

# FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION

Section of the Americas

## MINUTES

Section Meeting

Quinta Saulo, Mexico, D.F.

March 12-March 15 2015

### Yearly Meeting

### Representatives Present

Amigos de El Salvador

Raul Antonio Perez Chacon

Baltimore

Bette Hoover

Chuck Kleymeyer

M. Jolee Robinson

Judith Seaman

Great Plains

Beth Green-Nagle

Guatemala Amigos de Santidad

Karen Patricia Gregorio de Calderon

Rodolfo Enrique Hernández Linares

Honduras

Mirna Rosibel Reyes Carcamo

Illinois

Nancy Duncan

David Shiner

Nancy Wallace

Indiana

John R. Norris

INELA Bolivia

Timoteo Choque Vargas

INELA Peru

Jesús Huarachi Cutipa

Noé Alanguia Canaza

Intermountain

Rob Pierson

Laura Peterson

Jamaica

Jacklyn Spalding

Lake Erie

Mike Hinshaw

Carmen Kelly

Michael Kelly

Clémence Ravaçon Mershon

Evangelical Friends Church Mid-America

David C. Byrne

Monteverde Monthly Meeting

Vivian Rocio Leitón Evans

New Association of Friends (Indiana)

David Edinger

New England	Betsy Cazden Cynthia Ganung Dorothy S. Grannell Mary Randolph Hopkins Noah Baker Merrill Benigno Sánchez-Eppler Jonathan Vogel-Borne
New York	Sylke Jackson Emily Provance Gloria P. Thompson
North Carolina (Conservative)	Kristin Olson-Kennedy
North Carolina (FUM)	David K. Hobson Kelvin (Kelly) Kellum
North Pacific	Erin Eichenberger Elinor Jordan Gayle Matson Jane Snyder D. Pablo Stanfield Ann Stever
Northern	Chuck Schobert
Northwest	Anna Laura Baker Carrie Hutchinson Julie Peyton
Ohio (Conservative)	Rebecca Hawkins Beverly Kirk Shull
Pacific	Jim Anderson Anthony Manousos Roena Oesting Jan Turner
Philadelphia	Jeff Keith Sara Susan Palmer Vicki Hain Poorman
Reunión General de México	Jaziel Avila Iturbe Bertha Peña Olivar
South Central	Ellen Danielson Lidney Molnari
Southeastern	Eduardo Diaz Clara Logan Diaz

Southern Appalachian YM & Assn.

Michael Galovic  
Sarah Hernandez  
Geeta Jyothi McGahey

Unión Boliviana Amigos

Dora Esther Torrez Medrano

**Staff:**

Harry Albright

Britain and World Office

Evan Draper

Philadelphia

Robin Mohr

Philadelphia

**Others in attendance**

**Affiliation**

Kathryn Alsup

Keith Baker

Northwest

Bridget Bower

New York

Collin Boyd

North Pacific

John Dorr-Bremme

Pacific

Kathy Runyan

Pacific

Leonard Cadwallader

NEYM

Minga Claggett-Borne

NEYM

Beth Collea

NEYM

Lucy Fullerton

North Pacific

Alberto Hernandez Arroyo

Pacific

Rausie Hobson

NCYM (FUM)

Christel Jorgenson

NEYM

Carol K. Lamm

SAYMA

Thomas Lamm

SAYMA

Janet Leslie

Pacific

Judy Lumb

SAYMA

Caryl Menkhus Creswell

Northwest

Jana (Terry Jan) Norlin

Lake Erie

James Poorman

Philadelphia

Nathaniel Poorman

Pacific

Liz Resendiz

SAYMA

Matt Riley

Pacific

Bob Runyan

Iowa (FUM)

Dinah Safford

Iowa (FUM)

Glen P. Safford

Illinois

Lincoln Sheets

Jill Shook

North Pacific

Joe Snyder

Southeastern

Frances Stacey

Roland Stern  
Jacqueline Stillwell  
Nicholas Wright

NEYM  
NEYM  
Pacific

### Minute of Record

104 Friends from 10 countries, 31 yearly meetings and groups, met for the Friends World Committee Section of the Americas Section Meeting at Quinta Saulo, Atizapan de Zaragoza, Mexico from Thursday March 12 through Sunday March 15, 2015.

