

## **Epistle of the 86<sup>th</sup> General Session of the Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba**

Dear Friends in all the world:

May you feel the love and the peace which can only be attained in the unity of the Spirit, felt when the God of all, who is over all, gathers us to this meeting of brothers and sisters in Gibara, the “White Town” of Cuba, with the conviction that we are united by “One and the same God, one and the same light,” which was the theme which guided us during all our meeting.

In the midst of our diversity we are called to work hand in hand for the growth of the truth which frees, nourishes, and strengthens our faith. It is founded in the fact of seeing the face of God portrayed in each human being we love.

Times of study, preaching, reflection, worship, and business were all focused on the search for clarity to build up our churches, conserving what distinguishes as Cuban Quakers, which gives us much joy.

Among the reasons for rejoicing were the appointment of a new pastor in our yearly meeting, Julián Alfonso Martínez, the recognition of gifts in ministry of Lucila Fernández Quintana, and also the opportunities for service given to brother Ramón González-Longoria Escalona as Clerk of the Friends World Committee and to sister Kenya Casanova Sales as a member of the Executive Committee of FWCC Section of the Americas. We give thanks to God for all this.

Another cause for joy is the opening and work of the Cuban Quaker Institute of Peace (ICCP) as a center for study and a fount of wisdom, which offers us the tools needed for the transformation of conflicts, for the creation of a culture of peace in the midst of our social context, and about the basis of the Quaker spirit. We thank both the Cuban teachers and those from abroad for their time and their knowledge.

In our assembly we feel the absence of representatives from other yearly meetings, with whom we have traditionally shared experiences.

In our day, the Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba feel ourselves committed to be “salt and light” in the midst of this broken world.

In Love and Truth,  
Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba