no more than \$1 a day) by providing small (up to \$5,500) grants to new and small groups. There are very few funding organizations in the world which focus work on these small groups. Often RSWR is their only source of international funding.

With the diligent work of Proposals Coordinator, Cindi Goslee, and Administrative Assistant, Sarah Northrop, RSWR received and reviewed over 500 proposals. The rigorous screening and review of proposals, along with site visits of selected potential projects resulted in 55 project partners for 2008.

Jackie Speicher, Field Representative, has expanded her work among Friends in the United States. Jackie's initial work was in Western, Indiana, and Wilmington Yearly Meetings. Her work in 2007 included workshops in Southeastern, SAYMA, and Lake Erie yearly meetings. Work has begun for an intensive collaboration with a released Friend in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

As a part of implementing the strategic plan approved in 2005, RSWR is developing a more solid footing in each of its areas of work. Four goals have been approved by the Board of Trustees; 1) Establish a RSWR office in each area of operation (south India, Kenya, and Sierra Leone); 2) Increase RSWR's presence among Friends in the United States; 3) Provide for long-term financial stability; 4) Increase RSWR's organizational capacity to support this growth. To support these goals, RSWR is embarking on major fundraising efforts, including the exploration of a campaign.

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**Site Selection Committee**  
Report to Annual Meeting 2008

The work of the Sites Selection Committee is one of discerning where we are being led to hold our future Annual Meetings. Are you part of a group of isolated Friends which needs the strength and the Spiritual power of our gathered Meetings? Do you represent Friends who have something to share which will enhance the energy or Spirituality of those attending the Annual Meeting? Do you have a specific opportunity to create or renew connections between Friends of different traditions? Please talk with us. We rely on information from representatives and staff as they travel among Friends. We welcome invitations from Yearly and Monthly Meetings, and other groups of Friends, to host the Annual Meeting. The committee has created a packet of information designed to help Friends discern if they are led and able to host an Annual Meeting and how to proceed.

During 2007, we have consulted with each other at Annual Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island and during teleconferences in April and November. We are functioning with a full committee of enthusiastic and active members. Because of the nature of our committee's work, we have been in frequent communication with the Section Staff and the 2008 Local Arrangements Committee Clerk.

We continue to seek less expensive venues other than hotels. We keep conscious of our Quaker values, including ways of coming together to do God's work as we embrace fellowship. We encourage younger Friends, to avail themselves of the less expense accommodations in 2008. Excitedly, we anticipate a gathered feeling at Annual Meeting 2008 at Waycross Retreat Center.

We always look forward to meeting at Annual Meeting with Friends who feel led to encourage their Monthly Meeting, Yearly Meeting or region to host an Annual Meeting. Please feel free to contact us before or during Annual Meeting Planning far in advance helps the Sites Selection Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee choose venues more easily and begin planning for local participation.

The committee was greatly encouraged with Friends' positive responses after our Annual Meeting in Guatemala. It was a powerful spiritual experience and was life changing for many. As way opens, we hope to announce another Annual Meeting in Latin America in the not too distant future.

If you have questions, need information, or have suggestions please speak with any committee member. At the time of this writing they are Janet Leslie, Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Stephen Angell, Marie Kirk Hawkins, Mark Patton, and Maggie Edmondson.

The committee thanks you for your prayers and support.

Submitted on behalf of the committee.

Maggie Edmondson, and Clémence Ravaçon-Mershon, Co-Clerks

## Southeast Region Report to Annual Meeting 2008

At the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas in Providence, RI, last March, representatives from the Southeast Region decided to hold a gathering in Jamaica in January 2008. A committee of three US Friends and three Jamaican Friends, led by clerk Tim Lamm and Jamaican representative Edwin "Bobby" Coleman, continued planning the gathering during the fall. Our plans came to fruition January 3-6 as 22 Friends from the US flew to Jamaica for the gathering, which took place at the Madge Saunders Conference Center in Tower Isle, near Ocho Rios. About 15 to 20 adult Jamaican Friends attended at various times, plus about 20 young people in the Praise and Worship groups. All the yearly meetings in our region were represented, as well as Lake Erie, Illinois, North Pacific and Philadelphia yearly meetings.