*Thursday, March 12*

### Minute of Record

Our day began with unprogrammed worship. *Jugar Llenos de Fe* [Godly Play] training was held for COAL members. We were welcomed in the evening by Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary of the Section of the Americas, Roena Oesting, Clerk of Section Meeting Planning Program Group, and Jane Snyder, clerk of the Section. Our welcoming time was followed by the meetings of home groups.

*Friday, March 13, first business session 9:00 am – 12:00 pm*

#### **FWA15-01 Worship and introductions**

Friends from Latin America led us in programmed worship.

#### **FWA15-02 Orientation for all**

Jane Snyder, clerk of the Section, welcomed us to the orientation and introduced a number of Friends who serve us during our stay here. The following topics were covered. Attached is a summary.

The bridging role of FWCC: Raul Perez [El Salv]  
World Office: Betsy Cazden [NEYM]  
Nominating Committee: David Shiner [IYM]  
Cross-cultural Communication: Minga Claggett-Borne [NEYM]  
Working Bilingually: Vicki Poorman [PhYM]  
Being a Bridge at Home: Janet Leslie [PYM] and Julie Peyton [NWYM]  
Fundraising: Jonathan Vogel-Borne [NEYM]

### Business Session I

#### **FWA15-03 Reflections on our theme**

Kelly Kellum [NCYM (F)], offered reflections on our theme. He noted that Jean Pierre de Caussade wrote of God the carpenter, the weaver, the master artisan. We are called to yield to God's intention to make something beautiful out of our lives. In 1 Cor 12 4-7 Paul speaks of our being joined to the body of Christ, knit together in a unique way. Kelly offered a paraphrased version echoing our themes: there are different threads but the same Spirit, different languages and cultural customs but the same God weaving us together in love. The FWCC tapestry demonstrates God's power and love. We settled into worship.

#### **FWA15-04 Thanks to contributing Friends**

Clerk Jane Snyder, expressed appreciation for the many friends who have donated to the travel fund so that others could join us in this gathering. Thank-you cards were passed among us, upon which we wrote messages of thanks to these generous friends.

#### **FWA15-05 Approval of minutes 2013**

We **approved** the minutes from our Section meeting in Indiana in 2013, as distributed, with appreciation to our recording clerks and translators.

#### **FWA15-06 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Report**

Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, Co-Clerk of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (QYP) Program Group, presented the report. He drew attention to those who worked on the most recent pilgrimage, extending thanks to many not present here, who provided support. A report and epistle are available to those who want to learn more. Now new directions are shaping the forms of our future youth programs. The rich heritage of QYP and of the World Gatherings of Young Friends in North Carolina in 1985 and Lancaster, England in 2005, are giving rise to new leadership programs and the promise of rich growth. Ahead lies a consultation to formally develop next steps in the youth program and the future of Young Friends' work.

#### **FWA15-07 Living Water Section Consultations Report**

Dorothy Grannell and Karen Gregorio de Calderon reported.

Dorothy Grannell [NEYM], Karen Gregorio de Calderon [Sant. Guat.], and Daniel Limachi [INELA Bol] served as Section Planning Committee for the 2014 consultations, organized around the theme ““Let The Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God’s Purposes.” About 400 friends participated in four consultations, held in Sacramento CA, High Point NC, El Salvador, and Bolivia. Local planning committees served at each site, and the experiences will be useful in guiding the organization of future consultations. The final message, read by us all: United in the Love of God, Keep the Living Water Flowing.

#### **FWA15-08 Treasurer’s Report**

Gayle Matson, Treasurer, presented this report. We are a smaller organization than in 2013, when the last report was given. Our expenses, for example, have dropped during that time from \$525K for FY 2013 to \$442 for FY2015 and continue to shrink. This 30% reduction has brought us closer to living within our means but increases the demands on our small staff. We as representatives are now called to do more. Changes in our recording and budgeting have given us a clearer view of our financial circumstances; our audit in 2013 gave us a clean report, with no recommendations. Finally, Gayle reminded us we have moved to a multi-year budgeting process, giving us more opportunity for longer term planning.

