

[Draft]

# FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

## Section of the Americas

### MINUTES

2009 Annual Meeting

Canby Grove Camp and Conference Center, Canby, Oregon

March 19-22, 2009

#### **Yearly Meeting**

Alaska Friends Conference

Baltimore YM

Canadian YM

Cuba YM

Illinois YM

Indiana

Intermountain

Iowa (C)

Iowa (FUM)

Lake Erie

New England

New York

North Carolina (C)

North Carolina (FUM)

North Pacific

Northern

Northwest

Ohio

Ohio Valley

Ohio Valley & Indiana

Ohio Valley & Wilmington

Pacific

Philadelphia

Southern Appalachian YM & Assn

#### **Representatives Present**

Anne Nixon

Sheila Bach, Jason Eaby, Robert Fetter,

Laura Nell Obaugh

Virginia Dawson, Lesley Robertson

Kenya Casanova Sales, Jorge Luis Peña Reyes

Dawn Amos, Mark Amos, Elizabeth Mertic,

David Shiner, Nancy Wallace

Jay Marshall, John Norris

Jerel Peterson, Cheryl Speir-Phillips,

William Schoder-Ehri, Chris Viavant

Virginia Kenny, Stanley Sanders

Margaret Stoltzfus

Rosemary Coffey, Michael Hinshaw, Raelyn Joyce,

Clémence Mershon, Jana Norlin

Jeffrey Hipp, Leslie Manning,

Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, Laurel Swan

Judith Inskeep, Daphne Mason

Nancy Craft, Barbara Gosney, Ray Treadway

Peggie Baxter, Mary Butt, David Hobson,

Paul Mitchell

Eddie Marie Crouch, Owen Javins, Lucy Fullerton,

Gayle Matson, Jane Snyder, Ann Stever,

Elizabeth Willey

David Chakoian, Kathy White

Anna Baker, Elenita Bales, Kenneth Comfort,

Sharon Jones Hayden, Julie Peyton, Orville Winters

Faye Chapman, Martha Giffen, Marie Kirk Hawkins

Rachel Dean, Cathy Habschmidt, JP Lund

Vaughn Peebles

Thomas Hill

James Anderson, Ann Boone, Janet Leslie,

Robin Mohr, Alyssa Nelson

Elizabeth Gates, Jeff Keith, Sara Palmer

Thomas Lamm, Sallie Prugh

South Central	Tina Coffin, Mary Hampton, David Hernandez, Betty Richardson, J Mitchell Richardson, Kalilia Tiffany
Southeastern	Sybil Ann Brennan
Western Association	William Wright
Western	David Hadley, Ruth Hadley
Wilmington	M. Foote Lund