The gathering started with a rousing song session led by Jamaican youth. Thursday evening Moira Morgan from Violence Prevention Alliance gave an inspiring talk about her work among the armed gangs in Kingston, emphasizing the importance of community "buy-in" to the success of any social change project. Mary Langford, author of *The Fairest Isle: a History of Jamaica Friends*, gave the plenary address on Friday morning. She summed up the legacy of Friends missions on the island by saying that the missionaries helped many individuals but were more concerned with addressing problems of poverty and lack of education than with fostering local Quaker leadership. Then Susan and Darrell Hefte conducted an abbreviated workshop on AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project), which was quite successful in breaking down barriers of reserve between the participants.

A highlight of the gathering was the excursion on Saturday to visit several of the meetings in Jamaica's northern quarterly meeting. The group visited four meetinghouses and spoke with at least one member of each of those meetings before going on to Highgate for a wonderful lunch provided by Highgate Friends and a short visit to the Lyndale and Swift-Purscell children's homes, which are under the care of Friends Education Council of Jamaica. The disastrous effects of recent hurricanes on the meetinghouses and of the heart-breaking fire this past October at Swift-Purscell were very evident.

The gathering closed Sunday morning with worship led by Jamaica Friends, including a message by recently-converted Friend Bevar Moodie and more songs of praise by the youth.

We American Friends will ponder our impressions of Jamaica for a long time, wondering how we can help these few and aging meetings survive. We admire the faithfulness of the members and the well-run children's homes. The gathering was a stimulus to bring Friends from different parts of Jamaica together, which may be a source of renewal. One problem was that Jamaican Friends could not afford to take meals or stay overnight at the conference center, which limited our time together.

Our next gathering will be hosted by Baltimore YM in fall of this year.

Submitted by Tim Lamm, clerk of Southeast Region

January 14, 2008

## Visitation Planning Committee Report to Annual Meeting 2008

The Visitation Planning Committee had a busy year beginning with the co-clerks meeting in June with the Executive Committee to review and better define the committee's work. Our major task of organizing the visitation of "official FWCC visitors" began with a review and updating of correspondence relating to visitation, and working with the Philadelphia staff in moving us toward more electronic communications. While the number of visitors was less this year (11), we worked with connecting Friends with each other by assisting in gathering information on a variety of visitation opportunities such as Regional Gatherings and visits in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Though these connections did not generate FWCC official visitor reports to the VPC, information on these opportunities are likely to be found among other FWCC committee reports. Please read below the summaries of the FWCC official visitor reports to gather a flavor of Friends' joys and issues throughout our Section. You may find out what concerns we have in common, what we can learn from each other, and how we can stay better connected.

Each February we meet to identify the official visitors for the coming year. We would like to see as many representatives and others familiar with the FWCC as possible offer to do this important work. We encourage you to contact a committee member for more information.

### VISITATION SUMMARY REPORTS

#### **Great Plains Yearly Meeting (Visitor, Roena Oesting)**

Great Plains Yearly Meeting is familiar with FWCC. Roena was able to speak some about FWCC during one business session and their FWCC representative, Beth Green-Nagle, was able to speak in another.

Great Plains YM was held in Hominy, Oklahoma, which is part of the Osage Indian region. Their new clerk is an Osage Indian elder.

Their special speaker/resource person was Richard Twiss, a Lakota Sioux who ministers to both the Amerind people and other indigenous people around the world. His main message is that we need to be careful to distinguish what is Christian and what is "culture," respecting native cultures rather than insisting on transforming them into westerners.

#### **Indiana Yearly Meeting (Visitor, Clémence Mershon)**

Bill Medlin, current IYM representative, provided an introduction to FWCC SoA, in general and invited Friends in Indiana to help with the FWCC SoA Annual Meeting which will take place in Indiana, April 2-6, 2008. There was time to talk with many Friends during meals times or afternoon free time. Friends who had traveled among Friends in the Americas and abroad were eager to share their experiences and observations. Visitation can broaden one's perspectives, allow for new spiritual and secular insights into "Quaker ways" and provide greater comfort among those whose worship styles may be different.

Conversations with former and current FUM missionaries helped to understand the complex nature of their particular kind of outreach, (practice) - a delicate balancing act of interpretation between communities which may not understand each other.

Recent increase in attendance at local meetings gathered some new attenders who lack a Friends' background despite a Christian identity. Retaining the core of corporate discernment could be helpful in welcoming new attenders to become new members.