Gayle commented on the advance documents. Total assets increased over the past year to about \$1.64 million, but much of this is not available for use because large parts of these resources are in restricted funds whose interest but not principal is available, or which can only be used for certain purposes. She informed us that we have received a generous gift of \$250K from the family of Heather Moir, former Clerk of our Section and of the World FWCC, who died in 2009. This was a timely and much appreciated gift. Part of this money will be put in reserves and part will be used for needs of the work of our new strategic plan.

Most of our funding comes from contributions and over the past years this amount has steadily declined—this has led us to reduce expenses and scale of our work. It is hard to understand FWCC work unless people are engaged. Therefore, it is important to share messages and stories of our work. She reminded us that Rufus Jones said:” ...persons are set on fire by someone who is already aflame.” And for those already contributing, Gayle encouraged us to become sustaining contributors, with regular direct deposits arranged with our bank or credit card company. This predictability is a great help to the Section’s financial planning. Finally, Gayle invited any Friends who desire to find out about tax-advantageous ways of donating and planned giving, to talk with her or staff. She thanked us for all the ways we support FWCC.

#### **FWA15-09 Affiliation Report**

Mike Hinshaw [LEYM] read that on September 7, 2013, a request for affiliation with FWCC was received from the New Association of Friends, a group comprising several vital, active Monthly Meetings and churches in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Many of them had their origins in Indiana Yearly Meeting. Quoting from their website: “The New Association of Friends is a voluntary association of monthly meetings, churches and individuals that support worship, ministry and service through the cultivation of Christian faith in the Quaker tradition.” They introduce themselves with a quotation from Isaiah 43:19: “I am about to do a new thing; do you not perceive it?” These meetings are well- known to us through their former associations.

Three Friends, representing three separate Yearly Meetings, met with Friends of the New Association in worship and business and reported to Executive Committee. Affiliation is now recommended by the Executive Committee.

With a real sense of God’s love for all, we **approved** affiliation of the New Association of Friends with FWCC and welcomed them into our fellowship.

Friends representing the New Association were asked to rise so that we could meet and greet them.

One Friend rose to express her mixed feelings in response to this step. The New Association arose out of a division in one of our Yearly Meetings. As difficult as such breaks are, it may be the case that we can sometimes work better and more lovingly at some distance. It is with love and sadness both that she welcomed this new affiliate.

#### **FWA15-10 Wider Quaker Fellowship Report**

Co-clerks Cynthia Ganung [NEYM] and Rob Pierson [IMYM] thanked present members of the program group, and noted that they were blessed to have members from 3 Latin American countries and the interpreting services of Mary Hopkins. We were reminded of the work of this program, the publishing and distributing of pamphlets and in recent years, other ways of spreading the word of Friends, such as Voices of Friends website and Facebook, resources we were encouraged to explore ourselves. Much of this work will evolve in the new structure to be discussed later in our meeting.

In response to hearing the report of WQF, Clerk Jane Snyder read a statement from the Executive Committee about our transition and our appreciation of the past work and future new directions of the Wider Quaker Fellowship:

We will be moving forward during this section meeting toward the exploration of new directions and new structures in the work of our section. This seems a good point to acknowledge and celebrate the important work of the WQF, its long history and broad community of dedicated workers and participants. This program is to be reconstituted and expanded, reshaped into new programs as we move forward. As our

tradition reminds us, there is always a bit of dying in a new birth. Not everything this rich program has created will be carried forward into the new work. But we know that continuing revelation opens us to new challenges. It is not simply cumulative but transformative, as we are reshaped as persons and institutions, seeking to respond to the call to live into God's purposes

Announcements were shared before we adjourned for lunch.

*Friday, March 12, second business session 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm*

Returning from lunch we opened with a song and heard words of scripture—Col 3 15-16—let the peace of God rule in your hearts—sing with grace in your hearts—we are forming a single body with the word of God dwelling within us.

### **FWA15-11 Strategic Plan Consideration**

Eduardo Diaz and Noah Baker Merrill of Executive Committee invited us to join in the next step of a journey, one begun by Executive Committee in developing a strategic plan for the Section's work for the next five years. In consultation with Friends, a new direction has been shaped and a plan formulated. The Executive Committee has been charged with planning how the FWCC can grow and change in the coming years. It has felt the guidance of the Spirit, and now needs our full community to join in the work proposed.

