



Annual Report May 2020-April 2021

| Here...for just such a time as this. [Esther 4:14]

FIRST VIRTUAL SECTION MEETING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS



With 327 registrants, and more participating via multiple electronic platforms, we more than doubled the attendance record from the last Section Meeting. This powerful and inspiring meeting enriched the spiritual lives of a record number of attendees, including people whose age, health status, or time and budgetary constraints prevented them from attending in-person Section Meetings. We are particularly pleased that at least four times the number of Latin American Friends participated - one-third of total registration, which more closely reflects the actual distribution of Friends in the Americas. We also welcomed the newly created Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends and the Friends Church of North Carolina into our FWCC family.

The rich and varied programming over 10 days included home and interest groups, morning devotionals, Bible studies, regional meetings, social hours, two music/talent festivals in which many young Latin American brothers and sisters shared their gifts. The workshops ranged from “Friends Worldwide Working Together on Sustainability” and “Alternatives to Traditional Committee Structures” to “Supporting Clearness and Faithfulness” and “Connecting with Indigenous People Through the Land”.

In preparation for the Section Meeting, we created new bilingual orientation videos like the *Guide to Quaker Business Practices* and *How To Work With An Interpreter*, and held Zoom orientations for first-time participants and Representatives. All registrants also received access to the introductory course of our new online orientation program for Representatives. The Section’s website includes information that Friends can share with their meetings and churches, including all of the Advance Documents with the agenda for business and reports from committees and program groups (<https://fwccamericas.org/wp/event/2021-section-meeting/>). With this advance planning and Daily Bulletins, everything went smoothly.

Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to the Section Meeting Support Fund. A special thanks from all of us to the many volunteers who served as interpreters, technical support, pastoral care providers, and members of the Convocations Program Group.

TRAVELING MINISTRY CORPS PIVOTS TO ONLINE EVENTS



Record numbers of Friends benefited from the many Zoom programs we held to help Friends stay connected – from regional gatherings to the first all-Latin America Friends Women’s Conference, three Spanish language programs for children and youth and several programs to help yearly meetings host their annual sessions online.

VIRTUAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR REPRESENTATIVES

In January 2021, we launched the new FWCC Online Orientation in English and Spanish to provide Representatives with information they need to know to be successful in this role. We had been planning this training program since 2019, and it is now more important than ever.

Using short videos and activities, Representatives are able to participate in this training program on their own schedule, without having to travel. Grant funds will support the creation of more videos, hiring a part-time online community shepherd for a few months during this start-up phase, and revising the Representatives handbook to be more interactive and coordinate with the online courses. We are grateful to the **Tyson Memorial Fund** and the **Thomas H. & Mary Williams Shoemaker Fund** for their support to develop this fully virtual training program. This platform may serve as a prototype for other Friends organizations to use in the future as another tool to bolster the Quaker movement.



25 YEARLY MEETING TECH GRANTS AWARDED!

Thanks to a quick proposal and generosity of Friends from the Delaware Valley, we were able to provide 25 applicants with \$1,000 grants - 15 to yearly meetings in the U.S. and 10 outside of the U.S. that responded between June and September 2020.

We are pleased that the yearly meetings that received grants represent the rich diversity of Quakerism in the Americas theologically, culturally, and geographically. The yearly meetings also range in size from smaller meetings in Central America to large North American meetings representing thousands of members across multiple states.

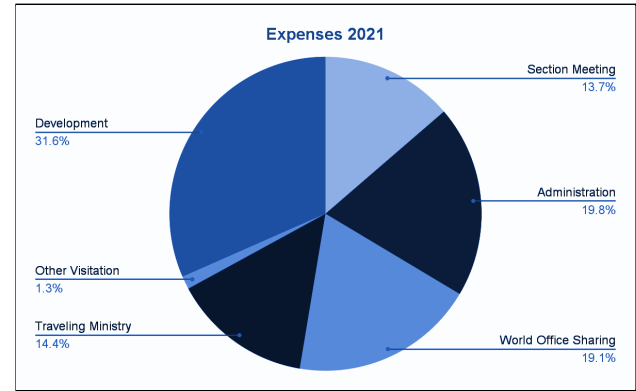
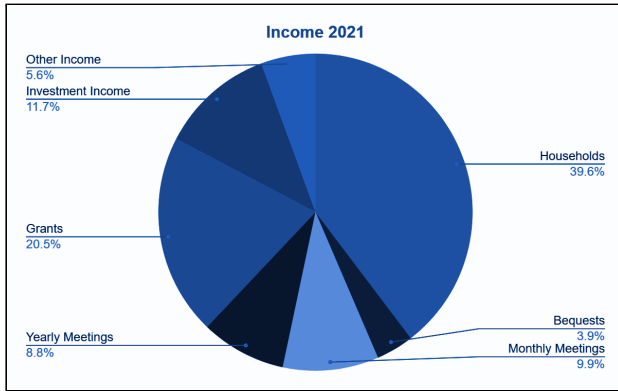
"Many thanks" and "God bless you" sum up the many thanks we received from recipients.

