About the Friends World Committee for Consultation
The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker community circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. FWCC programs unite Friends around the world through Spirit-led fellowship.

Our association with the Quaker United Nations Offices offers a means to monitor and present Quaker contributions to world affairs. Our consultation extends to those of other faiths through work with the World Council of Churches.

Our Mission
Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. (Approved 2006)

History
In 1937, after years of concerned work to reconnect a fragmented Quaker world, the Second World Conference of Friends created the FWCC “to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over.” Today, Friends from yearly meetings and groups in 75 nations continue this work. Around the world there are four cooperating, autonomous FWCC Sections serving Africa, the Americas, Asia and the West Pacific, and Europe and the Middle East. FWCC’s World Office is in London.

Since 1948, FWCC has had “consultative” status with the United Nations and is responsible for the two Quaker UN Offices in Geneva and New York.

FWCC World Office
The world office is based at Friends House in London, England. It serves four main roles:
• Organise world gatherings, including triennial meetings and consultations of Quakers worldwide.
• Support and maintain contact with the work of the four FWCC sections and the Quaker United Nations Offices.
• Coordinate the International Membership programme, which joins isolated Friends and worship groups to the wider Quaker community.
• Promote an understanding of the world-wide character of the Society of Friends, through conferences, staff travel, correspondence and publications, and through ecumenical and interfaith work on behalf of Friends.

Further information about FWCC and its activities can be obtained from the World Office or the Section Offices, whose addresses are on the back cover of Friends World News. Contributions to the work of FWCC are always welcome and can be sent to any of the offices.

Friends World News
Friends World News, the bulletin of FWCC, is published twice yearly. If you wish to receive a personal copy, please contact the World Office (or the Section of the Americas if you live in North America). There is no set subscription fee, but a donation would be welcome. Please send to the World Office anything you would like considered for publication in Friends World News – articles, letters, news, photographs and other illustrations, about the activities and religious witness of Friends. All materials received will be acknowledged although the editor cannot make any commitment to publish. Please say if you wish photographs or other materials to be returned.

Contents
Let our joyful praise resound across the world! . . . . . . . . 1
World Quaker Day . . . . . . . . . . 2
FWCC Annual Financial Report . . . . 6
A Vision . . .
or Why We Do What We Do . . . . 10
What can I do to help FWCC strengthen the Religious Society of Friends worldwide . . . . 13

Thank you for your donations to FWCC, past, present and future.
• Together we are building a strong and vital Religious Society of Friends.
• Together we are strengthening the worldwide network of Friends.
• Together we are bringing our Quaker message to the world.

Please give generously to support the world family of Friends.
Please consider FWCC in your will.

For more about FWCC please visit our website:
www.fwccworld.org
Let our joyful praise resound across the world!

Friends General Conference in the USA recently printed a fundraising pamphlet with the heading *Shout the Quaker Message from the Rooftops*, which elicited some humorous comments on Facebook. Which Quaker message would that be? Shall we replace “Let your life speak” with “Let your life shout”? How about a bumper sticker that reads “Honk if you love silence”?

Whatever our worship practice, we know the value of silence and of listening to the Divine in our spiritual lives. By Sunday, I am hungry for the quiet, in contrast to a hectic week, and I long for a deeper communion with God.

Alongside our appreciation for quiet, we just might be ready to turn up the volume. These are words I have heard myself express in many contexts recently.

As the Friend on Facebook asked “Which Quaker message would that be?” It would be your message, the voice coming through you, the passionate voice that wells up in you such that you cannot NOT express it. As salt and light in the world, as God’s hands and feet, as spiritual beings who listen for the voice of God, we know how to let our lives speak, but do we know how to let our lives shout? What is the joy we know? What is the vision we share for creation? We have good news to share - about our faith, about our vision, about our convictions. It is the certainty of Spirit that allows us to speak up with confidence and passion. There is a reason Friends have been worshipping and at work in the world for over 350 years. We are part of that continuation, and God persists in working actively through us. We must be the vehicle, free from fear, full of joy. We can speak out of the certainty and faith we are given.