Two prayers, written by members of the Executive Committee, were read, asking for God's help in this work. ...help us listen to each other, seeking your voice...

In consultation with Friends, a vision was developed for the work ahead:

We envision a thriving and integrated network of Friends from the Arctic to the Andes woven together in transformative faith, learning to love, listen, and witness.

Questions were formed to guide our work: how can we increase understanding? Increase connections? How can we clearly transmit the power of our work and draw support into it? How will we find adequate resources to support its work? Three goals were shaped as the committee worked with these questions: 1- to increase understanding within and among friends throughout the Section; 2- to communicate and transmit the power of our work, bringing more Friends into it; 3- to find new sources of funding in service to our mission.

In the new plan, Executive, Finance, Nominating, and Naming Committees remain the same. Three program areas are proposed: A- Connections; B- Visitation; and C- Funding Innovation. An outline of the programs, and the included program groups and working groups, were offered to us, with a brief explanation of their work. In particular, it was noted that the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (QYP) program work and the Wider Quaker Fellowship (WQF) program work, will be carried forward in new ways. QYP will be included in the group dedicated to discernment of new directions in spiritual formation and leadership for young Friends. The WQF program will flow into two program groups in the connections program: the communications program group and the correspondence program group. The process of change in the WQF program needs to take care in its work with the constituency which has identified with WQF and who will need to be helped to find new ways of connecting with FWCC work. This brief overview anticipates that fuller discussion will follow in the following meetings of this gathering.

Executive Committee feels that this is transformative work, open to the opportunities we make possible with the sense of God being at the center of the work, enlivening and informing new forms and directions. Such gatherings as this, the Executive Committee meetings, and other meetings, provide the chance to meet God, out of which our larger work arises. The committee invites us to join in and, in a later session, approve, this plan and its related support systems-- the proposed budget and nominations we will hear as well. We heard, to conclude the presentation, a prayer sent to us by Kenya Casanova of Cuba.

#### **FWA15-12 COAL Report**

Berta Peña [PYM] and Timoteo Choque [INELA Bol] brought us reflections from COAL on the strategic plan proposal. At the meeting of the Latin American Friends committee were Friends from Peru, Bolivia, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Many desires to work together were evident; the need for better communication within COAL and with FWCC was clear. They believed the new plan will support them and connect them with FWCC, especially the program of visitation. With such visits they will learn from one another and find greater unity. They hope for greater understanding across the traditions, and that this will result in greater spiritual strengthening. Beyond the differences, they feel we are Friends with common goals. The greatest difficulties faced are economic. How the plans proposed will take shape is not clear; they hope to manage their own funds and provide support for FWCC. A clear sense of resolve in meeting responsibilities as members of FWCC was present, a willingness to take on commitment supported by faith and confidence in God.

#### **FWA15-13 Budget**

Lucy Fullerton, Finance Committee Clerk, presented the proposed budget. The budget is like the frame on which a tapestry is hung. A long process, the work of a budget subcommittee, has led to the proposed budget, a process generated by hopes and visions for our work. These hopes survived the process, and a two-year budget carrying us until the 2017 section meeting was created. Lucy presented and summarized the budget. The budget is balanced but relies on an unsustainable rate of withdrawal from reserve funds. The budget will be presented a second time to consider for approval at tomorrow's meeting; an open meeting of the finance committee was announced for those who may have questions.

*The budget is summarized below, for the fiscal years ending April 30, 2016 and April 30, 2017:*

	<i>FY2016 Año Fiscal</i>	<i>FY2017 Año Fiscal</i>	
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>\$280,827</i>	<i>\$340,491</i>	<i>Total Ingresos</i>
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$373,662</i>	<i>\$382,382</i>	<i>Costos Total</i>
<i>Net Income</i>	<i>(92,835)</i>	<i>(41,891)</i>	<i>Ingresos Netos</i>
<i>Total Fund Transfers</i>	<i>93,000</i>	<i>42,000</i>	<i>Total Transferencias</i>
<i>Net Surplus (Deficit) in Operations</i>	<i>\$ 165</i>	<i>\$ 109</i>	<i>NETO (DÉFICIT)</i>



#### **FWA15-14 Nominations from the Nominating Committee**

Tim Lamm, Clerk of Nominating Committee, presented the report. (Approved slate appears in FWA 15-23)

There were challenges to this year's nominating work growing from the need to accommodate the proposed strategic plan and its new structures. Much assistance was offered by many to enable the committee to bring forth its slate. Tim read through and explained the chart presenting the nominations. The nominations will be considered for approval tomorrow.

