

# Pacific Yearly Meeting Mexico City Monthly Meeting Report to Representative Committee 2021

## **SUMMARY**

Improvement of the Meeting climate and religious education.

Mexico City Monthly Meeting was founded in 1946 and currently has 12 members and about 16 regular attenders from around Mexico, USA, and various countries in Latin America. Our Pastoral Care Committee nurtures the spiritual life of our Meeting with retreats, workshops, worship sharing, and other enriching activities. We are currently in discernment to select a new name for this committee to better reflect our experience. We have other Committees, including Finance, Library, and Meeting Life, and offer a First Day School for the children of the Meeting. Mexico City Monthly Meeting maintains a traditional structuring of Clerks, Recording Clerks, Treasurer, and representatives to Quaker activities in and outside of Mexico. A few months ago, we welcomed a new member with joy and another Clearness Committee is under way.

Our community was born linked to the Christian tradition, but over time it has opened up to other non-Western experiences in search of Truth. For some, the Bible is the main source of inspiration while others draw from different traditions, such as Buddhism or Bahai. Some do not identify with any creed and still others are non-theistic or pantheistic. But what brings our community together is our shared frameworks of *Faith and Practice* and the *Advices and Queries*. Meetings for Worship, Worship Sharing, Threshing sessions, Clearness committees, workshops, study circles, spiritual presentations, and participation in the life of other Quaker communities and Yearly Meetings have undoubtedly been enriching. We are hungry for more learning spaces and as a Meeting we are exploring a virtual "Friend in Residence" program with opportunities for mutual enrichment in various countries! We treasure the solidarity and support of many other Meetings within PacYM. Members of our Meeting also have relationships with Meetings in England and Ireland, and some are involved with sister communities in Latin America.

Our testimonies are expressed according to the condition of each person. However, we all agree on the testimonies of simplicity, community, and caring for the environment. We work through conflict and criticism; we promote peace and awareness of how our actions impact others and we have had a thoughtful process on how to become a radically inclusive Meeting. We know that we can do more to be inclusive of the different cultures in our Meeting with both Mexican and non-Mexican members and attenders. It is also recognized that level of education and the influence of English language may be perceived barriers for some people who feel called to our Religious Society. The COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis in Casa de los Amigos, and the use of Zoom coincide with our desire to bring the Quaker communities of the world closer together and defeat racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism. In the future, our Meeting hopes to explore engaging in more spiritual activities and social action in communities where there was a Quaker presence for decades. Some Friends are interested in the evangelical roots that provided the spiritual basis for many Quaker groups in Latin America, while others find richness in direct experience with Spirit through silence and active prayer. Today, there is a feeling of hope in creating a bridge leading to more equality, inclusion and international understanding.

Submitted by Enrique Esqueda Blas, Mexico City Monthly Meeting Representative to Pacific Yearly Meeting