

Representatives Engagement Program Group (REPG)

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Greetings Friends! Global Pandemic! Systemic Racism! A time of uncertainties, prayers, conversations, reflections and consultations. Through it all, the Representative Engagement Program Group (REPG) members welcomed and nurtured each other gifts/talents and served as a tower of strength, as we plodded through new normal territories. Our Regional Coordinators, Executive Committee liaison and office personnel felt it was important to face realities and work seamlessly from a Teleconference to a Virtual community. We designed and maintained the most efficient connectivity and frequency method for serving regional representatives and their constituents throughout the Americas. Despite the world's social and communication upheavals, we carried-out our monthly meetings virtually through Zoom, on the first Wednesday of each month. As a closely-knit worshipful community, we expressed our concerns and strengthened our Quaker ties by focusing on practical advices, settling in Waiting Worship, indulging in thought-provoking queries and spotlighting related concerns for deeper reflections and revelations.

Our November, 2019, joint face-to-face meeting with Nominating Committee was held in San Nicolás de los Garza, México, hosted by San Nicolas Monthly Meeting, part of Reunion General de los Amigos Mexico. It is worth mentioning that this was the first time a combined REPG/Nominating Committee Meeting was held outside the U.S. or Canada, as well as being the most attended to date. Here, we were spiritually connected and experienced the communal realities of Quaker life as we planned the work to be carried out. Through queries and various working groups, we plunged headlong in creating work plans, promoting awareness of other Quaker groups/programs/bodies, creating videos for later use and yielding to self-reflections. Our time in Mexico culminated with some members attending Mexico Yearly Meeting's, 18 Month Gathering, at Ciudad Victoria.

As we faced the challenges of year 2020, it was with a sense of sadness that Nominating and REPG groups were unable to meet and share in the joy of communal worship, meeting for eating, posing for pictures and spiritual gallivanting. Nonetheless, led by the Light, we continue to work from a distance and still experienced positive connectivity with the Spirit of inclusiveness and love.

Throughout the period, under review, we participated actively in FWCC's Sustainability work; World Quaker Day; Travelling Ministry Corps Program Group activities; planned, implemented and evaluated Regional Gatherings with Plenary Speakers; created Google doc file folders; designed and implemented work plans for immediate use and distribution to our successors. We had the opportunity, along with members of the Central Office, to try for the first time, LearnWorlds tool.

Notwithstanding, we have developed a spirited bond of renewable faith and hope that will weather future uncertainties into perpetuity.