**Staff:** Sharon Frame, Margaret Fraser, Nancy Irving (World Office), Nancy McLauchlan, Louise Salinas

**Others in attendance:** Harry Albright (Britain), Ralph Beebe (NW), Asia Bennett (NP), Beth Blattenberger (NP), Annis Bleeke (NP), David Bucura (Rwanda), Jeanne Burckhardt (CA), Kathleen Burckhardt (CA), Jeanette Burkett (NP), Jocelyn Burnell (Britain), Dilawar Chetsingh (Gen Conf. of Friends in India), Dorene Cornwell (NP), Marty Crouch (NP), Geoff Dawson (CA), Angel Díaz (NW), Hernan Díaz (NW), Sakre Edson (NP), JJ Engelfried (NW), Patricia Federighi (NW), Lon Fendall (NW), John Fitzgerald (Ireland), Florence Fullerton (BA), Luis Gavin (NW), Robert Gosney (NC), Iris Graville (NP), Jerry Graville (NP), Dorsey Green (NP), Linley Gregory (Aotearoa/NZ), Claire Gregory (Aotearoa/NZ), Cilde Grover (NW), Vicki Hain Poorman (PH), Rachel Hampton (NW), Joseph Haughton (Ireland), Emily Higgs (QUNO), Vernon Hinshaw, Kathy Hyzy (NP), Katherine Jaramillo (NP), Marisa Johnson (Britain), Portia Jones (NW), Valerie Joy (Australia), Gladys Kang'ahi (East Africa), Betsy Kenworthy (NP), Roland Kreager (OV), Marit Kromberg (Norway), Susanne Kromberg (NP), Carol Lamm (SA), Rae Lawrence (NP), Suzanne Livingston (NW), Samuel Mahaffy (NW), Judy Marshall, Johan Maurer (NW), Judy Maurer (NW), Aimee McAdams (NW/NO), Pam Melick (NP), James Morgan (NY), Barbara Moulton (PA), Rosalie Movius (NW), Duduzile Mtshazo (Central & Southern Africa), Moses Musonga (East Africa), Kara Newell (NW), Carolyn Norris (IN), James Oberholtzer (IL), Norman Pasche (NP/NW), MariRuth Petzing (NP), Carole Puri (NW), Tom Rawson (NP), Kristen Richardson (NY), Donna Smith (PA), D. Pablo Stanfield (NP), Roger Sturge (Britain), Rebecca Teeters (NW), Elizabeth Todd (NW), Lorraine Watson (NW), Evan Welkin (NP), Joyce White (NW), Marilyn Winters (NW), Thomas Whittick (NP), Jan Wood (NW and keynote speaker), Marygene Wright (WA), Kirk Wright (WA)

*Thursday, March 19, 2009 – First Business Session*

#### **FWA09-01 Worship and Opening Prayer**

This morning's unprogrammed worship was organized by Friends from Conservative Yearly Meetings and was introduced by a few explanatory words from Robert Gosney. Kenneth Comfort, Pastor of Reedwood Friends Church, Northwest Yearly Meeting, opened the formal business session with prayer.

#### **FWA09-02 Opening Minute**

We come together for four days of spiritual enrichment to undertake the business of our Section of Friends World Committee and to find with others from our Section and from around the world the enlightenment of the divine presence of the inward Christ. We pause,

praying to God, that the living waters of the divine spirit will flow among us. We remember the words of George Fox: *Friends keep your meetings in the power of God and in his wisdom ... and in the love of God that ... ye may order all to God's glory.* We pray, O God, for clearness and clarity as we seek thy divine will together.

#### **FWA09-03 Introductions**

Clerk Ray Treadway introduced those with him at the Clerk's table, as follows: Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary; Bill Schoder-Ehri, Interim Assistant Clerk; Paul Mitchell, Recording Clerk; and Jeff Keith, Assistant Recording Clerk.

#### **FWA09-04 Appointment of Interim Assistant Clerk**

During the past year, Martha Davis resigned as Assistant Clerk. The Executive Committee appointed Bill Schoder-Ehri to serve these sessions as Interim Assistant Clerk. Friends **approved** this appointment.

#### **FWA09-05 Welcome from Canby Grove**

Matt Dotta welcomed the Annual Meeting attendees on behalf of Canby Grove Christian Camp and Conference Center. The clerk expressed our appreciation for the beautiful site for our meetings.

#### **FWA09-06 Approval of 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of Annual Meeting 2008 were approved with minor changes.

#### **FWA09-07 Report on the State of the Section**

Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary, reported on the state of the Section. She framed some of the decisions we have been making within a broader context. She stated that we will be making some very important decisions that will strengthen our ability to support our Section, noting the difficult financial situation facing the world today. The financial meltdown has resulted in some Friends who have supported us seeing nothing but financial losses. Some of our larger donors have not been able to support us to the level we were expecting and that we have budgeted for. Also, we will have lower investment income for several years. We had already cut costs and staff last year; however, circumstances beyond our control have necessitated that we take immediate action to cut more. Once again we have had to cut staff, which is difficult for them and for us.