Prayer: O gracious God, fill us with the patience and passion of your universal love. Help us be confident in what we know through you, and may we find expression such that others may hear your voice in the world. As Friends, bring us together, and bring us into to our full purpose, strengthened and encouraged by each other. We are grateful to be part of the family of Friends. We are grateful for opportunities to speak truth to power. We are grateful to hold a vision for the healing of the world. We are grateful for your presence in all things, O God. Amen.

With appreciation for all we are and all we can become,

Gretchen Castle, General Secretary, FWCC World Office
World Quaker Day
by Harry Albright, Communications Consultant

In October FWCC launched the first World Quaker Day, with the theme *Let Your Life Speak: Living the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice*. We promoted it by saying:

As the sun rises, we want to remember that Quakers are worshiping through every time zone, celebrating our deep connections across cultures and Quaker traditions. We are united in love and can accompany each other on this special day that draws us together. As we worship, let us hold each other in prayer and thanksgiving, and let our hymns of praise resound across the world.

For the first year, we decided to make it fairly low-key, inviting Friends and groups around the world to participate as they were able, providing online resources to encourage sharing and discussion. In particular, we asked Friends to look afresh at the Kabarak Call, and how it has informed their work in the world and how they live their lives, and how it could be used further. We suggested activities such as inviting a meeting member who has worshiped with Friends in different parts of the world to share his or her experiences or asking Friends to share how issues of peace and ecojustice have played out in their lives. We suggested hymns and Bible readings around the theme.

We were excited by how Friends responded. We received reports from all four sections highlighting the joy they felt in being part of the worldwide family of Friends. The range of activities and the depth of the contributions

A Variety of Quaker Experiences from Around the World was recently produced jointly by FWCC and Britain Yearly Meeting. You can hear Friends talk about their experience in Quaker pastoral traditions. In this 10 minute film, Cristela Martinez from Honduras describes how she came from an evangelical church to Quakers. In the Quaker church they sing and read scripture and have a sermon, as well as waiting on God in silence. Relative to what she knew, the Quakers are very quiet. As she says in the film, she learned how important it is to tell God how much you love Him as well as to listen to what God has to tell you. Through volunteer work with FWCC, Cristela has come to appreciate worshipping with Friends in a variety of traditions.

(View film on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRMRxdBQye4&feature=youtu.be)
was inspirational. Friends posted photos, videos and descriptions from their experiences, with contributions from the full range of theological perspectives. I was moved as I watched the children from an evangelical church in El Salvador singing, whole meetings posing for a photo, children making posters about how precious our world is, and an isolated Friend holding worship with a candle lit for all other Friends around the world. We worship where we are, forming meaningful communities that nurture us spiritually and give us a deeper understanding of our collective purpose.

Here is some of what Friends posted:

From Friends in Bohol, Philippines, Asia West Pacific Section

We, as relatively isolated Friends, always feel connected to the global community of Quakers each time we sit for Meeting on First Day, but today was extra special. World Quaker Day, more than a celebration of our identity, has been a celebration of unity. As diverse as we are the world over, we recognise that we each have the Divine Spirit within us and we allow ourselves to be a conduit for the Divine will. It is such an honour and a great joy to know that people all over the world, no matter how alike or how different we interpret our faith, have chosen this day as a global communion in the manner of Friends.

From Friends in California, USA, Section of the Americas

Brian C. Young wrote on behalf of Berkeley Friends Church on the west coast of the USA. Berkeley Friends Church was likely one of the later meetings worshiping as part of World Quaker Day 2014 . . . .

. . . due to our position on the western end of the US . . . nevertheless, we prayed for our worldwide family of Friends, that we may all walk in the Light of Christ, and our sharing in open worship included the reminder that it is God’s love that unites us.