Since last Yearly Meeting's divisive discussion on the need for the outward signs of Baptism of the Holy Spirit, throughout the YM there have been discussions and prayer services on where IYM is being led. These sessions will continue until the next YM sessions. Another issue concerns the nature of IYM's relationship with Earlham College. This relationship has weighed on the Yearly Meeting for years. A "task force," consisting of one member of each of 5 quarterly meetings, plus the YM Clerk and Superintendent, plans to study the situation during the next year.

### **Intermountain Yearly Meeting (Visitor, Nancy McLauchlan)**

Intermountain Yearly Meeting met June 10-17, 2007, at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, New Mexico. Prior to the formal beginning of the yearly meeting Friends had workshops. Marjorie Mears Larrabee from Mt. Holly, New Jersey, set the tone of the gathering as she responded to the theme, "Deepening our Spiritual Connections", giving bits of advice and told stories, reminding Friends that we are what we seek.

A threshing session regarding whether or not to adopt their new (and first) *Faith and Practice* set the stage for Friends to go forward with expectation that their *Faith and Practice* will be published by June 2008. Friends agreed to start the process of affiliation with Friends General Conference but were not yet in unity to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Witness. Friends agreed to fund Spiritual Formation Groups in local meetings. The Meeting approved the minute "... We support those in our yearly meeting who feel called to War Tax Resistance." It was clear that at this gathering, Friends supported border issue concerns with a difference of opinion as to the level of support. Friends approved funding for the Immigration and Border Concerns Committee to send Friends to local meetings to talk about the issue, gave funds toward the FCNL Border Issues staff position, and set up a mechanism so that Friends could individually donate towards this FCNL staff position. There were opportunities to gather on the grounds each morning for Worship Sharing and participate in afternoon Interest Groups.

Friends set up a fun-filled program for children of all ages. Evening entertainment included Creativity Night, which focused on the talent of local Friends from young, aspiring stars to 91-year-old Jack Powelson. A highlight was the play, "The Court of Last Resort," a simulated trial regarding global warming. Friends were told to look for the (stuffed) Guatemalan elephant. As a result of this, there were many conversations with Friends about FWCC and the diversity of Friends.

### **New York Yearly Meeting (Visitor, Ray Treadway)**

Silver Bay Conference Center, Silver Bay NY, Seventh Month 22-25, 2007

The theme of the yearly meeting sessions dealt with issues of stewardship in its many aspects. Stewardship of the earth was the focus of the presentation from Quaker Earthcare Witness. The meeting considered how John Woolman would challenge Friends today, in view of continuing revelation, about our living in harmony with nature and all God's creatures. The state of society reports indicated spiritual well-being in many monthly meetings, as well as active social-concerns work in prison ministry, opposition to war taxes, and the outreach of Powell House. Sylvia Graves, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting, spoke of efforts to extend Jesus' ministry through publications and global outreach in Africa and Ramallah.

The conduct of the business meeting was necessarily different from this visitor's much smaller meeting, while at the same time a deep sense of the spirit was maintained. It was good to see how the clerk called the deliberations back to waiting on the Lord when vocal discussion and exhortation left little time for silence. The active participation of young Friends was impressive.

In a listening session considering the "importance of staying at the table" with FUM, Friends examined the identity of the yearly meeting with regard to human sexuality and discernment using queries. Friends considered the pain of the GLBT community and respected those whose search for truth brought them to a different understanding of theology and gender. It seemed important that the session took place outside of business meeting with no attempt made to write a minute.

The FWCC representatives of New York Yearly Meeting are involved in yearly meeting activities. Persons were knowledgeable about FWCC because of the work of the representatives. During an FWCC committee meeting, this visitor was able to understand better the issues that are going on in the yearly meeting with respect to Friends World Committee. There was discussion of the budget for FWCC activities, left over funds from the Northeast Regional Gathering in 2006 and concerns about the conduct of business at the annual meeting of FWCC in March 2007.

#### **North Carolina Conservative (Visitor, Tim Lamm)**

This Yearly Meeting met in Wilmington, NC with the theme of "The Ties that Bind." There were around 90 adults with several children present. This is the first time in a while they had enough children to have a children's program.

They had little business as such, but spent quite a bit of time going over the state of the society reports from the various meeting. These reports came from Queries. This was a very worshipful time. The visitor felt this was a practice that might be useful in his own yearly meeting.

