



¡Come and See! Annual Report May 2018-April 2019



“How good it is to be with Friends from outside our smaller circles and, when we are together, how the Spirit of God breaks through our human narrowness of vision again and again. ...

THANK YOU ALL WHO GAVE SO MUCH LOVE AND WORK!” – *a Friend after the 2019 Section Meeting*

The 2019 Section Meeting of the FWCC Section of the Americas was held March 21-24, 2019 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, just outside Kansas City. The theme was ¡Come and See! (John 1:46) with explorations of “Who is my neighbor?” and “How can we all be Friends?” The 160 participants hailed from nine countries. We welcomed the North Carolina Fellowship of Friends into affiliation. We recognized the many contributions of the interpreters’ team to the life of the Section. Their dedication to full inclusion of all Friends in the deliberations of the Section and the planning of our work has changed everything we do: how and where we plan events, how we make decisions, call Friends to service, write our documents and develop our vision for the future. We thank God for these brothers and sisters, their many hours of volunteer work, their enthusiasm and eldering, and for the high quality of the translation and interpretation services over more than 30 years. The 15 evening interest groups spanned both a discussion of racism and colonialism led by a young adult Friend from Bolivia to a discussion of Christology co-led by Friends from Iowa YM (FUM) and Ohio (Conservative). www.fwccamericas.org/events

Traveling Ministry Corps

The FWCC Traveling Ministry Corps completed its second full year and trained the third cohort. The 10 Spanish-speaking ministers and 8 English-speaking ministers visited over 30 meetings in six countries in the Americas.

Bill and Marty Smith, Philadelphia YM, led a series of workshops and conversations at three monthly meetings and Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting on Building and Sustaining Community, including issues of membership, committee structure, and welcoming young people. Clearwater Friends in Florida wrote, "We were so blessed to have Geeta McGahey (SAYMA) with us for our annual retreat. Her gifts of ministry are so evident and we thank you for sharing and supporting her in her ministry. Her presentation was thoughtfully organized, engaging and open to and adapted to Spirit moving among us. She offered Friends important considerations regarding how to build bridges and improve the atmosphere and outcomes of conversations with those with whom we disagree. What are the questions that we can ask of others that will move dialogue forward?"

To invite a member of the TMC to visit your Friends church or meeting, please find more information and the request form at fwccamericas.org/traveling-ministry



Collaborations with the FWCC World Office and other Sections



The fifth annual **World Quaker Day** was October 7, 2018. The theme was *Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories*. To see the many ways that Friends marked WQD, go to worldquakerday.org, and for more easy and meaningful ideas for commemorating World Quaker Day in 2019, visit fwccamericas.org/wqd.

Throughout 2018, FWCC published a number of case studies highlighting the global Quaker response to climate change. fwcc.world/sustainability-resources The video “Quakers and Climate Change Around the World” focuses on three Friends from different theological traditions sharing their experiences of climate disruption and how their Quaker faith inspires them to take action.

The FWCC World Office now oversees the **Young Adult Friends Development Fund**, a successor to the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (QYP) at a global level. The first grants were made to young adult Friends gatherings in the Africa and the Europe & the Middle East Sections. More information about applying to the fund is available at fwcc.world.

New Staff in the Section of the Americas Office

Heather Gosse, our new bilingual Operations Manager, began October 3, 2018. Heather is a member of Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica. She has a degree in economics from Oberlin College and has taught middle school science. At the Section Meeting, we announced that we will hire an Advancement Manager in the coming year.

Officers of the Section of the Americas for 2018-19

Clerk:	Benigno Sánchez-Eppler, <i>New England YM</i>
Assistant Clerk:	Timoteo Choque Vargas, <i>INELA Bolivia</i>
Recording Clerk:	M. Foote Lund, <i>Ohio Valley YM</i>
Assistant Recording Clerk:	Charles Kleymeyer, <i>Baltimore YM</i>
Treasurer:	Nancy Wallace, <i>Illinois YM</i>
Assistant Treasurer:	Jason Eaby, <i>Baltimore YM</i>

Finances

	<u>FY19</u>		<u>4/30/19</u>
Total ordinary income:	\$ 344,318	Assets	\$ 1,715,282
Total ordinary expense:	515,521	Liabilities	167,318
Other income:	-33,303	Net Assets	1,547,964
Change in net assets:	\$-204,506		

Due to several planned gifts, these numbers reflect significant one-time transfers to the World Office and EMES in accord with our standing revenue sharing agreements. The most recent audited financial statements are available at fwccamericas.org/donate.