From Friends in Sweden, Europe and Middle East Section

Görel Råsmark wrote that Friends in Stockholm, Sweden, gathered on World Quaker Day for a presentation of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine in Israel (EAPPI) focusing on nonviolent resistance and our quest for peace.
From a Friend in Kigale, Rwanda, Africa Section

Excerpts from a poem written by Odette Ntambara, worshipping in Kigale, remembering Friends in Johannesburg, Africa Section (see the full poem on www.worldquakerday.org):

Sitting . silent . still . waiting
Eyes closed ears open
My heart’s ready my mind’s prepared
I sit and listen not to what is out there but to what is within
A verse is read, a hymn is sang and a ministry is shared

Sitting . silent . still . waiting
In silence I listen to my inner being
In a circle I see the truth, simplicity and love
Holding hands we share our diverse cultures in unison
Holding hands we are transforming power
Simplicity, integrity, equality, community and peace is the space we choose to create

We are the seeds of this earth, the light of this community, the salt of this world
We sit in silence to listen to our inward teacher
We wait expectantly, we wait faithfully and we wait meaningfully
We wait for spiritual deepening,
because that is the Quaker way . . .

A Friend in Milton Keynes, United Kingdom,
Europe and Middle East Section

Having been blessed to worship and work with Quakers on four continents, I can witness that despite differences in how we worship, we are united in love, our conviction that there is ‘that of God/the light’ within each of us and our commitment to peace. As we worship here today, let us hold Quakers worldwide in prayer and thanksgiving, and let this prayer resound across the world.

To view more contributions from Friends around the world, go to www.worldquakerday.org

As we were reminded on World Quaker Day, Friends have much to say, offering greetings and wishes of unity and love for one another, and strong hopes for the world. We are not alone, and as one Friend from Coldstream Meeting said, “May our unity encourage us to speak up as we are able.”

Looking ahead: World Quaker Day, October 4, 2015
Waterford Ireland (EMES) Quaker children’s meeting celebrated world Quaker day by creating a clay world, with happy little Quakers joining hands together.

Bohol Worship Group, Philippines, Asia-West Pacific Section. “The day began with a forum on peace advocacy with student leaders from universities in our province. The event was organised to coincide with World Quaker Day as a reminder of our commitment, as Friends, to social action and community service.”
FWCC Annual Financial Report
by Alastair Reid, Treasurer

In my second year as Treasurer, I understand more clearly the complexities of our international budgeting and accounting processes. Even opening a bank account for international use is complicated these days – banks are wary about any internationally governed organisation, no matter how well we are governed!

I am glad to say that we received a clean 2013 audit report and were able to maintain our general fund at the same level as the previous year. This was partly due to increased efficiencies in how we work and partly by starting a drawdown from our reserves. A significant review of expenditure allowed us to save about £30,000 by reducing the number of working days of some staff without significantly reducing our operational capacity, and shifting literature and publications output to electronic publishing. We still have a gap between our spending and our income, so we are concentrating on other areas, including our governance arrangements and targeted fundraising. To ensure effective financial monitoring we have introduced a new accounting system which has improved our internal reporting. This enables us to more accurately account for individual projects and will be particularly useful for the next International Representatives Meeting in Peru in early 2016 when we will also be accounting in Peruvian Nuevo Sols.

Contributions

We are grateful for the continued support of many individuals from around the world, as well as the Section of Americas and Britain Yearly Meeting, whose contributions are so important for our work. This year we were fortunate to receive donations from two Quaker trusts, which enabled us to provide travel costs for a number of Friends from Africa, Australasia and Central Southern America for our Central Executive Meeting in 2014 and allowed the International Planning Committee to start its work in the pleasant surroundings of the Moyallon Centre in Northern Ireland. We are also appreciative of Irish Friends’ help in making this multilingual meeting so productive. We rely on the income generated by our C B Taylor fund for travelling ministry between developing countries and were pleased to have an additional donation to help these Friends travel to the next International Representatives Meeting in Peru in early 2016.

Travel

With the approval of the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice at the World Conference we committed ourselves to reducing our carbon footprint where
possible. We have instituted a strict travel policy to reduce costs and increased our use of telephone and video conferencing. Nevertheless, travel is still a significant part of our expenditure and the inflation increase in flight costs over the past few years is not likely to slow down.

Sending specialist Quaker representatives to QUNO committee meetings and the Crime Commission on Penal Reform is a large part of our travel costs and ensures that our representatives’ valuable expertise from around the world is used by these organisations.

