



Friends World Committee for Consultation

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To the Section of the Americas

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Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

Dear American Friends,

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office in London – and from Friends across the world. As we rejoice, we send you love and hope for a gathered section meeting. My colleague Susanna Mattingly and I are glad to be among you, sharing in the wonderful worship and celebrations of this gathered international community. May God bless our being together!

At this important time of challenge, we treasure our love of God and our being Quakers! These give us hope when we need it. We know that God loves us and will help us continue to love the world, just as God does.

The Friends World Committee for Consultation celebrates the many ways we come together – for fellowship and worship – sensing the unity of joyful hearts. We come from many different countries and cultures, we speak different languages, and we worship God in different ways. This diversity, even as we speak the language of the heart, is indeed our strength.

We share a longing for the healing of all creation. We share a broad and insistent vision for a peaceful world. We share a love of God, with the hope of being made new, again and again. It is this transforming love that helps us see each day with new eyes. It is this deep understanding that overcomes all difference. We are equal in the sight of God.

FWCC brings us together and gives us hope: FWCC joins our passions and strengthens the Quaker voice in the world. FWCC ensures that Friends are represented at the world level at the Quaker United Nations Offices, the World Council of Churches, and among global Christian Communion.

FWCC is working on several initiatives:

- Sustaining life on earth as a spiritual imperative, engaging yearly meetings and Young Adult Friends
- Opening dialogue on issues of injustice and privilege, exploring new ways of being together
- Building bridges across the theological spectrum
- Considering stewardship of our resources to support Quaker work
- Strengthening ministry and leadership through the Young Adult Friends Development Fund

With this greeting, I invite you to engage with FWCC through our website and Facebook, to give financially to FWCC through your Section, and to support and pray for your Section Secretary, Robin Mohr. And most importantly, I invite you to engage with other Friends who share your passion for life and love.

We hope you are all planning for **World Quaker Day** October 6, 2019 with the theme: *Sustainability: Planting Seeds of Renewal for the World We Love*. We also post epistles we receive so that Friends might see how God is moving amongst us. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

As we enjoy unity within our diversity, we thank you for your faithful support of our work.

In loving Friendship,

Gretchen Castle, General Secretary