One interesting activity was a panel of three young adult women sharing around questions of: "How have your conversations with non-Quakers about spiritual things gone?" "What is it like talking with older adult Friends?" and "What memories of individuals (outside your family) in the yearly meeting were important to you?" This was a positive way of affirming the interest of the yearly meeting in this age group.

#### **North Carolina Yearly Meeting – FUM (Visitor, Tom Mullen)**

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) met at Black Mountain, NC, August 31--September 3, 2007. Having visited this yearly meeting in the past as a speaker, it was easy to have conversations with many acquaintances and friends about all sorts of topics, including the work of FWCC.

The yearly meeting provides an opportunity to speak briefly as an FWCC visitor and the display with "Finding Quakers Around the World," was very popular. Some of the conversations with attendees were stimulated while examining the document, as it helped demonstrate where Quakers are and their numerical strength in their part of the world.

Two persons who had attended FWCC Triennial from North Carolina Yearly Meeting also spoke briefly and effectively. They mentioned the theme "Finding the Prophetic Voice for Our Time" and shared their enthusiasm for the triennial experience. Because they are well known among North Carolina Friends, their witness and affirmation of the work of FWCC were clearly appreciated by those in attendance.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting continues to be theologically divided but also able to listen to voices other than ones with which they already agreed. The reconciling and inclusive stance which FWCC consistently embraces provides both comfort and encouragement to Friends who are committed to a broader vision of who Friends are and what their (our) work should be.

#### **Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church (Visitor, Nancy McLauchlan)**

Northwest Yearly Meeting met as the annual gathering of Evangelical Friends from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. There were about 700 Friends present at various times during the week. NWYM has a very strong youth program with grade school children bused to a nearby Friends' camp and teenagers on campus most of the week.

Approximately 200 Friends met for business each morning, each session starting with worship and singing. Worship is taken seriously and could be longer than the business at some sessions.

The Meeting spent the previous year considering major structural changes. Friends approved ministry plans, 2008 budget and staff changes. Boards presented included Elders, Local Outreach, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Congregational Care, Christian Education and Discipleship, Global Outreach, and Leadership Development and Enrichment. Friends were encouraged to avoid thinking of ministry in

terms of missions and/or peacemaking, but rather to think of them as integrated in holistic ministry. The Meeting approved a minute in support of their brothers and sisters in Bangladesh, offering prayers and encouragement.

Patty Federighi reported for FWCC and spoke of the recent Regional Gathering, the Annual Meeting, and the upcoming Triennial in Dublin, Ireland.

Friends were reminded that “the most common scriptural advice is not to love others or to have faith, but to have no fear.” and were challenged “to stop relying on past Quaker history and to start making their own stories. ‘Will we be Children of Light in our day or slaves to fear?’” Jules Glanzer, of George Fox Seminary, spoke of young people’s negative views of the church and said that the church is “to bring deliverance, form community, know God, and provide a quality life”. David Niyonzima, coordinator of Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services in Burundi, Africa, told of surviving genocide in Burundi in 1993, “of the transforming grace of God that allowed him to face the man who murdered his students, and say, ‘I forgive you.’ There is a cure for the despair that hides in the darkness; a transformed self is required before we can go out and light our world. ‘The work of Light is not finished.’” Judy Maurer spoke passionately and courageously about her past--of being abused as a child. Johan and Judy Maurer were commissioned and blessed to work in Russia. Friends also welcomed a new mission, Rivers Way in Beaverton.

### **Southeastern Yearly Meeting (Visitor, Margaret Fraser)**

Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) is held around Easter each year in Leesburg, Florida. The report focuses on two aspects: the clerking workshop led by Arthur Larrabee and the yearly meeting’s “continuing discernment about whether to stay in, or leave” Friends United Meeting (FUM).

Arthur Larrabee’s excellent workshop (the report includes helpful notes on clerking from this workshop), held at the start, was “fortuitous,” considering the long and difficult discussions that would follow regarding whether or not to continue affiliation with FUM. The report gives a background of the relationship between SEYM and FUM. At last year’s yearly meeting, “[m]any members were ready to withdraw from FUM because of its personnel policy which excludes from leadership positions anyone...who is not celibate or in a heterosexual marriage. However, some older members in a number of meetings wanted to stay connected, partly because of long-term friendships with members of FUM meetings and partly out of a desire to work inside for change.” The outcome of the discussions was that “SEYM will not stay with FUM unless FUM changes. SEYM will labor with FUM over the next two years...but if FUM does not change its personnel policy, then SEYM will withdraw.”

