



Friends World Committee
for Consultation

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos

SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS

FWCC, Section of the Americas, 2025 Annual Report

May 2024 - April 2025

2025 Section Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona

“Look, I am doing something new! Now it emerges; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the desert and rivers in the wasteland.” –Isaiah 43:19

Our year of new emergence included staff transitions, the World Plenary Meeting in August 2025 and great progress on new initiatives made possible by the “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs” campaign. By March 2025, 175 Friends from across the Americas and beyond gathered both in Scottsdale, Arizona and online for the FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting centering on the theme “Building the Future as Way Opens” (from Isaiah 43.) Welcoming the largest Latin American delegation in recent memory, we worshiped, studied, and shared across languages and traditions—experiencing the Spirit moving in new and transformative ways. From diverse forms of worship to Bible study, home groups, and plenaries,



Friends deepened their spiritual connections while celebrating the richness of our diversity.

The gathering also marked progress on the Digital Quaker Glossary, expanded bilingual services, new partnerships through our global digital map, and the launch of Quaker Connect. Young Adult Friends brought great energy, leading worship, sharing fellowship, and engaging in service during their first pre-conference gathering. With inspiring words from plenary speakers and the introduction of our new Executive Secretary, we were reminded that stepping into the unknown prepares us for the future in ways we cannot yet imagine. Together, we left energized by the Spirit, aware of our challenges, and committed to walking forward in faith—building the future, as way opens.

Young Adult Friends

Young Adult Friends continue to bring energy and vision to the life of the Section. Inspired by a global initiative prior to the World Plenary Meeting, Young Adult Friends held a retreat just prior to the Section Meeting, creating space for worship, fellowship, and discernment together. These

opportunities for connection are helping Young Adult Friends build relationships across borders and nurture their spiritual lives in community. With more regular events following online and in person, the network of Young Adult Friends is growing stronger, ensuring that their voices and gifts are an integral part of our shared work.



Intervisitation: Building Relationships Across Yearly Meetings

Intervisitation lies at the heart of Friends’ way of connecting across distance, culture, and tradition. When we visit one another—whether traveling just a few miles or across continents—we strengthen the ties that make us one body in the Spirit. Through listening, worshiping, and working together, we come to see both the richness of our diversity and the depth of what we hold in common. These visits remind us our faith is lived most fully in community, not isolation. Intervisitation is not only about showing up—it is about creating space for mutual learning, encouragement, and shared joy. We invite all Friends to visit one another, whether at a local meeting, regional gathering, or yearly meeting session. Every visit is a step toward a more connected and vibrant community of Friends.



Quaker Connect: A Laboratory for Quaker Ministry

This year marked the launch of our first Quaker Connect cohort. Quaker Connect is a two-year program nurturing congregational renewal by offering meetings and churches spiritual companionship with practical support. As a “laboratory for 21st-century Quaker ministry,” it offers coaching, resources, and peer connections while inviting Friends to experiment with new forms of faithful community life. The program is made possible through generous support from donors, the Lilly Endowment’s Thriving Congregations Initiative and the Shoemaker Fund.

Each of the 10 meetings or churches selected for each cohort identifies apprentices—servant leaders guiding their communities through listening, experimentation, and reflection. Together, they form a network of mutual encouragement, supported by FWCC staff and “companions” and a curriculum exploring context, mission, identity, and sustainability. A highlight is the annual



retreat, where apprentices gather to pause, listen deeply, and share how the Spirit is moving. With the first cohort well underway, participants are reporting renewed energy for outreach, stronger ties with newcomers, and fresh clarity about their identity as Friends.



Quaker Digital Glossary

Quakers speak over 70 languages in 85 countries worldwide and the need to understand each other across barriers of language and culture is more important than ever.

The Section of the Americas has long modeled bilingual practice to the wider Quaker world, conducting its business in Spanish and English for more than forty years. This tradition has fostered meaningful exchange across branches of Quakerism and laid the foundation for new ways of bridging language gaps, including

a strong presence at the World Plenary Meeting this year despite many denied visas for members of our interpretation team. We were pleased that, by Section Meeting, we had a large, lively and well-prepared team in person and online.