As FWCC we recognise that often there is no substitute for face to face meetings when discussing religious matters. Nevertheless we try to combine these visits with meeting other Friends and organisations to promote mutual reflection and understanding. Gretchen’s visits are planned to cover all Sections in the world over a period of two years. In addition to the valuable work she does at the Quaker United Nations Offices, yearly meetings and ecumenical gatherings, she meets and influences a wide range other people. Our Central Executive Committee (CEC) gathers from around the world every year in a different location to meet face to face. Most CEC members arrange to travel locally in the ministry. We find that spiritual understanding is increased by an appreciation of our Quaker diversity and insights first hand. Now we are starting to capture some of the insights from these meetings on short videos which will be distributed via our website.

Funding
Like many other charities we are facing increased pressure on our costs with reduced funding from some of our usual backers. Income from the two sections that started FWCC, European and Middle East Section (EMES), and the Section of the Americas (SOA) is static or declining. Some of our previous benefactors have passed away and some trusts have either closed or have changed their funding strategy. As an organization that supports the health and growth of Quakerism worldwide, we rely on funding from Quaker sources. So we now have less flexibility.

New Ways of Working
We have taken significant steps to identify new ways of working. These include:

- Coordinating fundraising across the FWCC Sections.
- Launching the first World Quaker Day in 2014 which attracted participation by hundreds of Quakers, from all sections and from across the theological spectrum.
- Using technology and social mediathoughtfully to increase our ability to connect.
• Launching videos which feature Friends from across the globe to build understanding.
• Offering study materials to enable churches and meetings to benefit from the diversity and insights from within the Religious Society of Friends.

**Donating funds to maintain the World Office’s work**

There are several ways that you can help the World Office financially:
• You can donate to FWCC World Office directly by standing order, cheque or via our website.
• You can send us a donation via your section. We receive an agreed percentage of funds raised from SOA and EMES.
• You can contribute to the next World Plenary Meeting (Triennial).

We have started to raise funds to bring Friends from around the world to the next meeting in early 2016. It is being held in Peru, with has one of the swiftest growing and most vibrant Quaker communities. We have received a number of generous donations but still need to raise £65,000. Please consider raising funds to sponsor Friends both from your yearly meeting and from the less affluent parts to the world to attend this important event.

For instance:
• £750 will bring a Friend from Central or South America.
• £1,250 will bring a Friend from Eastern Europe.
• £1,450 will bring a Friend from East or Central Africa.
• £1,750 will bring a Friend from Asia or the West Pacific.

There are also opportunities to help us with the costs of our important core activities or support some of our new ways of working. Here are some examples:
• Producing one 10 minute video costs £500.
• A Friend traveling from Kenya to QUNO New York costs £700.
• Printing one issue of Friends World News on two continents costs £600.
• Sending one issue of Friends World News throughout the world costs £700.
• Ensuring a Friend from Australia can travel to FWCC Central Executive Committee costs £1,000.
• Maintaining our website for a year costs £400.
• Developing materials for World Quaker Day costs £2,500.

**Whatever your contribution we can use it effectively to serve Friends around the world.**
Filming Friends from around the world at Moyallon Meeting, Northern Ireland, June 2014. The film, “A Variety of Quaker Experiences from Around the World,” was jointly produced by FWCC and Britain Yearly Meeting (see page 2). From left to right: Noé Alanguia Canaza, Ruth Homer, and Kevin Redpath.
A Vision . . .
or Why We Do What We Do
Connecting Friends, Crossing Cultures, and Changing Lives
from the FWCC Strategy Group

FWCC’s work is often described as: connecting Friends, crossing cultures, changing lives. It has also been described as doing “profound diversity work” and as work that helps us live into the unity of God’s universal love. FWCC plays a unifying role among Friends, bringing us together not for the purpose of finding a single voice, but rather for the purpose of hearing many voices that bring us together and help us do God’s work in the world. FWCC brings us together to learn, to celebrate, and to struggle with our differences. We grow stronger as we learn to value our differences, and our diversity makes us a stronger Religious Society of Friends around the world.

