

REPORT TO NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
From Lucy Fullerton and Gayle Matson, NPYM representatives to the FWCC World Plenary Meeting  
January 2016

320 Friends from 77 Yearly Meetings in 37 countries gathered in Pisac, Peru, in January 2016 for the World Plenary Meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). Lucy Fullerton of University Friends Meeting and Gayle Matson of Bridge City Friends Meeting attended as representatives of North Pacific Yearly Meeting.

All business and worship was conducted bilingually in English and Spanish, and often trilingually with French as well. Approximately a third of the participants were native Spanish speakers. An additional 60 local Friends from Bolivia and Peru joined the gathering for the weekend. Almost a third of those attending the conference were young adults under the age of 35. This diversity of age, language, theology and culture made this conference a joyful reflection of the Society of Friends worldwide.

Worship was central to every day, from early morning Bible Study to late evening epilogue reflections. Each day included a morning worship session led by a different geographical region. We each brought the best of our worship traditions to share, and lifted hearts and souls in the worship traditions of other Friends. Some days hymns were sung in a dozen different languages. Worship was deep and the Living Presence felt vibrant and real. The home groups (similar to NPYM worship groups) brought small groups of Friends from different countries and theologies together to meet daily over 8 days to share, reflect, encourage and challenge one another.

There were four consultations groups: 1) Ministry and Leadership focused on youth, developing leadership and connections among Young Adult Friends and generating ideas for what youth activities might replace the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage; 2) Living Ministry Communities and their Growth focused on considering how we create Quaker communities that are active and vital and energizing; 3) Sustaining Life on Earth focused on developing worldwide Quaker collaboration for environmental, economic and spiritual changes; and 4) Equipping FWCC focused on how FWCC can meet the challenges of the next 20 years while serving Friends well. Reports from the consultation groups can be found at [http://www.fwccamericas.org/events/recent\\_events.shtml](http://www.fwccamericas.org/events/recent_events.shtml).

The consultation group on Sustainability brought a minute on sustainability, recognizing "our faith as Quakers is inseparable from our care for the health of our planet Earth". The minute suggested actions that local and Yearly Meetings could take on working towards living in a more sustainable way. The full text of the minute can be found at <http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/living-sustainably-and-sustaining-life-on-earth-the-minute-from-the-plenary>

We recognize that face-to-face conferences such as this bring great transformation to those who attend, but are expensive in money, time and environmental impact. Several of the consultation groups looked at best ways to use information technology and social media to connect Friends globally. FWCC continues to look for ways to bring an experience of the diversity of Friends to local Friends groups. The Section of the Americas is implementing the Travelling Ministry Program in the coming year. This will create a team of visiting Friend to travel to local and regional meetings of Friends. FWCC will accept applications from Friends who express concerns that are deeply rooted in the Spirit, and who can transcend differences and division to seek broader unity in the Light. FWCC will provide training, support, and accountability for those Friends who are chosen to travel in this ministry. Local Friends Churches, Monthly and Yearly Meetings in the Americas can request a visitor. If you are interested in being a travelling minister or in receiving a travelling minister in your meeting, information and applications can be found at [http://fwccamericas.org/about\\_us/programs/visitation.shtml](http://fwccamericas.org/about_us/programs/visitation.shtml).

We return from the World Plenary feeling excited and energized. It is not always easy. There are places where we have profound differences. And yet, as our own Yearly Meeting struggles with finding our spiritual center and seeking where we may find the energy and vitality to carry us through the next few decades, there is much that we can learn from the wider world of Friends. The Spirit of the Living God is at work among Friends today.