The silver lining is that, over the past year we had gotten much clearer about our core work, which we examined this morning in the threshing sessions. We have realized that our structure and governance have become rather large and complicated. Too much time of staff and volunteers has been spent serving the structures, rather than looking outward. We want to put more of our energy into creating new ways for more Friends to connect across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Starting in May we will have a new chart of accounts, listing all of our program activities, so we can allocate costs with more clarity. We are rethinking ways in which people find information and communicate with each other. The Campaign grew our support and made us more visible, and new supporters are replacing those who have left us. Many people are

increasing the amount that they give to FWCC.

We are not “of this world.” Our trust is not in this world and in mortgage bankers. Our trust is in God, and we have a unique work to carry out. In the future we need to think about: How do we live sustainably and provide good service to Friends? How do we transform the way we work, with fewer staff, and continue to provide good service? How do we learn to say “No” to worthwhile requests that do not fit our core mission? The Executive Secretary’s Report was **received** with appreciation.

#### **FWA09-08 Recognition of guests**

The clerk introduced the members of the Central Executive Committee, as follows: Duduzile Mtshazo, Elizabeth Gates, Roger Sturge, Nancy Irving, Jocelyn Burnell (Clerk), Gladys Kang’ahi, Moses Musonga, Ray Treadway, Margaret Fraser, Dilawar Chetsingh, Valerie Joy, Marit Kromberg, David Bucura, Kenya Casanova Sales, John Fitzgerald and Maria Johnson. The clerk also asked other visitors to make themselves known so that they can be introduced.

#### **FWA09-09 Report of Naming Committee**

David Hobson presented the Naming Committee’s recommendation for new members of the Nominating Committee, as follows: For Clerk – Barbara Aikman; for a 2 year term (through Annual Meeting 2011) – Raelyn Joyce; for 3 year terms (through Annual Meeting 2012) – Ann Boone, Elizabeth Mertic and Mitch Richardson. These recommendations were **approved**.

#### **FWA09-10 Naming Committee for 2010**

The clerk read the names of the persons recommended by the Executive Committee to the Naming Committee for 2010, as follows: For Clerk – Jeanette Norton; for members – Peggie Baxter, David Hadley, Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, and Jane Snyder. These recommendations were **approved**.

#### **FWA09-11 Treasurer’s Report**

Cathy Habschmidt presented the Treasurer’s Report, including the narrative, the budget line entries, statements of financial position and pie chart. These are all available as a handout. She stated that it is clear that we need to reduce our expenses further so that we can live within our means. She described important work that has been done, is underway, and still needs to be done to eliminate our annual operating deficits. The challenge will be to identify those cuts that can be made without impacting our essential mission activities.

Cathy noted that, because of the abnormal market situation over the past 10 months, the market value of investments will be considerably less than the \$782,319 shown as of February 28, 2009. Our stated total assets of \$1.6 million will probably be about \$1 million after losses are reported. We are fortunate to have reserves, but cannot afford to waste them on deficits.

### **FWA09-12 Budget report**

Mary (Foote) Lund discussed the proposed budget for next year, fiscal year 2010. We plan for the Annual Meeting next year not to cost the Section any out of pocket expenses, by setting fees at a level that makes it self-supporting. The areas of the budget with the most uncertainty are our revenue lines, because of the uncertain financial conditions that we face and their impact on contributions, grants and investment income. For expenditures, the salaries and benefits line reflects further staff reductions, including a six-month severance package. The major benefit will show up in the following year's figures. The audit line is much lower because we are not budgeting for an audit in 2010. The Bilingual Communications line reflects a workshop planned for next year; the amount budgeted (\$8,000) will be offset by fees to be charged. Overall, the proposed budget for 2010 will show a deficit of approximately \$53,000, which is less than this year's expected budget deficit.

Foote recognized the other members of the Finance Committee and asked representatives to speak with them as desired, concerning questions that they have.

### **FWA09-13 World Office report**

Nancy Irving, the General Secretary of the FWCC World Office, gave her report. She introduced Harry Albright, new Communications Director and International Membership Secretary. She described how the World Office responded to an acute financial crisis identified in 2004. It reduced staff and other expenses, and now has about six months' reserves. The World Office needs and depends upon the contribution from our Section.