Changing Lives
Quakerism, and indeed the spiritual life insists on our being open to transformation. It begins with each one of us. We are asked to be open to new light from wherever it may come. We are being challenged in all of our Quaker traditions, through the reading of scripture, by waiting on the Holy Spirit, through continuing revelation, and by raising our voice in song — it all brings us to the same place as children of God, as people of faith, as believers — we must be ready for Love’s transforming power. We must be ready to be made uncomfortable. And we must be ready to be made tender in the presence of one another. As Friends, we can sit at the same table, taking in God’s nourishment to sustain us in the work of the day, and then rest together in God’s comfort.

Mission
Answering God’s call to Universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, (collaboration,) and consultation to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

FWCC organizational goals
1. Articulate a vision that is aspirational for Friends, connecting directly with FWCC’s work and mission.
2. Work as one organization to maximize capacity.
3. Work toward a more sustainable financial base.
4. Communicate FWCC’s work in a visible, relevant and personal way that connects Friends, builds understanding, and deepens our faith.
5. Create governance structures that serve the organization well and that are financially feasible.
Only when we ask for this radical change in ourselves can we ask the world to make the kinds of radical change that bring peace and justice to the world. It is what is required of us. As Ghandi said, “We must be the change we want to see in the world.” On one hand it is radical and new, and on the other hand it is simply what our lives are about.

**Crossing Cultures**

FWCC works across all levels both vertically and horizontally. FWCC supports the work and spiritual growth of individual Friends. FWCC encourages the growth and vitality of churches and meetings, of yearly meetings and Quaker organizations. FWCC supports Friends through its four Sections, which bring Friends together both literally and virtually. Each Section has within it multiple cultures and languages, and each Section contains a spectrum of Quaker theological beliefs and practices. Through World Quaker Day and the many Section activities, we learn about and from each other and how our different cultures and practices inform the Quakerism we know today.

The World Office encourages the work of the Sections and it works across Sections. The World Office gives Friends representation at the world level. It provides the highest level consultative status at the United Nations through the Quaker United Nations Offices in Geneva and New York. Representatives from all four sections and the General Secretary serve on QUNO governing bodies in both locations. FWCC participates in the conference of General Secretaries (world offices) of the Christian World Communions, in the World Council of Churches with observer status, and in other ecumenical work.

**Connecting Friends**

FWCC is the body that gathers Friends and helps us realize we are not alone, that we are part of a large family of Friends. Our global connections help us gather strength for the journey. FWCC reminds us that we are connected around the world.

Our vision is to grow in depth and strength as individual Friends and as a
“We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface but connected in the deep.”
— William James

Religious Society of Friends. Our vision is to stand together in our faith, to express our joy in living a spiritual life, and to strengthen our voice in the world. Our vision is to serve Friends across the world, offering encouragement, and gathering Friends together in the unifying power of God’s love in order to bring transformative love into the world.

Working best in circles, Friends from many cultures joined together during the World Conference of Friends in Kenya, April 2012.
What can I do to help FWCC strengthen the Religious Society of Friends worldwide?

*Participate fully in the life* of your church/meeting community.

*Share what you love* and do with other Friends through
  - Face Book: Friends World Office
  - Visiting churches/meetings when you are traveling
  - Visit Quaker web sites: **www.fwccworld.org**
    - **www.worldquakerday.org**
    - **www.saltandlight.org**
  - Follow up with Friends who share similar interests.

*Make Quakers your priority* in giving and give regularly. YOU are our funding source.

*Contribute financially* to the FWCC World Office by going to **www.fwccworld.org** and click for the secure online contribution link, or mail in your contribution. Or give through your Section, where 25% of unrestricted contributions from the Section of the Americas and the Europe and Middle-East Section goes to the World Office.

*Consider including FWCC in your will* for a long-term, life-time investment in Quakers.

*Participate in your Section’s activities* and support the work of your Section.

*Engage your meeting/church in the next World Quaker Day* on October 4, 2015.

*Raise funds for Friends* to participate in the next World Plenary Meeting/International Representatives Meeting in Peru January 2016.
Save the date . . .

WORLD QUAKER DAY
October 4, 2015