*Saturday, March 14, morning session*

#### **FWX15-15 Opening worship**

North American Friends led us in programmed worship

#### **FWA15-16 Opening**

Chuck Kley Meyer [Balt YM] opened our business session with shared reflections on silence.

"I am never alone in this room, even when I am the only one in it."

#### **FWA15-17 Correction of Minute FWA15-09**

Action minutes from the previous day were read. We **approved** a correction of minute FWA15-09 to include the full name of the New Association, which is the New Association of Friends.

#### **FWA15-18 Program changes**

Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary, presented program changes in the strategic plan. Representatives, administrative committees, and by-laws remain unchanged.

Using visual presentation aids, Robin showed how our work suggests two intersecting circles: what is it the Religious Society of Friends needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and what can FWCC offer. What Friends want is the universe; what we can actually do is a few well-chosen and well-supported things. The three areas of work chosen in our new plan reflect these possibilities: Visitation, Connections, and Funding Innovations.

The "Connections" program includes the core of the organization's work and is the foundation of everything else we do. This work was formerly done primarily by paid staff, but at this point we do not have sufficient employees to carry it out adequately. In the new plan, regional coordinators will be asked to take more responsibility for connecting with and orienting representatives, as well as for connecting them with Nominating Committee to engage them more quickly and more deeply with the work of the Section. They will work to take advantage of already scheduled gatherings, to bring reps from their regions together, and to stay in touch between events. The Regional Engagement Program Group will do this part of the work. The Communications Program Group will work on broad, mass communication through the web site and other instruments; the Correspondence Group will work on personal communications. Working groups within Connections will work on the directory, the representative handbook, and sister yearly meetings connections.

The Funding Innovation program focuses on needs for new funding sources, and the social enterprise working group will explore possibilities for such new sources. It is hoped that a Young Friend from the Quaker Voluntary Service Alumni Fellows Program will support this work.

There are 3 parts of the Visitation program. It is in this Visitation program area that most of the proposed changes in our structure will occur. While the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will not be laid down, it will not continue in its present form. A working group will take advantage of this opportunity to consider what Young Friends want and what FWCC can provide, focusing especially on the development of spiritual leadership. The Convocation Program Group will take on the work of the Section meeting planning group. It will facilitate planning of the Section meeting but also additional meetings like the consultations of 2014. The Traveling Ministry Program Group is a newly created program group. We have experienced recently some gatherings that “brought FWCC to where Friends are.” This work, to be taken up by the Traveling Ministry Program Group, needs financial support and careful training. The Traveling Ministry group will work with yearly meetings to find appropriate members to visit, and visits will take a number of forms—potlucks, presentations, a letter of care and encouragement. Letters by the traveling ministers, available to a large audience, may be part of the program. The Scholarship Fund Resource Group will be part of this project also.

These program groups and working groups are the “community organizers” of this large work; the staff are coordinators who reinforce and facilitate the work.

*Saturday, March 14, afternoon session*

Karen Gregorio [Sant. Guat.] began our re-gathered session with a reading from Gal 5: 22-25, and offered a prayer.

#### **FWA15-19 Proposals for changes in section programs**

Clerk Jane Snyder, asked Executive Committee members who convened the morning discussions on the plan proposal, to report.

Kelly Kellum [NCYM (F)] reported on the Visitation group discussions. Three separate small group discussions took place there, each addressing aspects of the Visitation project. Kelly heard that Friends appreciate the face-to-face engagements with others—in traveling ministry, in young Friends’ spiritual development, and in convocations. Ideas for themes were shared. The group saw the presence of many existing resources already available. These resources need to be harnessed and refined, and the FWCC programs need to be sharply defined as distinct from some other programs. We need work on structure and guidelines on the proposed programs.

Chuck Kleymeyer [Balt YM] reported on the Funding Innovations program meeting. A large and enthusiastic group gathered to consider this new work, and made arrangements to continue the conversation in an interest group to follow. There was, also, a great deal of expertise represented in the group. A sense of eagerness and possibility characterized the gathering.

