

Friends Peace Teams Representative Report to PYM Annual Session 2018

SUMMARY

This year Friends Peace Teams have been evolving from three loosely associated working groups into a unified Quaker organization working for peace in three parts of the world. In the African Great Lakes work includes Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities, a woman's clinic, Alternatives to Violence, children's peace libraries, and transformative mediation. African Great Lakes works in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Asia West Pacific supports volunteers called to do work for peace and nonviolence, Alternative to Violence, trauma healing, conflict transformation, and social justice advocacy with communities recovering from war or religious violence. Asia West Pacific works in Indonesia, Philippines, Korea, Nepal, Ukraine, and Chechnya. Peace building en Las America (PLA) works in Central and South America for peace-building, trauma healing, and Alternatives to Violence. PLA works with people in: communities, hospitals, schools, churches, prisons, in gang dominated communities, and with indigenous people, war survivors, and people with disabilities.

INFORMATION ABOUT FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

Quakers from several North American Yearly Meetings established Friends Peace Teams in 1993. After witnessing the suffering in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they wanted to make every Friends Meeting and Church a center of peace, and reach out to people suffering from war and violence everywhere.

Quaker Yearly Meetings from across the United States, Australia, and Aotearoa/NZ nominate Representatives to serve on the Friends Peace Teams' Council. They seek mutual discernment and collaboration on Quaker faith and practice for peace and support of the relationships, activities and programs developed through the peace ministries.

Friends Peace Teams' budget is raised from donations by individuals and groups, plus occasional, small grants. Dedicated volunteers on the Council and Working Groups and minimal staff allow peace workers and funds to focus on peace ministries.

Pacific Yearly Meeting's representative to Friends Peace Teams is Gay Howard, Central Coast MM