



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, 2026 Annual Report

May 2025 - April 2026

2026 Online Section Meeting

The 2026 Section Meeting, held online on March 21, 2026, brought over 150 Friends together with the theme “Love Your Neighbor.” In a time of division and fear, we started our time strengthening our community through shared conversation in home groups.

While conducting the business of FWCC, including confirmation of nominations and financial reports, we listened to one another and the Light within as we deepened bonds of fellowship across our Section’s diverse traditions and cultures. During our blended worship, Walter Shore shared a beautiful rendition of the song, “Friends Will Be Friends Forever,” both singing and signing ASL to the lyrics. Sandra Elizabeth Espinoza also shared her hymn, “Buscando la Verdad,” the winner of our Central America, Mexico and Cuba region-sponsored hymn contest last year.

Our plenary speaker, Colin Saxton, shared a unique perspective on the Good Samaritan parable from Luke 10: 25-37. He helped us see new meanings within the story,



and encouraged us to find ways to be love in the world around us, especially when it’s not the easy thing to do.

Colin gave us three queries for us to consider, both as individuals and in our wider communities:

- Am I a neighbor who is easy or hard to love?
- What personal challenges do I face when it comes to loving my neighbor?
- Is my Meeting/Church a community where people find rest, healing, and the support they need to live whole and faithful lives?



Two Gifts, One Vision: Sustaining FWCC for Generations

FWCC received two major gifts this year sustaining our work for the future.

We are grateful to Jim Perkins (Great Plains Yearly Meeting) who generously pledged over \$80,000 within a three year period. With his suggestion

that “it’s hard to do your work when you’re just trying to make payroll” and a long-term outlook in mind, we used part of his gift to set up the “Future of FWCC” endowment, a permanently restricted fund which will support our operations into the future. Annual interest on this account will benefit FWCC in perpetuity, sustaining our work of building bridges and loving our neighbors long into the future.

We also want to express our profound appreciation to Patricia Thomas (Wilmington Yearly Meeting) who gifted us \$100,000 in response to Clerk Nelson Ayala’s appeal introducing our new strategic plan development. She shared that she knows how long term planning can be expensive, requiring time and attention set aside

from daily operations that pays off in the long term. We have invested the majority of her gift to generate gains over the next three years, time we imagine we’ll be working on the Strategic Plan.

We are so grateful that Patricia and Jim’s generosity strengthens our work both today and tomorrow. Together these gifts have made an important difference to our work at FWCC and strengthened our long-term sustainability for generations to come.



Quaker Connect: Growing Vitality Through Connection

Congregational renewal often begins with small, faithful steps. The first two cohorts of Quaker Connect are discovering that experiments focused on hospitality, connection, and community engagement create momentum, even when outcomes differ from initial expectations.

A unique strength of FWCC's Quaker Connect program has been the diversity of the two cohorts: Friends from different countries, cultures, and traditions are finding their differences are a source of learning and encouragement. With urban and rural, old and young, large and small meetings and churches from Guatemala, Costa Rica, USA, El Salvador, Jamaica, and Peru across the two cohorts, FWCC is renewing and refining ways to support Friends' communities across the Americas to grow deeper connections, vitality, and faithful witness.

Beginning with an in-person retreat (held in Richmond, Indiana), Cohort 2 apprentices joined Cohort 1 building relationships, engaging in learning activities,



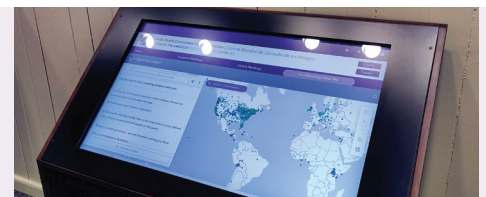
meeting with companions, and developing experiments to strengthen the life of their congregations. The program encourages Friends to try new things, trust the Spirit, and discern together. Participants found that renewal depends not only on new initiatives but also on strengthening relationships within congregations and building the confidence to follow leadings together.

Quaker Digital Glossary

For more than 40 years, FWCC has conducted our business in both English and Spanish—the two languages most spoken by Friends in our Section. This year we launched a Digital Glossary of common Quaker terms in Spanish and English, based on the original paper version developed decades ago. This tool has been invaluable over the last year and we

are now working on adding French and Russian. In 2027 we will launch a project to include Aymara, the language spoken by Indigenous Friends in Bolivia and Peru.

Designed to assist both interpreters and Friends traveling internationally, this glossary makes Quaker terminology widely available and easily accessible from any electronic device. By clarifying key concepts, it helps Friends deepen understanding across cultures and strengthens connections with those new to Quakerism or encountering it in a different language.