### **WARSF (Visitor, Nancy McLauchlan)**

The Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends (WARSF) met February 23-24, 2007 at First Friends Whittier. Appointed members of the Board of Oversight of WARSF met Friday night to conduct the business of the organization. The General Membership Meeting followed the next afternoon with 25 people present.

Representatives brought reports from FUM, FWCC, AFSC and FCNL. The FWCC *Friends Around the World* Questionnaire was acknowledged. Friends expressed concern about FUM matters, including the amount of fund-raising required of FUM’s overseas staff and continuing regional and cultural differences regarding FUM’s hiring policy.

WARSF meets in conjunction with Quaker Forum at First Friends, Whittier or Quaker Heritage Day at Berkeley Friends Church. The Quaker Forum featured healing and was led by Ann Davidson, Executive Director of Powell House, a Quaker retreat center near Albany, NY. Ann described contemporary thought and practice of Healing Ministry as she led an “experiential workshop” on therapeutic techniques. WARSF’s annual meeting in 2008 would normally be in Berkeley. However, Friends approved returning to

Whittier February 22-23, 2008. Patricia Edwards-Konic, editor of *Quaker Life*, will present the 2008 Quaker Forum at First Friends.

**Western Yearly Meeting of Friends' Church (Visitor, Clémence Mershon)**

Western Yearly Meeting gathered in Plainfield, August 2-5, 2007, centering upon what it means to be "One Body in Christ".

Musical traditions, Bible study and worship along with the Business sessions with hymns and Bible passages brought Friends to that religious society which assembles all Friends.

Several Friends reflected that contact with visitors helps to open their eyes to new ways of seeing how they are asked to live out their faith. Friends asked how they could be of service in helping Ohio Valley host the FWCC SoA Annual Meeting in 2008, and some Friends had already volunteered.

Peace and Reconciliation in Rwanda: David Bucura, a Rwandan Friend, spoke about how Friends can foster communication and compassion among others throughout the world.

Rising attendance has brought new attenders who do not necessarily translate into increased understanding of Friends' beliefs, or support of Friends'; work. A Youth Minister is now coordinating youth programs within Western and Indiana Yearly Meetings at Quaker Haven. The Yearly Meeting is labouring with various voices as it seeks the path which allows acceptance of members who are following or promoting beliefs and practices which some in the YM do not profess.

## Western Field Staff Report to Annual Meeting 2008

*First Quarter* – Much of my time was spent helping to organize, attending, and doing follow-up work for the FWCC Northwest Regional Gathering. Colin Saxton, Superintendent, Northwest Yearly Meeting, spoke to the theme: Poverty, Compassion and Economic Justice. I also attended the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends) and First Friends, Whittier's Quaker Day with Ann Davidson and Ruth Kinsey of New York Yearly Meeting. I did local visitation and flew to Philadelphia, and traveled with other staff to the Section of the Americas Annual Meeting in Rhode Island.

*Second Quarter* – I visited with Friends from Pullman-Moscow and Sandpoint Meetings in Moscow, ID; flew to Philadelphia for a staff retreat where we talked about bringing FWCC into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and went to Abiquiu, NM for Intermountain Yearly Meeting. Their theme was "Deepening our Spiritual Connections" with guest speaker, Marjorie Larrabee.

*Third Quarter* – I attended North Pacific Yearly Meeting, Portland, OR, whose theme was "Leading and Being Led." We were aptly led by Arthur Larrabee. I then attended Northwest Yearly Meeting. Colin Saxton, Jules Glazer, and David Niyonzima spoke on the theme, "Go Light Your World." I flew to Philadelphia to spend several days in the Section Office; then flew to Dublin, Ireland to attend the FWCC Triennial with 300 other Friends from all over the world. I returned to Philadelphia for FWCC's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration at Swarthmore and Haverford.

*Fourth Quarter* – I helped organize Willamette Quarterly Meeting whose theme was "Finding the Prophetic Voice for Our Time;" the program included a dialogue with NWYM & NPYM Friends. I drove to Seattle for the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee Meeting. I went on a week-long campaign trip to Northern California with Janet Leslie.

### Conference Calls

I am involved in many conference calls, usually several per month. There are regular calls with all staff and Field Staff. I've participated in all Campaign Steering Committee calls. I also sit in on calls of the Visitation Committee and Development Committee. Often I take the calls while traveling. "Have cell phone, will travel!"

### Financial Campaign

As Western staff I am on the Campaign Steering Committee, providing an additional Western perspective for the Campaign. I've enjoyed the campaign visits; they're great opportunities to visit with Friends. And Friends have been generous in their responses to our visits.

### Office/Staff

My office is in my apartment in Portland, Oregon. It is often a Quaker center of communication as western Friends seek information about each other. Even though I live thousands of miles from the Section office, I was able to get together with other staff at Annual Meeting and at a June staff retreat in Philadelphia. We often talk in conference calls, individual conversations, and e-mail. I truly feel part of staff.

I receive Newsletters from Meetings and Churches throughout the west. Monthly or every other month, I compile a summary of events from those Newsletters and distribute these summaries to my western (US) distribution list. Let me know if you'd like me to add you to the list.

### Personal

I celebrated my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday at a Forest Service Cabin on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. I moved twice: once in May and once in November. I now live in Portland, Oregon, near my girls. I went to Scotland after the Triennial, seeking family roots.

## Wider Quaker Fellowship Report to FWCC Annual Meeting 2008

During the past year the Wider Quaker Fellowship committee has started the process of visioning the future of Wider Quaker fellowship in order to create a mission statement for the program. This was done with help from Margaret Fraser who emailed the committee members several sets of questions during the early part of the summer. At a conference call in September the committee members looked at the answers each of them had written and made some progress towards its goal of clarifying the mission of WQF. A particular busy year for staff and committee members, with a Triennial, an Anniversary Celebration as well as the major campaign responsibilities for the staff, prevented us from finishing the process during the 2007 calendar year.

The English language mailing that went out in early summer consisted of two pamphlets with articles by Lloyd Lee Wilson, a member of North Carolina Conservative Meeting and the late Richard Walker, an astronomer and unprogrammed Friend from Arizona. A much appreciated, small collection of poetry by two Quaker poets, Nancy Thomas and Joyce Adams was also included in this mailing. The new lay-out design for this mailing, done by Amy Grove Bigham, resulted in three beautiful booklets. About 300 Fellows receive the mailing on-line, but do receive the motto-calendar in the mail by year's end.

There has been no Spanish language mailing during 2007, but one will go out in early 2008.

The late-fall mailing had to be postponed until after Christmas. It included articles by Kat Griffith and Greg Koskela, reprinted from *Friends Journal* and Barclay Press.com respectively, and a talk by Deborah Saunders from the World Gathering of Young Friends, as well as the Motto Calendar.

Several of the committee members were at the Triennial in Dublin in August, which allowed us to have two face-to-face committee meetings this year, one at the annual meeting in Providence and one in Dublin. The clerk is particularly grateful for committee members who have provided thoughtful feedback to the materials sent to them for consideration, and for those who have sent in materials themselves. We live at great distances from each other with few opportunities to talk face to face, a much preferred mode of interaction for the clerk. Communication therefore is less lively than the clerk would like. Nevertheless, with help from the trusted and capable program secretary, Vicki Hain Poorman, the work of connecting Friends and friends of Friends from around the world has been accomplished this year.

Tina Coffin, clerk

**Youth Committee**  
Report to Annual Meeting 2008

This year the youth committee has tried to tackle what our mission is. What do we mean by youth? Do we mean high schoolers or young adults or both? Over the last several years, this committee has had no mission statement, so this question is hard to tackle, but we are making progress. The committee is encouraged by the news of the creation of a Young Adult Friends Committee at the FWCC World Level during the recent triennial in Ireland. At this time our conversation is still continuing.

Another issue we discussed in the committee is what to offer at the annual meeting about youth and for youth. Since this goes hand in hand with the discussion about our mission statement, we are still figuring who this would be directed to, but we have had many ideas, including an out trip for Young Friends (like one we took in Chiquimula) and facilitating an interest group about youth programs in the section. Again this discussion is still continuing. We do hope to encourage more youth to come to this annual meeting.

We look forward to giving an update about both of these topics at the annual meeting!

See you in April,  
Greg Woods, clerk