



# Visitation

## *The core practice of the Friends World Committee*

FWCC experiences for Representatives equip our monthly and yearly meetings to flourish, not only to support ongoing well-being for their members, but also to engage in issues important to their communities, while connecting them to the diverse fellowship of Friends across the country and beyond. These skills, experiences and partnerships ultimately strengthen and reinvigorate the Religious Society of Friends nationally and internationally, so that together Friends can heal and repair our broken world.



Young Adult Friends across the four FWCC Sections need powerful experiences of deep spiritual connection across different branches of the Quaker family, variations of the same Quaker branch, and at the international level. These opportunities provide encouragement to live out our mission of uniting Friends around the world. Section Meetings include opportunities for worship, workshops, business sessions, interest groups, regional meetings, social hours, and “home groups” in which Friends share more deeply and have powerful shared experiences.

This quasi-endowment fund will be invested in Quaker-screened funds to support long-term participation to keep up with the growing costs of travel and sustainability and allow for paying close attention to the environmental impacts of travel. As tools for virtual meetings continue to improve, FWCC will continue to make these tools available to all Friends throughout the Section.

“The sharing that occurs at FWCC gatherings has at times seemed like the building of the Church or the bringing in of the Kingdom,” *David Eley, Ohio YM*



### **Campaign Goal: \$200,000**

As the global fellowship association for the Religious Society of Friends, FWCC’s core purpose is about bringing people together, both virtually and in-person, as well as our newly defined “hybrid” meeting, where both virtual and in-person meetings blend. Outlined in this section are two campaign goals—Consultations and a Travel & Technology Fund.

### **Consultations**

#### **Campaign Goal: \$100,000**

A series of consultations on topics of concern to Friends and the wider world

- in-person and online gatherings
- knowledgeable and Spirit-filled traveling ministers to attend, teach, and lead discussions in local meetings and churches
- print and digital publications

#### **Topics may include:**

- new non-geographic based meetings
- end of life for meetings
- disaster preparedness and response
- right relationships with indigenous peoples
- why we need the Bible more than ever
- YAF and youth gatherings
- Pastoral care
- Children’s religious education
- Quaker governance and membership issues
- Sister yearly meetings
- Traveling ministry
- Sustainability
- Post colonial justice, equality and inclusion



#### **We will need, for each of the topics chosen:**

- religious education materials
- traveling ministers
- translators & interpreters
- online training modules
- World Quaker Day activities
- publicity plans and materials
- evaluation



Participating with FWCC can build the skills that enable Friends to address these topics of cross-branch urgency. For example, part of the Quaker work of climate resiliency will be disaster preparedness programs, spiritual and logistical. There is local community building, and there needs to be attention to overcoming the racist structures of our economy and governance—that is part of building a stronger resilience. This will need all of the elements listed above to be successful.

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas offers financial assistance for Friends to follow leadings to travel in the ministry in ways that bridge yearly meeting boundaries, theological differences, varieties of worship style, and differences in language and culture.

Traveling Friends share their own spiritual experience and sense of unity that is possible across the branches of Friends. They encourage Friends to learn from one another, and, following consultation and discernment with the local communities, proceed to minister through prayer, pastoral counseling and encouragement, religious education, or peace, justice and environmental concerns. Friends meet “face-to-face and heart-to-heart” to share both that which unites and that which divides them in the life of the Spirit. Open exchange builds understanding, respect, trust and love, and, with God’s help, renews awareness of the worldwide family of Friends.

“FWCC has opened my heart and mind to broaden my vision of what is God’s work and how He moves among us as Quakers. I have found opportunities to deepen my relationship with my God by means of practices I didn’t know before. It has taught me about practicing my faith through works.”

*El CMCA me ha abierto el corazón y la mente para poder ampliar mi visión de lo que es la obra de Dios y como se mueve entre nosotros los cuáqueros. He encontrado una oportunidad más amplia para profundizar mi relación con mi Dios por medio de prácticas que no conocía. Me ha enseñado sobre la práctica de la fe por medio de las obras. Raul Perez, El Salvador YM*

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
<i>Traveling Ministers</i>	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$30,000
<i>Meeting Expenses</i>	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
<i>Marketing</i>	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
<i>Planning Comm &amp; staff</i>	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
	\$18,000	\$24,000	\$18,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$100,000

## Travel and Technology Fund for Quaker Gatherings

**Campaign Goal: \$100,000**

Section Meetings | Regional Gatherings | Young Adult Friends Gatherings



Section Meeting 2019

Inaugural blessing of the Traveling Ministry Corps, March 2017



The need to meet together has not changed in the last two years, or the last two decades. By worshipping with Friends who are different from us, it helps Friends feel the loving impact of “that of God in everyone.” We feel less divisive when we come together with Christ in our hearts. We are then better able to spread our common message to the world.

What has changed is the massive improvement in tools for virtual meetings to complement in-person meetings. 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 and the first Latin American-African Women’s Conference. Not to mention Spanish language programs for children and youth, English language programs to help meetings host their annual sessions online, and large scale bilingual worship opportunities for World Quaker Day and the Section Meetings.

However, access to travel and technology is not evenly distributed in the Section of the Americas. This fund allows for more equal access to FWCC events, whether online or in person.

“This {Section Meeting} was my first opportunity to meet and converse with Friends in the Evangelical tradition, and this fulfilled an important need for me. I was greatly encouraged by the spirit of collaboration among all of the participating Friends.” *Eric Ginsburg, North Carolina YM (Conservative)*