Nancy explained what the World Office does that a Section does not. First, all of the Quaker work in the UN is done in the name of FWCC. The World Office also puts together delegations to big UN conferences. We also supplement what some of the sections do in working ecumenically in the Christian World, for example the Global Christian Forum in 2007 in Kenya. The World Office also provides significant financial support for the Africa Section.

Nancy invited all of us to attend one or both of the opportunities to meet with members of the Central Executive Committee during our meetings.

Minute of Record - Welcome (7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.)

Annis Bleeke of North Pacific Yearly Meeting and Colin Saxton of Northwest Yearly Meeting brought words of welcome from the two yearly meetings that jointly hosted this Annual Meeting. Julie Peyton welcomed the attendees on behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee and Matt Dotta conveyed greetings from the Canby Grove Christian Camp and Conference Center.

(from Clémence Mershon)

*Friday, March 20, 2009 – Second Business Session*

**FWA09-14 Worship**

This morning's worship service was organized by The Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) and led by Cuban Friends Jorge Luis Peña Reyes and Kenya Casanova Sales. Kenya led us in prayer and song, and Jorge's message inspired us to continue to be that minority that carries forth God's vision in the world.

**FWA09-15 Governance and structure recommendations**

Clerk Ray Treadway asked Cathy Habschmidt, Ann Stever and Virginia Dawson to present the recommendations for changes in our governance and structure. Ann stated that yesterday's threshing sessions were helpful in many respects, including helping us build our community. Ann reviewed the recommendations from the threshing sessions, noting those aspects that members liked and those that engendered questions and concerns. Cathy Habschmidt then summarized the changes described in the recommendations. She described the nature, purpose and rules governing program groups, resource groups and working groups, their interrelationship, and the reasons why certain of our current committees would be re-designated. Virginia Dawson then spoke about the Youth Committee and the Visitation Committee, both of which would be re-designated as envisioning working groups. She invited all interested persons to participate in discussions this afternoon about these two working groups, and expressed the hope that their re-designation would help invest these two entities with new enthusiasm. Ann Stever then spoke about people's concerns that these changes will not immediately reduce our budget deficit. She acknowledged that the full impact of the changes remains unknown, and noted that they are but one part of a larger, ongoing process. The clerk stated that we need to try out the new structure and come back next year with a report on the progress that has been made. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the work done by the Fiscally Responsible Program Implementation Committee. The recommendations regarding governance and structure were **approved**.

**FWA09-16 Concern about technical aspects of financial reports**

Cathy Habschmidt reported on a conversation that she had with a Friend who described her concerns about technical aspects of the financial report and the draft audit report. This Friend will write out her concerns and send them to the clerk. The Executive Committee will follow up and respond.

**FWA09-17 Proposed Budget, second presentation**

Foote Lund expressed appreciation to the representatives who had engaged her and other Finance Committee members in discussions on the budget. She also corrected the World Office payment amount found in the proposed budget, increasing that figure from \$96,138 to \$100,866, and also noted the consequent increases in the total expenditures and general fund deficit. She reminded Friends that the amount in the Budget for the World Office payment is only an estimate based on projected income for this year. The actual payment next year to the World Office will be calculated based on final income for the year ending April 30, 2009. The proposed Budget was **approved**.

### **FWA09-18 Letter of introduction**

The clerk read a letter of introduction of Aimee McAdams from Richard O. Fuller, Clerk of Twin Cities Friends Meeting, Saint Paul, Minnesota. His letter expressed delight with Aimee's work as a clerk of the World FWCC Young Adult Friends Committee, and sent warm wishes to all attending our Annual Meeting.

### **FWA09-19 Status of affiliated organizations**

The clerk presented the recommendation of the Executive Committee that FWCC SoA adopt a policy that we not have any affiliated organizations, and noted that this policy includes undoing the affiliation of Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) and Friends Peace Teams (FPT). Ray stated that the clearest policy would be to have no affiliated organizations. We were reminded that RSWR, FPT and other worthwhile organizations remain welcome to participate actively in FWCC meetings and other activities, and we were encouraged to proceed with joy that we have made this difficult, but appropriate decision. Finally, we note that several Friends spoke of their sadness at losing our affiliation with RSWR and FPT. The recommendation was **approved**.