FINANCES

Fiscal Year 2021

at 4/30/21

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Total Ordinary Income: | \$ 466,448 | Assets | \$ 2,156,574 |
| Total Ordinary Expense: | \$443,190 | Liabilities | 253,642 |
| Net Ordinary Income | \$ 23,258 | Net Assets | 1,902,932 |
| Other Income (Unrealized Gains) | \$ 339,074 | | |
| Net Income | \$ 361,973 | | |



We finished the year with financial stability, exceptional grant income, and more reserves for the coming year. The percentage of expenses for fundraising is relatively larger this year because of the new staff support and the reduced spending on travel for the Section Meeting. The most recent audited financial statements are available at fwccamericas.org/donate.

WEAVE A LEGACY SOCIETY

The **Weave A Legacy Society** is a group of special individuals who have made a planned gift or a bequest to ensure that FWCC continues to foster fellowship among all branches of Friends.



Thank you to the following Friends for weaving a lasting legacy of connection and understanding among branches of Friends for years to come by including the Section in their will, trust, retirement or life insurance plans, or life income gift.

Anonymous (North Pacific YM)
 Anna and Keith Baker
 Asia and Lee Bennett
 Elizabeth Cazden
 Rosemary K. Coffey
 Nancy Craft
 Bob Fetter
 Margaret Fraser
 Ann Hardt

Patricia Hunt
 Gayle Matson
 Geeta Jyothi McGahey
 Florence Yarnall Fullerton
 Liz and Tom Gates
 LauraNell Obaugh
 Ruth Hyde Paine
 James R. Perkins
 Joseph G. Roberts

William Z. Shetter and Janette K. Shetter
 David Shiner
 Beverly Kirk Shull
 Christine H. and Gene Snyder
 Rev. Dr. Philip Stalions
 Jan Vogel Tappan
 Alice Vedova

Legacy gifts have been instrumental in FWCC's sustained success and continued growth. If you have already included FWCC in a bequest or other planned gift, please let us know if you are willing to be listed here. (<https://fwccamericas.org/get-involved/legacy-giving.shtml>)

CENTRAL AMERICAN DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS



Special members of our FWCC family responded generously to help our Central American Friends, particularly in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala, severely impacted by hurricanes ETA and IOTA. We raised and sent more than \$11,500 through six Quaker channels, according to the size of the relief work underway, without regard to affiliation with FWCC. The beneficiaries were: Honduras Yearly Meeting, Shalom Jireh/FM Vida in Guatemala, Ambassadors Friends Monthly Meeting, Chaplains of Iglesia Amigos de Santidad, El Salvador Yearly Meeting, and National Friends Church of Guatemala.

<https://fwccamericas.org/wp/2021/01/13/hurricane-relief-efforts/>

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the work of our many outstanding volunteers who *are* the Friends World Committee, our many committees, program groups, and working groups continued to do excellent work on our behalf. The contributions of these 150 gifted Friends are crucial and often invisible in the work of the Section.



Officers of the Section of the Americas for 2020-21

<https://fwccamericas.org/about/leadership.shtml>

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Clerk: | David Shiner, <i>Illinois YM</i> |
| Assistant Clerk: | Robert Pierson, <i>Intermountain YM</i> |
| Recording Clerk: | M. Foote Lund, <i>Ohio Valley YM & Wilmington YM</i> |
| Assistant Recording Clerk: | Milena Villca Mamani, <i>Iglesia Evangelica Union Boliviana Amigos</i> |
| Treasurer: | Beverly Kirk Shull, <i>Ohio YM</i> |