

## 2025 FWCC Report, Geeta Jyothi McGahey

It's been a big year for FWCC Section of the Americas; the capital campaign is finished and new projects are underway: [Quaker Connect](#), a participatory program to grow meetings, [An Interactive map](#) to locate meetings in the whole section of the Americas, and a Digital English-Spanish Quaker glossary almost ready. We also have a new Executive Director Evan Welkin who was educated at Gilford and returns here from service to the Europe Middle East section of FWCC.

The theme for **World Quaker Day, Sunday 5 October 2025**, will be *Love your neighbour* with the supporting Bible passage Galatians 5:14: 'For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."' In times when environmental crisis and conflict, untruths and unfairness seem to dominate, let us see what Love can do – both through our words and as 'doers of the word' (James 1:22). There are [linked ideas for how to participate](#)

[Quaker Connect](#) involves both urban and rural Friends Meetings from across the Americas to determine how each individual meeting could better connect with the local community. It is a revitalization program designed to benefit meetings, communities and individuals. There are groups or cohorts of about 10 congregations which work together, with each congregation supplying two or three "apprentices" to serve as contact persons. Each apprentice's involvement would require no more than 2-4 hours per week, with someone from outside assigned as a "companion" to offer guidance. Each meeting will--with help--design three-month experiments on connecting with the local community. These could involve various projects. Experiments do not always succeed. It's OK to fail, since even failure teaches something. The next cohort begins in 2026-27, with a retreat in March 2026. [Applications](#) will be available this summer. Through generous grants, there is no cost for a meeting to participate..

The World Plenary Meeting was a hybrid event, held in August 2024 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and online. The theme was *Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another*. Friends considered three interrelated themes: ubuntu, care for creation, and healing and repairing relationships in light of historic and continuing injustice. Four friends in attendance at our SAYMA sessions attended - Star Smith, Jackson Napier, Alison Mawle (virtual) and Myron Guachalla Montaña from Bolivia. Please welcome Myron.

In Tapestry, a document from the Plenary, is the following quote appropriate for our time, "We need to identify and name the underlying causes of injustice in the world. Only then can we work for repair, through prayerful deep listening. And once we've named the issues, we need to listen to that of God in others, and only then speak our truth with humility, in ways which others can hear. As Friends we are called to action in the world, as individuals and as communities .... 'What canst thou say? What canst thou do?' Let us be a faith community, different from the kingdoms of this world – through the work of the Holy Spirit."

In the coming year, FWCC is putting attention on developing younger leaders to take the message of Friends into the World. There were young adult Friend gatherings before both the World Plenary and the Section of Americas meeting. "*Building the Future as Way Opens*," which I attended. We came away from this gathering excited about projects that inspire and unite us, energized by the possibilities that lie ahead. We are also clear-eyed about the clear and present challenges in the world around us today.