### **FWA09-20 COAL Report**

Jorge Luis Peña Reyes of Cuba Yearly Meeting gave the report for the Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL). He expressed sadness at the recent illness of COAL Executive Secretary Loida Fernández, who was unable to be with us at this Annual Meeting. Also, several other Latin American Friends who wanted to be with us were unable to come due to visa problems and accidents. On the other hand, we are blessed this year with the presence of some Hispanic Friends from churches in the United States. Jorge asked us to pray for Loida, and for Silvia Cabrera of Bogotá Monthly Meeting, Colombia. Jorge expressed hope that more Latin American Friends can attend the Annual meeting in 2010.

A major activity of COAL in recent years has been the organizing of workshops around the Section. A workshop for writers was held in Costa Rica in January 2008, and follow-up workshops were held in Guatemala in June 2008 and Nicaragua in January 2009. These are aimed at encouraging Friends to write and publish literature that supports the ministries of the Spanish-speaking yearly meetings.

In October 2008, FWCC had the opportunity to support the women of Honduras Yearly Meeting in their Annual Assembly by sponsoring the participation of Mary Lord of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting as the speaker on the topic of the Biblical-historical perspectives of Friends regarding violence. Over 150 Central American Friends participated. A workshop sponsored by the Alternatives for Violence Project is planned to take place in July 2009, in Central America.

An editorial committee was formed in COAL to support the Wider Quaker Fellowship in selecting Spanish-language writings for publication. COAL is also seeking other ways to help Latin American Friends prepare publishable writings. Two issues of the COAL newsletter came out this year. Also, Kenya Casanova of Cuba Yearly Meeting is now on the FWCC Central Executive Committee, and attended its meetings in India and Oregon.

**FWA09-21 Minute for Loida Fernández**

Those present requested and **approved** a minute for Loida Fernández, Executive Secretary of COAL, stating: “We miss your presence here. We hope your health continues to improve. We send our love and look forward eagerly to seeing you next year.”

**FWA09-22 Minute for Silvia Cabrera**

Those present requested and **approved** a minute for Silvia Cabrera, former coordinator of COAL’s Southern Sub-Region, expressing our love and very best wishes for her full recovery.

**FWA09-23 Letter from Heather Moir**

Margaret Fraser read a letter from Heather Moir that expressed Heather’s disappointment at missing our Annual Meeting this year, after 29 years of attending annual meetings. Heather assured us that she is with us in spirit, and wrote a poem dedicated to our Section, which Margaret read to the delight of all present.

**FWA09-24 Greeting from Hong Kong Monthly Meeting**

The clerk read a letter of greeting from Julian Stargardt, Clerk of Hong Kong Monthly Meeting, which sends love, prayers and thoughts to us on the occasion of our Annual Meeting. The letter noted many important activities that have grown out of the connections between Friends in the Americas, China and Hong Kong. It stressed the particular concern of Hong Kong Monthly Meeting about what it calls Global Change. In this regard, the letter states: “If we are to be true to God’s Covenant, save life on earth, promote peace, justice, equality, harmony and the integrity of Creation, we believe Friends must bear witness to our testimonies and speak out authoritatively as a Church with a united voice discerned through our worshipful processes of finding unity.”

Minute of Record – Keynote Address by Jan Wood

Jan Wood addressed an auditorium full of Representatives, area Friends and others attending the meeting. She spoke to the theme of our 2009 gathering, that there is a “vision for the appointed time.” We were reminded of the difference between our work in the world as Friends and the potential that we have within our grasp. Can we love one another as Jesus loves each of us, and forgive as quickly and thoroughly as God continues to forgive us? We are so willing to show our Love to “the big world”, while having so many reasons to shield ourselves from showing and living our love for each other as Friends. There are simple words and easy compassionate expressions that can themselves make new space for our love to flow through our daily lives.