This year we began digitizing our historic Glossary of Quaker Terms into an interactive online tool available to all Friends in multiple languages. Designed to assist both interpreters and Friends traveling internationally, the glossary will make Quaker terminology widely available

and easily accessible from any electronic device. By clarifying key concepts, it will help Friends deepen understanding across cultures and strengthen connections with those new to Quakerism or encountering it in a different language.

Alongside the glossary, FWCC is deepening its commitment to equipping Friends with the skills needed to foster effective communication across languages. Increased training will ensure that interpreters can support the diverse spiritual life of our Section, helping Friends worship, discern, and serve together with clarity.



Our Executive Secretary:

Evan Welkin

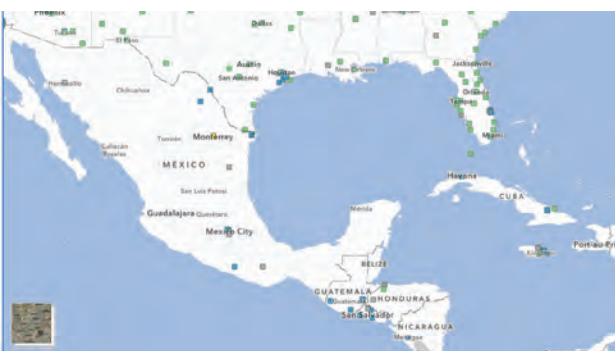
Evan Welkin stepped into the Executive Secretary role for the Americas Section in the summer of 2024. He is a member of Olympia Monthly Meeting (North Pacific Yearly Meeting).

“Evan Welkin impressed us with his grasp of the breadth of Quakerism, his administrative capabilities including project management, fundraising, and grant-writing, and most importantly, his spiritual grounding and rootedness in Quaker process. The search committee relied heavily on the leading of the Holy Spirit during the entire process and we felt the prayers of many who are devoted to our very important work in FWCC.”

—Brenda McKinney, Friends Church of North Carolina



Evan studied at Guilford College and Schumacher College, and his work has taken him from local peace and justice organizations in Washington State to international service and sustainability projects in Europe and the Middle East. With his wife, Federica, he helped nurture Italian Quaker gatherings, Europe and Middle East Young Adult Friends, Quaker Voluntary Action retreats and their two young boys, Oliver and Gabriel. He has served FWCC in Europe and the Middle East, supporting peace, service, and sustainability initiatives worldwide, and now continues this calling with the Americas Section.



Quaker Map

The Quaker Map makes it easier than ever to find and connect with Friends in person. Through this interactive online tool, seekers and traveling Friends can search for nearby Quaker meetings and churches. Whether planning a visit, moving to

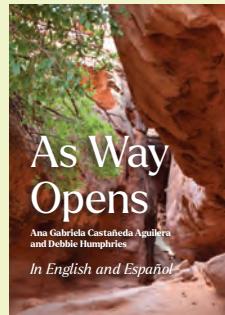
a new area, or simply looking to worship in person or online, the interactive Quaker map helps connect people to local communities of faith. We are excited to announce our new partnership with Quaker Earthcare Witness which will enable us to layer global initiatives onto the map.

To ensure accuracy, the map is continually updated. This makes it the most up-to-date way to find Quakers around the world. Program Operations and Communications Coordinator Philip Maurer tracks these changes, ensuring the map reflects the most current information.

New Partnership with Barclay Press to Offer Printed Materials

Our newest staff member, Sarah Katreen Hoggatt, joined us late in the year as our Advancement Coordinator. Sarah is also a book design specialist who has already been hard at work laying out new materials and preparing them for print. During Section Meeting, Annual Meetings across the Section and beyond, Sarah is supporting us with beautifully designed materials, support for our representatives and maintaining our tools for advancement.

