



## Annual Report May 2015-April 2016

### Engaging with the World

The World Plenary Meeting (what we used to call a Triennial) of the Friends World Committee was held in Pisac, Peru in January 2016. Based on the theme, *Living the transformation: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19)*, there were four Consultations. Quakers from around the world shared their concerns about engaging young people and newcomers in the Religious Society of Friends; about building thriving, local, spiritual communities; about sustaining life on Earth, environmentally, justly and peacefully; and about preparing the structures of the Friends World Committee to support this work through the 21st century. The Epistle was distributed in both a written document and a video presentation. More information is available at [fwcc.world/category/plenary-2016](http://fwcc.world/category/plenary-2016).

The second annual **World Quaker Day** was October 5, 2015. Like the World Plenary Meeting, the theme was *Living the Transformation*. Find photos and stories from the Americas and all four Sections (and new ideas for WQD2016) at [worldquakerday.org/2015/americas.html](http://worldquakerday.org/2015/americas.html).

### Sharing Our Compelling Story

This year we sponsored three new *QuakerSpeak* videos to assist Friends to understand the variety of Friends in the world, and to engage with all kinds of Friends. More will be forthcoming in 2016. They are all available at [quakerspeak.com/friends-world-committee-for-consultation/](http://quakerspeak.com/friends-world-committee-for-consultation/). We also began redesigning our website and newsletter for the first time in ten years. We expect the new site to launch in the fall of 2016. Subscribe to our enewsletter at [fwccamericas.org/news](http://fwccamericas.org/news).

### Traveling Ministry Corps

In the 21st century, the traveling ministry is an important way to realize our vision of a thriving and integrated network of Friends woven together in transformative faith. Our goal is still to further draw the strands of Quakerism in the Americas together into the rich tapestry that is the Religious Society of Friends. In 2016 the Section of the Americas is organizing a volunteer corps of Spanish- and English-speaking Friends, to send as traveling ministers throughout the Section, crossing Yearly Meeting lines and other divisions among Friends. FWCC will accept applications from Friends who express concerns that are deeply rooted in the Spirit, and who can transcend differences and division to seek broader unity in the Light. FWCC will provide training, support, and accountability for those Friends who are chosen to travel in this ministry. Funding is available to support the travel expenses of the members of the traveling ministry corps. Local Friends Churches, Monthly and Yearly Meetings in the Americas can request a visitor. For more information, visit [fwccamericas.org/visitation/traveling-ministry.shtml](http://fwccamericas.org/visitation/traveling-ministry.shtml)

### New Staff

In the fall of 2015, we hired two new part-time staff. **Blythe Davenport is the Coordinator for Communications and Administration.** She works with the Finance Committee and the Correspondence and Communications Program Groups. **Hye Sung Gehring is the Coordinator for Events and Engagement.** He works directly with the Nominating Committee and the Representative Engagement and Convocations Program Groups.

Governance

We continue to live into our strategic plan: *Weaving the Tapestry 2015-2020*. We continue to wrestle with Friends' desire to be faithful and realistic. The vision, mission, and full strategic plan are available at [fwccamericas.org/about/our-work.shtml](http://fwccamericas.org/about/our-work.shtml) The next Section Meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, in March 2017. The theme will be **Vivir La Paz-Living Peace** (John 16:33). More information will be available at [fwccamericas.org/events](http://fwccamericas.org/events).

**Officers of the Section of the Americas for 2015-2016**

**Clerk:** Benigno Sánchez-Eppler, *New England YM*  
**Assistant Clerk:** Kenya Casanova Sales, *Cuba YM*  
**Recording Clerk:** James Anderson, *Pacific YM*  
**Assistant Recording Clerk:** Ann Stever, *North Pacific YM*  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Wallace, *Illinois YM*  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Jason Eaby, *Baltimore YM*

**Clerks of Committees and Program Groups for 2015-2016**

**Finance Committee:** Jonathan Vogel-Borne, *New England YM*  
**Nominating Committee:** Anna Baker, *Northwest YM*  
**Naming Committee:** David Edinger, *New Association of Friends*  
**Communications:** Anthony Manousos, *Pacific YM*  
**Convocations:** Velinda Landaverde, *El Salvador YM*  
**Correspondence:** Mary Hopkins, *New England YM*  
**Representative Engagement:** Chuck Schobert, *Northern YM*  
**Traveling Ministry Corps:** Kristin Olson-Kennedy, *North Carolina YM (Conservative)*

Finances

	FY15	FY16		<u>4/30/15</u>	<u>4/30/16</u>
Total ordinary income:	\$534,176	\$285,863	Assets	\$1,930,766	\$1,768,261
Total expense:	421,456	354,699	Liabilities	83,265	72,038
Other income:	<u>62,492</u>	<u>- 82,440</u>	Net Assets	1,847,501	1,696,223
Net income:	\$175,212	-\$151,276			

Investment market losses were significant in fiscal year 2016. The most recent audited financial statements are available at [fwccamericas.org/donate](http://fwccamericas.org/donate).

