



Friends World Committee for Consultation

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To South Central Yearly Meeting

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May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. ... May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:5, 13

Dear Friends,

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office in London – and from across the world. We extend our best wishes for a full and gathered yearly meeting. We appreciate the yearly meeting's continuing work of strengthening the Religious Society of Friends at all levels.

With gratitude for the many ways Friends come together, we cherish the fellowship, the sense of belonging, and the unity of Spirit we experience when two or more are gathered in his name. May you cherish the love in each other and the great joy of being a Quaker. We bask in God's love and in the unity of the Quaker heart.

We have a broad spectrum of belief and practice across the world, just as we have different languages and cultures. Our diversity is our strength. We share the language of the heart. We share a love of God. We share a longing for the healing of all people and for the Earth. We share a broad and insistent vision for a peaceful world.

When I think about the God that consumes me, I am filled with joy. My whole body smiles. My husband thinks I am evangelical. I have grown up among programmed Friends and spent 30 years among unprogrammed Friends... and I do feel evangelical in that I want to share the **good news!** Quakers around the world are alive and well, feeling the power of the living God, and are changing the world by actively bringing God's loving presence into illumination.

FWCC brings us together and gives us hope: FWCC joins our passion and strengthens the Quaker voice in the world. FWCC ensures that Friends are represented at the world level at the Quaker United Nations Offices, the World Council of Churches, and among global Christian Communion.

FWCC is working on several initiatives:

- Sustaining life on earth as a spiritual imperative, engaging yearly meetings and Young Adult Friends
- Opening dialogue on issues of injustice and privilege, exploring new ways of being together
- Building bridges across the theological spectrum
- Considering stewardship of our resources to support Quaker work
- Strengthening ministry and leadership through the Young Adult Friends Development Fund

With this greeting, I invite you to engage with FWCC through our website and Facebook. I invite you to give financially to FWCC through your Section. I invite you to support and pray for your Section Secretary. And most importantly, I invite you to engage with other Friends who share your passion for life and love.

FWCC is in the process of updating the book *Friends Around the World* to help Friends connect with yearly meetings and worship groups. We hope you are all planning for **World Quaker Day** October 7, 2018 with the theme: *Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories*. We also post epistles we receive so that Friends might see how God is moving amongst us. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

As we enjoy unity within our diversity, we thank you for your faithful support of our work.

In loving Friendship,

Gretchen Castle, General Secretary