Dorothy Grannell [NEYM] reported on the Connections program meeting. The three program groups were discussed: Communications, Correspondence, and Regional Representatives Engagement group. Ideas and interests were posted by sticky-notes on wall sheets and remained for us to look over and add to. The group noted a number of strengths and positive elements, and a number of concerns also arose about how we would communicate between program groups, about technology, and about how ideas are delivered and coordinated. They also pointed to the need for transitional plans that would move us smoothly into the new structures and practices.

Clerk Jane Snyder observed that a common concern regarding the transition has been voiced by a number of Friends, and she called attention to the role the Executive Committee would have in overseeing this transition. Our plan proposes five new program groups: the Travelling Ministry Program Group, the Convocation Program Group, the Representative Engagement Program Group, the Communications Program Group, and the Correspondence Program Group. The clerk asked us if we were ready to approve the formation of these new program groups. One friend rose to express concerns, a sense that we should not act, feeling the plan was not yet ready.

We **approved** the creation of the following five new program groups as we move into our new strategic plan: the Travelling Ministry Program Group, the Convocation Program Group, the Representative Engagement Program Group, the Communications Program Group, and the Correspondence Program Group, with one Friend standing aside.

#### **FWA15-20 Status of the Wider Quaker Fellowship Program Group**

In addition to creating these newly formed program groups, this new structural plan involves the laying down of the Wider Quaker Fellowship program group as a distinct program group. Most its work has been moved into the new programs. The clerk asked for the approval of the laying down of the Wider Quaker Fellowship program group.

One Friend spoke of the long history of Wider Quaker Fellowship and the desire to continue the name and associations in some way; another observed that not all of the WQF program will be carried forward. Another spoke of unfinished business of the WQF program, which needed time for closure. Another spoke of participation earlier on the committee, noting that even at that time there was talk of some of the changes now proposed, and called for a clean laying down of the Wider Quaker Fellowship concept and a move toward closure of a project our organization can no longer support. We shared a period of worship. A Friend suggested that the Program Group continue until a specific time in order to achieve an orderly transition. Subscribers and supporters need to be informed and the process explained.

Lacking unity, the matter was laid over until the next day.

*Sunday, March 15, third business session 9:30 am – 11:00 am*

We opened our session with a period of expectant worship.

#### **FWA15-21 Wider Quaker Fellowship Program Group**

Clerk Jane Snyder proposed a minute for our consideration. We **approved** the following minute:

As we realign our work to make the wisest use of the gifts God has given us, we lay down the name of the Wider Quaker Fellowship. We honor the long history of the Wider Quaker Fellowship and the many Friends who have been connected with this work. The members of the Wider Quaker Fellowship Program Group will work with the Executive Committee and staff of the section to communicate this transition to current subscribers and other interested Friends between now and the end of 2015. Much of the work of WQF will be continued by the Communications and Correspondence Program Groups.

### **FWA15-22 Budget**

We **approved** the budget, as previously presented in summary at FWA 15-13 on Friday, for the fiscal years ending April 30, 2016 and April 30, 2017, with deep thanks to the Finance Committee and Treasurer.

### **FWA15-23 Nominations**

We **approved** the Nominations presented by Nominating Committee and Naming Committee here listed:

#### **Officers**

Clerk	Benigno Sanchez-Eppler	c-New England YM
Assistant Clerk	Kenya Casanova Sales	c-Cuba JA
Treasurer	Nancy Wallace	Illinois YM
Assistant Treasurer	Jesús Huarachi	INELA Peru
Recording Clerk	Jim Anderson	c-Pacific YM
Assistant Recording Clerk	Ann Stever	c-North Pacific YM

#### **Executive Committee**

##### **—Term ending 4/30/2018**

Kenya Casanova	c-Cuba JA
Kelly Kellum	c-NC (F)
Gayle Matson	c-N. Pac.
Benigno Sanchez-Eppler	c-New Engl.