We are pleased to announce a new partnership with Barclay Press that will allow us to offer printed materials, along with links to materials in digital formats. We are currently reworking our website to support this new feature and making the process simple and seamless for Friends everywhere. With a more user-friendly platform and a steady flow of resources, we look forward to equipping Friends with tools that strengthen connection, learning, and spiritual growth.



Finances

Weaving a Legacy of Connection

For more than 80 years, FWCC has carried the vital ministry of connecting Friends across traditions, languages, and cultures. From interpreter training to global gatherings, from nurturing new leaders to strengthening local meetings, this work depends on the long view—sustained by the gifts of those who came before us and carried forward by those who believe in the future of our Society.

To honor this vision, FWCC established the Weave a Legacy Society, which recognizes and honors those who have included a provision for FWCC in their estate plans. These planned gifts provide substantial future support, ensuring that FWCC remains a vital force for uniting Quakers across diverse cultures, languages, and traditions for many years to come. Large or small, these commitments provide lasting support that undergirds the work of FWCC across the hemisphere, reminding us that our community is not only for today but also for those who will come after us.

Financial Report

Our year of change and transition impacted budget planning in many ways. Several staff transitions took place after the budget was approved by the Section Meeting and we began several new programs planned during the campaign. We attribute a drop in donation income both to planned factors like post-campaign fatigue and also to staff transition and

political uncertainty in the 3rd quarter. Household support remains our largest revenue source, and we also saw a slight increase in support from monthly Meetings and partnerships with Quaker organizations.

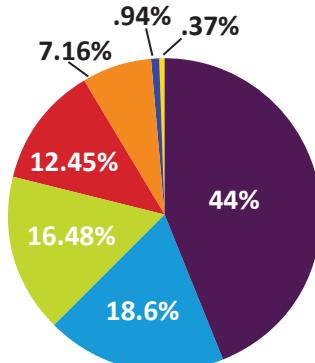
Despite posting a higher than planned deficit at year's end, we knew that this would be a higher spending year with the launch of several campaign-funded programs and felt

confident that unexpected changes due to staff transition were stabilizing. The Finance Committee worked closely with staff to monitor performance throughout the year, using quarterly reviews to adjust spending where necessary and ensure accountability. We also completed a successful audit with no findings and feel confident in our financial position entering the new fiscal year.

The most recent audited financial statements are available at <https://fwccamericas.org/donate>

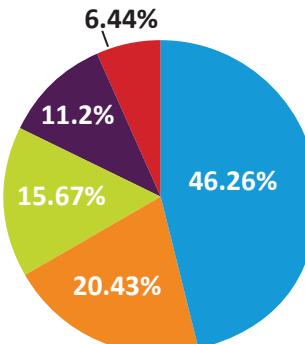
INCOME

- Households
- Section Meeting
- Investments
- Monthly Meetings
- Yearly Meetings
- Grants
- Partnerships



EXPENSES

- Programs
- Section Meeting
- Admin
- Development
- World Office Sharing



Weaving a Legacy of Connection

Anonymous (North Pacific Yearly Meeting)	Christel Jorgenson
Carl and Margery Post Abbott	Gayle Matson
Constance Archbald	Geeta Jyothi McGahey
Anna and Keith Baker	Robin and Christopher Mohr
Asia and Lee Bennett	Glenn Morison
Beth Blackbird	LauraNell Obaugh
Ellerie Brownfain	Ruth Hyde Paine
Gretchen Castle	James R. Perkins
Elizabeth Cazden	Julie Peyton
Rosemary K. Coffey	Joseph G. Roberts
Nancy Craft	William Z. and Janette K. Shetter
Margaret Fraser	David Shiner
Florence Yarnall Fullerton	Beverly Kirk Shull
Lucy Fullerton	Christine H. and Gene Snyder
Elizabeth Gates	Philip Stalions
Cathy Habschmidt	Jan Vogel Tappan
Ann Hardt	Alice Vedova
Patricia Hunt	Jonathan Vogel-Borne and Minga Claggett-Borne

If you would like to learn more about joining others in weaving this legacy, please contact Evan Welkin, Executive Secretary, at (360) 217-9105 or evanw@fwccamericas.org.