Online Quaker Map

The Quaker Map makes it easier than ever to find and connect with Friends. Through this interactive online tool, seekers and traveling Friends can search for Quaker meetings and churches based on region, time or worship style. While continuing to develop a more user friendly version 2.0, we are excited to begin collaboration for a new printed “Friends Around the World” with the World Office and prepare for more mapping activities using Friends data around the world.

While we continually add to and update the map, we are also making it more user-friendly by streamlining the interface, simplifying layers and adding the ability to filter based on search criteria.

New FWCC Website

FWCC has a new website and our staff are excited about all the ways it benefits our FWCC community. Outwardly, the website is much the same, but everything behind the scenes has been rebuilt from the ground up. The result is a website that's secure, easier to navigate, more accessible for everyone, and much easier for staff to update.

We are now working with Barclay Press to create an interface where you can purchase copies of printed materials now only available in digital form. This will expand our ability to share resources with those without ready access to the internet. Please take a few minutes to explore the changes and see what's new at fwccamericas.org.



Consultation and Intervisitation

Consultations and Intervisitation are important parts of our work as FWCC. Spending time together, worshipping alongside one other, and sharing joys and challenges builds strong bonds within our diversity. The Consultation and Intervisitation Program Group has also been working on a document that explores the intercultural and varied faith approaches to intervisitation, gathering input and feedback from Friends across the Section.

Over the last year, FWCC staff and volunteers have held consultations in-person in Guatemala, Bolivia, El Salvador, Perú, the United States, and online. Topics have included the future of young people's leadership,

spiritual companion support, and use of technology in our communities. Both in partnership with other organizations and gathering as FWCC, we've tailored topics to the needs of Friends to address the leadings of local communities. The joint learning and time together has helped us discover new leadings, explore different ways of thinking, and weave new relationships.



Interpreter Trainings

FWCC holds interpreter trainings to build our bilingual capacity and raise interpretation standards across our Section. Within our recent campaign, a specific goal was set to make this training more robust and oriented toward developing the capacity of our team. The most recent training was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, in April, providing professional standards-based 16-hour curriculum as well as fellowship and camaraderie.

Organized in partnership with the Center for New North Carolinians at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, we were blessed by their ability to “code-switch” between the many cultural backgrounds of migrants and refugees as well as focusing on the culture of Quaker faith and practice. Including equal numbers of native English and Spanish speakers, our group included two new interpreters from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Cuba Yearly Meeting. This training is an important step forward to further developing avenues of communication, combining practical skill-building with time for questions, as well as discussing our work as interpreters.

LauraNell Obaugh, William Z. Shetter, and Janette K. Shetter passed away this year. We honor their legacies of generous support.

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

Weaving a Legacy of Connection

For nearly 90 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.

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

Financial Report

We are happy to report that your generosity, combined with the hard work of our staff and Committees, gave us a positive balance of \$31,790 at the end of our fiscal year. We exceeded our budgeted goal of \$272,000 in grants and donations by a wide margin to end our year at \$322,544 in donated income. Household support made up a majority of our income,

and when we include the Monthly Meeting and Yearly Meeting contributions more than 80% of our income is from Quakers. We appreciate the financial show of confidence in our work building bridges across the cultural and theological differences among Friends.

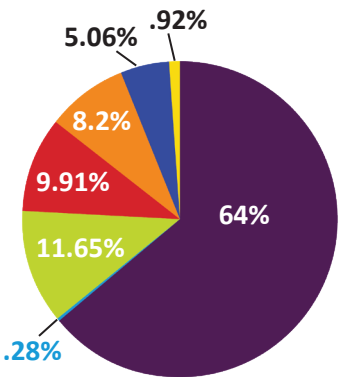
We spent over half of our funds on Programs that support the work

of Friends around the Section. There are gaps we as a Section need to cover for our new programs to be sustainable, and we look forward to your increasing support. Special thanks to the Finance Committee and Treasurer for their faithful service reviewing our performance related to budget throughout the year.

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

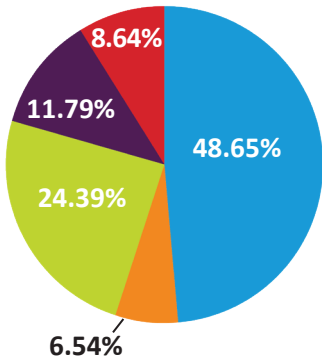
INCOME

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



EXPENSES

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



Total Ordinary Income:	\$367,878	At 4/30/26
Total Ordinary Expense:	\$805,547	Assets: \$3,332,759
Net Ordinary Income	(-\$437,669)	Liabilities: \$241,266
Other Income	\$469,459	Net Assets: \$3,332,761
Net Income	\$31,790	