FWCC can be that group of people, of Friends, that can “hold the space of healing.” Our ability to heal our own pain and division will lead us to be called to take on reconciliation projects in so many needy places, based on our own healing and the restoration of loving relations among Friends. This will take us “being a miracle together.” If we can heal our old pain and the violations from our past to clean the toxicity of our spirit, what remains of our

Spirit is reconciliation and restoration.

Jan's powerful words left a room in contemplative silence, a worship that came out of and through the group, which received this challenging message with joy and renewal.

(Prepared by Chris Viavant)

*Saturday, March 21, 2009 – Third Business Session*

#### **FWA09-25 Worship**

This morning's worship service of prayer, song and word was conducted by Moses Musonga and Gladys Kang'ahi of Kenya, and David Bucura of Rwanda. David's inspiring message, entitled "Where Is Your Hope Today," reminded us that now, more than ever, is the time to place our hope in God.

#### **FWA09-26 Recommended changes to By-Laws**

Clerk Ray Treadway reported on the proposal from the Executive Committee for four changes to the By-Laws that was provided in the documents in advance. The first recommended change was to delete the phrase "or to approve or end affiliations with other organizations" from Article IV Section 1. This was **approved**. The second change recommended replacing the wording of Article IV, Section 2 with "The membership of the EC shall be drawn from the Representatives and shall consist of 10 to 14 members, including the Clerk. In addition, the Treasurer shall serve on the EC ex officio." This was also **approved**.

The last sentence of the proposed wording of the third change, that of Article IV, Section 3. Selection, was modified to read: "Members shall be eligible for reselection for terms not to exceed a total of six consecutive years, except for the Clerk (See Article V, Section 7. Term)." The last sentence of the proposed wording of the fourth change, that of Article V, Section 7, was modified to read: "The Clerk may serve one-year terms, not to exceed six years consecutively." These recommended changes were **approved** as modified.

#### **FWA09-27 Nominating Committee Report**

Peggie Baxter presented the Nominating Committee Report in place of Ron Mattson, clerk of the Nominating Committee, who was not able to attend this Annual Meeting. Concern was raised about the absence of an entry for the Youth Committee. We are looking forward to receiving the names of those persons who are interested in working with the proposed Young Adult Working Group. Friends **approved** the report.

#### **FWA09-28 Report on Youth Pilgrimage**

J. J. Englefried read the official Epistle from the 2008 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage and recounted his own personal experiences and spiritual growth.

#### **FWA09-29 Report on Historic Peace Church Conference**

Paul Mitchell reported on preparations underway for a conference of the Historic Peace Churches in Latin America that is planned for Fall 2010. FWCC will represent Friends in

joining the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonites to hold this conference as part of the Decade to Overcome Violence. At its October 2008 meeting the Executive Committee approved a contribution of \$10,000 from restricted peace-related funds to support the conference. Our Section's representatives on the Steering Committee are: Loida Fernández, Executive Secretary of COAL; Bernabé Yujra, National Evangelical Friends Church, Bolivia, Bolivian coordinator of Bolivian Quaker Education Fund; Aminda Posada de Arévalo, Clerk, El Salvador Evangelical Friends Church; and Paul Mitchell, member of the Executive Committee of FWCC-SoA. Participation in this conference is seen as an example of our Section upholding our Quaker peace testimony within the context of our primary mission.

**FWA09-30 Letter from Walter E. Tamayo**

Walter E. Tamayo, Miami Friends Church, wrote a letter addressed to Margaret Fraser, which sends greetings and offers prayers for God's guidance to all those attending this Annual Meeting.

**FWA09-31 Site Selection Report and Invitation to Annual Meeting 2010**

Clemence Mershon reported for the Site Selection Committee. She expressed deep regret that we cannot meet as planned in Honduras in 2010, because we have not yet identified a site that meets our needs and our budget. We intend to honor the invitation of Honduras Yearly Meeting to host an annual meeting in the future. Sheila Bach extended an invitation to us on behalf of Baltimore Yearly Meeting to hold our 2010 Annual Meeting within the Baltimore Yearly Meeting area, which includes the District of Columbia and parts of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. The invitation was **accepted** with gratitude.