#### **Finance Committee**

##### **—Term ending 4/30/2018**

Elinor Jordan	North Pac
JP Lund	Ohio Val.
Geeta McGahey	SAYMA
Jonathan Vogel-Borne	New Engl.
Nancy Wallace (ex officio)	Illinois

#### **Convocation Program Group**

##### **—Term ending 4/30/2018**

Mike Hinshaw	Lake Erie
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#### **Traveling Ministry Program Group**

##### **—Term ending 4/30/2016**

Noah Baker Merrill	c-New England
Hulda Muaka	Pacific

##### **—Term ending SM 2017**

Timoteo Choque	INELA Bolivia
Ruben Maydana	c-INELA Bolivia
Kristin Olson-Kennedy	NC (C)

**—Term ending 4/30/2018**

Lisa Moran NC (F)  
Emily Stewart NC (C)  
Dora Esther Torrez Union Boliviana

**Communications Program Group**

**—Term ending 4/30/2016**

Jeff Keith Philadelphia  
Rob Pierson c-Intermountain

**—Term ending SM 2017**

Emma Condori c-Misión Boliviana  
Anthony Manousos Pacific

**—Term ending 4/30/2018**

Michael Galovic SAYMA  
Vivian Leitón Monteverde MM

**Correspondence Program Group**

**—Term ending 4/30/2016**

Nelson Ayala c-El Salvador

**—Term ending SM 2017**

Rodolfo Hernández Sant. Guat.  
Josh Medlin Ohio Valley

**—Term ending 4/30/2018**

Mary Randolph Hopkins New Engl.  
Mary Snyder Iowa (C)

**Representative Engagement Program Group (Regional Coordinators)**

**—Term ending 4/30/2016**

Noé Alanguía INELA Perú  
Timoteo Choque INELA Bolivia

**—Term ending 4/30/2018**

Raúl Pérez El Salvador  
Julie Peyton Northwest  
Judy Seaman Southeast

**Nominating Committee (proposed by Naming Committee)**

**—Term ending SM 2017**

Ray Treadway c-NC (C)

**—Term ending 4/30/2018**

Sarah Hernandez Southeast.  
Dorothy Hobbs NC (F)  
Michael Kelly Lake Erie

We gave thanks to these Friends and to the Nominating Committee. Clerks of the new Program Groups were asked to assess skills needed and to inform the Clerk of Nominating Committee, Anna

Baker, before the November meeting of Nominating Committee. Friends are still needed to serve on the Convocation Program Group.

#### **FWA15-24 International Representatives Meeting (IRM) Peru 2016**

Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary, asked Jesus Huarachi and Noe Alanguia to share words about the IRM. Jesus brought greetings from INELA Peru, which is made up of 9 quarterly meetings and about 50 monthly meetings, with 3000 members. It is 53 years old, with a programmed tradition dedicated to serving God. These Friends have sought connection with and learned from Friends of other traditions. Many of the meetings worship in the Aymara language; Friends there and in other meetings use a variety of forms of worship. Jesus hopes that many Friends can come to Peru to experience these forms; those who come will find their family there waiting to greet them. This is the first time such a meeting has been held in South America, and help and prayer for this project is gratefully received. Noe Alanguia, also from INELA Peru, shared in this invitation, and spoke of the many ways his community will prepare for the meeting, including the work of a team of young people and adults that is already active. On 25 April there will be a regional meeting of Friends from Bolivia and Peru, to arrange for additional events for visitors before and after the meeting. Noe asked for prayers from all of us. Jane Snyder presented beautiful bags to each of these Friends as gifts from FWCC.

Betsy Cazden, Clerk of the FWCC Central Executive Committee, brought a message from the World Office clarifying some previously distributed information about costs of the upcoming International Representatives Meeting. All participants will be asked to pay part of their expenses, a policy begun at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Conference at Kabarak, Kenya. For lower income countries, there is a somewhat reduced, though still substantial, registration fee of 250 pounds, or about \$400. There is travel subsidy for these Friends, and thus the need for contributions from other Friends to the Travel Fund. For higher income country participants, the registration fee, covering meals and accommodations, is 650 pounds, or about \$1050. Yearly Meetings have been sent letters telling them how many representatives they may send. By mistake, the letter to the higher income meetings included the fee rates and travel subsidy provision for lower income countries. Representatives from higher income countries need to inform their Yearly Meetings of this error, and recognize the need for raising the full registration amount for their representatives. The World Office will be sending a communication to correct this error.

