

# Pacific Yearly Meeting American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation Representative Report to Annual Session 2020

**SUMMARY: None**

**REPORT:** Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee 4/2020

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the AFSC Corporation, which was scheduled to occur in Philadelphia, was held instead via Zoom with 92 members of the Corporation in virtual attendance. The customary business, workshops, and socialization that make the weekend special were reduced to focus on the AFSC Corporation meetings. The AFSC staff expertly organized the presentations into two main sections: standard Corporation business and a preview of AFSC's Strategic Plan for 2020-2030.

The treasurer's report, which included highlights from the FY 2019 Audit, was possibly the most important element of Corporation business, and included the following information, which is summarized from Corporation Supporting Paper 20G. The report indicated that AFSC's traditional sources of income have not gone up in the years from 2008 to 2019. Specifically, 1) although contributions have been recovering since 2013, contributions have not yet reached the earlier high of 2008; 2) bequests have been smaller and the overall level of bequest income has not grown; 3) annuity income has recovered and is near the 2008 high, and 4) endowment funds have increased but not to those of 2008. The report concluded "In summary, AFSC is a smaller organization now than it was in 2008 because these four main income streams have not grown and inflation has eaten away at the buying power of the funds." There is one exception to this trend: support from grants has nearly doubled over the last five years. The treasurer concluded with the words that "The long-term result is sobering. After correcting for inflation, AFSC is now at its smallest size since World War II."

An overview of AFSC's upcoming Strategic Plan for 2020-2030 was presented, with the reminder that the final version of the plan would be considered for approval by the AFSC board at its June 2020 meeting. A brief summary of the plan follows, with excerpts taken from the April 2020 printed notes from the Corporation meeting.

**Vision:** A just, peaceful and sustainable world free of violence, inequity, and oppression

**Overarching Organizational Goal:** Recognizing the complex nature of peace, AFSC will by 2030 seek, secure and sustain transformative shifts in systems of power to reduce all forms of violence and advance human dignity and equality.

**Program Goals:** Shared well-being and sustainable peace, just approaches to forced displacement and migration, and an economy that works for people and Earth.

**Organizational Developmental Goals:** Build a financially sustainable AFSC, Engaging Quakers, Amplify program impact and learning, Revitalize relationships with communities and partners, and Build and inclusive cohesive accountable just AFSC.

Special attention was devoted to the second organizational goal of Engaging Quakers. The goal aspires to the following: "Quaker Meetings, institutions, and individuals worldwide connect and more deeply engage with AFSC to leverage our prophetic voice to build a just, moral and peaceful world."

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AFSC notes that we are living in extraordinary times, facing challenges that are not only systemic but also global in reach. It is essential that we harness our collective power to amplify our voice and impact in order to challenge structures of oppression, cultivate the conditions for peace, and promote social justice. Our commitment to radical hope and action will be best realized when we think, strategize, and act in harmony, while growing the community of people who share in Quaker values and resonate with our message.

Shannon Fredioni, PYM Delegate (term concluded 2020) and Nancy Ahlberg Mellor, PYM Delegate