**FWA09-32 Expression of thanks to members of Site Selection Committee**

We expressed thanks to members of the Site Selection Committee, past and present, for their diligent efforts on our behalf over the years.

**FWA09-33 Letter from Bristol Area Quaker Meeting**

A letter from Robert Arnold, Clerk of Bristol Area Quaker Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting, brings loving greetings to Friends in America and introduces us to Roger Sturge, a much respected, loved and experienced Friend, who is traveling for FWCC as a member of its Central Executive Committee.

**FWA09-34 Letter from Johannesburg Monthly Meeting**

A letter from Tebogo Moteane and Jennifer Kinghorn, Co-Clerks, Johannesburg Monthly Meeting, asks Dudu Mtshazo to bring to us their loving greetings, and the blessing of her spirit, her experience and her service. They place her in our care.

**FWA09-35 Recognition of visitors**

We recognized Asia Bennett and Cilde Grover, both former executive secretaries of our Section, and Annis Blecke former FWCC Associate Secretary based in London, all of whom are in attendance.

## Minute of Record – Local Friends Program

### **Getting to Know Northwest Friends**

We were very warmly welcomed to the great Northwest by Hernan Díaz, head of Hispanic ministries for Northwest Yearly Meeting, and Ken Comfort, pastor of Reedwood Friends Church in Portland, the land of a day of sunshine (Monday) following two days of rain. Derrick Larson, a member of West Hills Friends in SW Portland, led us in singing several “ancient” Quaker folk songs, which he had written last week. Derrick challenged us to match the powerful spirit of an 800 voice Bantu chorus he had experienced during his recent visit to Africa.

Loraine Watson, pastor of North Seattle Friends Church, Sharon Jones Hayden, also of N. Seattle, and Dorsey Green, of University Meeting in Seattle, gave us an overview of the rich history of Friends migrations to the Northwest and of the growth taking place in nearly all sectors. In addition to the host yearly meetings (Northwest and North Pacific) they drew us in to the life of Alaska Friends Conference; Canadian Western Half YM; the independent Freedom Friends Church in Salem, Oregon; and the Western Women’s Theological Conference.

Anne Stever and Colin Saxton then gave us overviews of the spiritual life and public outreach activities of their respective yearly meetings in a “Meet the Press” format. They revealed more commonality of purpose than many might have expected. Both are involved in projects to feed and shelter the homeless, to reach out to the disadvantaged, to provide support and shelter for released prisoners, and to connect with local Latino communities. They challenged us to avoid the question: “What do you believe?” Instead, we should ask ourselves: “What does your faith lead you to do?”

As part of the discussion from the floor, Peggy Senger Parsons of Freedom Friends Church in Salem traced the trajectory of this “Passionately Christ-centered, passionately Quaker, and passionately inclusive congregation.” She noted that Freedom Church has produced the first new Faith and Practice of the 21st century and after the evening’s session was over, Peggy sold them to us from the trunk of her car.

(Prepared by Mike Hinshaw)

*Sunday, March 22, 2009 – Additional business, closing minute and reflections*

#### **FWA09-36 Worship and Memorial Service**

This morning's unprogrammed worship was organized by Friends from yearly meetings from Friends General Conference and began with introductory words from Robin Mohr. This was followed without break by our memorial service. Executive Committee members Tom Hill and Bill Schoder-Ehri read the names of Friends involved in the work and ministry of FWCC who have died in the past year. Memories of these Friends were shared from the silence.

