

## Observer to Reunión General de los Amigos en México Report to PYM Annual Session 2018

### SUMMARY

None

### SPIRIT MOVES IN THE REUNIÓN GENERAL

When I learned that the theme of the Reunión General was “Are our youth called to serve God?” I was inspired to reach out to Nico Wright, RGAM Secretary, and to the Youth Programs Coordinating Committee to see whether Pacific Yearly Meeting might facilitate a youth exchange in order to to share with and learn from our Friends in Mexico. As a result, the Youth Programs Coordinating committee funded three Young Adult Friends (Bertha Peña, Rebekah Percy, Austin Stanion) to accompany me to the May 5-6, 2018, Reunión General de los Amigos en México, which includes programmed and unprogrammed Friends (Mexico City MM and two evangelical churches). Thanks to the Vogel Fund, several evangelical young Friends from Ciudad Victoria were also able to attend, contributing to a larger than usual turnout.

We were warmly welcomed by Friends and participated in a full range of activities, including joyful hymn singing, prayers, plenary sessions, delicious meals, and several sessions of worship-sharing with queries that focused on addressing diminishing youth attendance and participation. Our group also led two sessions, one which invited partners to share on a series of prompts asking them to remember when they became aware of the presence of Spirit and what brought them to worship and what keeps them there, and the other which involved a youth panel speaking of their own experiences. Two of our YAFs served on the epistle committee and the third served as a resource to an emergent Young Friends committee. As young people connected across borders, across ages, and across Quaker schisms, Spirit began to move among us. Participation and worship were deep and heartfelt. In the closing plenary, a committee for Young Friends in Mexico, probably the first of its kind, was approved with joyful support. Hoping to continue and deepen the exchange between young adults from diverse backgrounds, the YPC committee decided to invite Yulieed Ávila, a young adult and FWCC Traveling Minister from Iglesia de los Amigos de Ciudad Victoria, to attend PYM’s Annual Session this year; the YP Fund is paying for her registratration and FWCC is paying her travel. At AS Yulieed will be sharing her ministry in one of the plenary sessions as well as in the YPCC interest group.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Observer, to help make connections, and to experience Spirit moving among us.

Barbara Babin, Observer to Reunión General de los Amigos en México

