



Friends World Committee for Consultation

WORLD OFFICE

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To Britain Yearly Meeting
May 2016

Dear British Friends,

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ... Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:12-15

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office.

All of us in the World Office in London extend our best wishes for a full and gathered yearly meeting, covered in God's love. May your gathering be blessed by visitors from other yearly meetings or other parts of the world. Understanding how our Quaker brothers and sisters in different parts of the world are carrying forward their witness broadens our own sense of our work at home.

Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends together both literally and virtually, both at the local level and at the world level. "Connecting Friends, crossing cultures, and changing lives," we build understanding across cultures, languages, and theological diversity. We bring Friends together who have similar passions in order to strengthen the Quaker voice in the world.

Many Friends live and worship in isolated or small communities. We all need the wider family of Friends to nurture us. FWCC provides the means for Friends to stay in contact with each other. Our International Membership program embraces isolated individual Friends and worship groups and monthly meetings. We pray that your yearly meeting may decide to send visitors to other yearly meetings, especially to those of different worship traditions.

With this greeting, I invite you to engage with FWCC through our web site and Facebook page. I invite you to give financially to FWCC through your Section. I invite you to support Marisa Johnson in her work as Section Secretary of the Europe and Middle East Section. And most importantly, I invite you to engage with other Friends who share your passion for life and love.

In January, representatives from 77 yearly meetings and from 37 different countries gathered in Pisac, Peru, for the 2016 World Plenary Meeting of FWCC. We considered the theme *Living the Transformation: Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19)*. We heard ministry about transformation and Friends continue to write about the life-changing experience of being together in worship, being held in God's transformative love.

FWCC is very grateful for the support yearly meetings gave to Friends who felt ready to travel and engage with other Friends in this important way. It feeds us all. And we appreciate the yearly meeting's continuing work of strengthening the Religious Society of Friends. It happens at all levels!

With a commitment to bringing youth to the World Plenary Meeting, 90 young adult Friends were among us, enriching discussion on topics affecting the future of the Religious Society of Friends and amplifying the Quaker voice in the world. Four consultations were held on developing leadership and ministry; strengthening our worshipping communities; furthering the Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-Justice and considering how we contribute to a peaceful and sustainable life on Earth; and equipping FWCC. We attach the Sustainability Minute, drawing your attention to the call for yearly meeting action. Please let us know what you are doing or considering across time.

We post all epistles we receive so that all Friends have access. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

We hope that you will remember you are part of a larger family, very diverse, yet joined by its common heritage, testimonies, and faith.

We thank you, Friends, for your faithful support of our work.

In Friendship,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gretchen Castle".

Gretchen Castle

General Secretary

Att: Sustainability Minute