Oralia Balboa de Gonzales	RGM
Ercil Beane	Iowa YM (FUM)
Maxine Beane	Iowa YM (FUM)
Alice Brown	Iowa C
Elmer Howard Brown	North Carolina FUM YM
Wilmer Cooper	Indiana YM
Dean Freiday	New York YM
Sylvia T. Lotspeich	Philadelphia YM
Frances McAllister	Intermountain YM
Flora McKinney	Philadelphia YM
Tom Moore	Philadelphia YM
Alfred Morse	Philadelphia YM
Virginia Towle	New England YM
Norval Tucker	Iowa YM Conservative
June Webb	Great Plains YM
Wendell Williams	Baltimore YM
Lillian Willoughby	Philadelphia YM

**FWA09-37 Greetings from Loida Fernández**

Margaret Fraser read a letter of greetings from Loida Fernández, COAL Executive Secretary. Loida thanked us for our support after her recent diagnosis of breast cancer, and for sending her our love, prayers and cards. Loida encouraged us all, in these difficult times, to renew our hope and faith for a better world, with God’s love and guidance.

**FWA09-38 Amended Nominating Committee Report**

Peggie Baxter gave a brief amended report of the Nominating Committee. The name of Jason Eaby, Baltimore YM, had been omitted from the list for the Wider Quaker Fellowship Program Group, 2012.

The following persons have joined the new Young Adult Friends Working Group: Rachel Dean, Jeffrey Hipp, Jeff Keith, Cristela Martinez and Sallie Prugh.

**FWA09-39 Traveling letters**

The clerk acknowledged traveling letters received from Olympia Friends Meeting for Evan Welkin and from Multnomah Friends Meeting for Bonnie Tinker.

**FWA09-40 Minutes of Appreciation for Dorothy Day and Nancy McLauchlan**

Clemence Mershon read the following Minutes of Appreciation:

We are saying “thank you” to two Friends and Staff members whose long-term dedication to building ecumenical bridges among Friends includes service to the Section of the Americas.

**Minute of Appreciation for Dorothy Day**

As office manager, Dorothy Day has been the friendly voice we usually heard at the other end of a call to the Section of the Americas, or the person who greeted you as you came into the office. Dorothy has also kept track of hundreds of items and tasks, small and large.

Furthermore, she has been of incomparable help whenever we needed to use the office.

Dorothy has represented FWCC well whether as a friendly presence at annual meetings or as a welcomed visitor at yearly meetings. Dorothy's comfort while among various Friends' communities has been one of her gifts to FWCC.

We thank Dorothy for all of her work on behalf of the Section of the Americas. We expect to meet her again at other Quaker gatherings.

### **Minute of Appreciation for Nancy McLauchlan**

For nearly three decades, Nancy has traveled among and communicated with Friends in the West, first as Friends' Bulletin editor and then later as FWCC Western Field Staff.

Nancy has worked tirelessly throughout the West to acquaint Friends with the Section's mission, and to encourage joint projects, which brought Friends face to face. Most recently she has been laying the groundwork for the 2010 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in the Northwest. At recent annual meetings we have been treated to Nancy's humorous fund-raising spirit.

We are exceedingly grateful to Nancy for her part in locating this year's annual meeting venue, and for her assistance with the program.

Thank you, Nancy, for your long dedication to FWCC. We look forward to seeing you in the years to come.

#### **FWA09-41 Contributions from Friends in attendance**

Bill Schoder-Ehri reported that Friends attending our Annual Meeting have contributed \$2,745 to our General Fund. In addition, several Friends added amounts to their registration fee. We are most grateful for these generous contributions.

#### **FWA09-42 Closing Minute**

We thank the members of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee and the Local Arrangements Committee for all the good work they have done to plan and carry out our worship, evening programs, worship-sharing, and exploration of our vision worldwide with our visitors from the Central Executive Committee. We thank the staff of the Canby Grove Conference Center for the good care and hospitality that we have received. We thank our interpreters for their faithful service to make sure that our gathering has been truly bi-lingual. We are grateful for the sense that we have felt of God's presence and guidance at these sessions.

We close this annual meeting, proposing to meet in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States, as way opens, March 18-21, 2010.

Respectively submitted,

Ray Treadway, Clerk of the Section  
Bill Schoder-Ehri, Interim Assistant Clerk  
Paul Mitchell, Recording Clerk  
Jeff Keith, Assistant Recording Clerk  
Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary  
Louise Salinas, Associate Secretary