We enjoyed viewing a Peru invitational film created by Rachel and Ben Guaraldi, also available on YouTube and the FWCC website. As we closed our meeting, it was wonderful to anticipate the International Reps meeting in Peru that lies ahead.

#### **FWA15-25 Appreciation for Jane Snyder**

A gift of love was given to Jane Snyder in appreciation for her years of service as Presiding Clerk of our Section during a time of challenge and possibility. Rising clerk Benigno Sanchez-Eppler offered the following minute of appreciation. We raised our voices in approval.

We thank God and Jane Snyder because the Spirit has used her well as obedient clerk of FWCC Section of the Americas. Jane has given us 4 years of practical and caring service, providing a shining example of Quaker leadership, putting aside her own concerns to help us discern the will of God for us. Jane took leadership of the section in the bloom of the openings and opportunities given to us at Kabarak, Kenya. She led us through an intense period of work and discernment, and leaves the clerkship having led the section over an important threshold of redefinition and

rededication. She has faithfully taught us that God answers prayers, and that in the meantime, everything works better with chocolate.

#### **FWA15-26 Appreciation for Louise Salinas**

The recording clerks were authorized to write a minute of appreciation for Louise Salinas. This was **approved** in advance. We recognized that while Louise had ended her paid service, she is working hard for FWCC, serving as Assistant Clerk of the International Planning Committee for the World Plenary Meeting.

Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, expresses its deepest appreciation for the service of Louise Salinas. Louise served the Section for 12 years, starting in 2002, most recently as Associate Secretary. She carried both details and the big picture of FWCC in her head and her heart. She was meticulous about providing details needed to make draft minutes accurate. She helped the organization as well as many individuals enter the electronic age.

Her work will be remembered in relation to the Salt and Light and Living Water programs, with the Wider Quaker Fellowship, with the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, with logistics of Section Meetings, with learning about and executing fundraising. She is remembered especially in relation to the Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL). She provided a steady, deeply valued connection with and for Spanish-speaking Friends while she urged us gently and firmly toward becoming a more inclusive body. She became an expert on often time-consuming efforts to obtain visas, a labor of love and commitment as well as a part of her job.

She loves FWCC. She could realistically acknowledge its weaknesses while holding and sharing a vision of what it could be. She worked tirelessly with us towards that vision with faith, hope and love.

We are so pleased that she is still active as Assistant Clerk of the International Planning Committee for the World Plenary Meeting in Peru in January 2016. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Louise – muchas gracias, buen viaje y que Dios te bendiga.

#### **FWA15-27 Remembering Friends**

Out of worship, Benigno Sanchez-Eppler read the list of Friends associated with the work of FWCC, who had died since the previous Section meeting.

Kathryn Emma Parke, Southern Appalachian YM and Assn

John Sexton, Baltimore YM; former FWCC staff, “One-Percent Fund”

[precursor to RSWR]; attended 1952 WC

Jean Irwin, SEYM

Jennivieve Westwick, PaYM/AlaskaFC/NEYM,

Margaret Ruth (Peggy) Paull, West. Association of Friends, (California YM)

Ben Cates, NEYM,

Byron Branson, Ohio Valley YM,

T. Canby Jones, Wilmington YM

Miriam Brush, New York YM  
Newton Garver, New York YM,  
Alvin Anderson, EFC-Eastern Region  
Rebecca Jocelyn Henderson, IMYM  
Courtney Siceloff, SAYMA  
Katharine Nicklin, NYYM  
Mary Alice Wood, NEYM,  
Janet Means-Underhill, ILYM  
Jeanetta Bicking, PhYM,  
Roy Joe Stuckey, WilYM,  
Anne Wood, PhYM, clerk of WQF,  
Wilton Hartzler, NCYM-FUM,

**FWA15-28 Closing Minute**

Clerk Jane Snyder presented the following closing minute:

As the 2015 Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas comes to a close, we have much to be thankful for. We share deep gratitude to the Section Meeting Planning Program Group, our hosts at Quinta Saulo, the local arrangements committee, our staff and all others who volunteered to make this Section Meeting possible. We will gather again in 2017.

Submitted by:

Jane Snyder, Clerk

James Anderson, Recording Clerk

Ann Stever, Assistant Recording Clerk

Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary