

Latin American Concerns Committee
Report to Representative Committee
March 2011

The Latin American Concerns Committee was established primarily to increase communication and knowledge among Friends in Pacific Yearly Meeting about meetings and projects in Latin America that are related to PYM. In order to accomplish this, the committee created a bilingual website that also has descriptions and links for some other Quaker-related projects in Latin America plus contact information for other unprogrammed meetings, worship groups, and individual Friends. Our next phase is a Facebook page to increase our ability to share information and encourage communication.

Many committee members and meetings share a concern about issues related to migration and immigration, including US policies and other conditions that lead Latin Americans to leave their communities, the dangers of their journey, their experiences here in the United States, US immigration policy, and the impact of deportation on immigrant families and communities. We plan to offer an interest group on this topic at the 2011 summer session, plus one focusing on Progresá, the scholarship/loan program sponsored by Guatemala and Redwood Forest Meetings.

The Latin American Concerns Committee has met twice since last summer's annual session by conference call and had rich e-mail conversations. We find this an effective and economical way to do our committee work; this is probably partly due to the fact that many of us know each other well and all have participated in some face-to-face meetings of the committee.

We encourage Friends and others to check out our webpage at <http://www.latinamerica.pacificyearlymeeting.org> and the new Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Latin-American-Concerns-Committee-Pacific-Yearly-Meeting-Quakers/179206125455079>

We would be happy to hear from individuals and meetings that share our concerns or have suggestions about our activities.

- Dottie Vura-Weis, Clerk
Latin American Concerns Committee

(The other members of the committee are Rolene Walker, Anandi van Diepen, Jim Summers, Sandra Schwartz, Barbara Babin, Diane Dunn, Donna Smith, and Nick Wright.)