

Pacific Yearly Meeting Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative Report to Annual Session 2021

Spring Steering Committee Meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)

This is the second occasion that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I attended the gathering via Zoom, previous registration with a suggested payment. Similar to last October, we were about 50 Friends from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The title of the gathering reflected the idea of inclusivity and our current challenges: **“Imagining and Earth for all: spirit into action.”** Mary Jo’s service as presiding clerk was very good: allowing the participants the chance to be heard, to have time to reflect and express their ideas. In the 4 meetings for worship for business there was a good balance between the flow of information, discernment and decision making. In the first one the emphasis was on “Including our Vision, Witness and Aspirations.” The worship sharing sessions provided enriching and rewarding interaction. I enjoy listening to others’ perspectives and deep thoughts and feelings; reminder of the advice of “to know each other in that what is eternal.” One of the queries was: What are the guideposts/signs that show us that we are moving faithfully towards the world we want?

The Standing Committees issued reports and discernments: a) **Spiritual Nurturance** (gives attention to the need that QEW activities be spiritually grounded), it provided inspiring thoughts, and poems, like this one from Aldo Leopold: “When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” b) **Publications** (review of content, publication and distribution of printed materials, including *BeFriending Creation* newsletter, booklets, overseeing social media sites and Website [<https://www.quakerearthcare.org/>]), c) **Finance and Development** (fiscal and accounting policies), d) **Outreach** (encourages participation, communication, and/or financial contributions and to stay in two-way communication with one another), e) **Nominating** (brings forward names for positions).

Shelley Tannenbaum, General Secretary, and Hayley Hathaway, Communications Coordinator, presented their reports. Most of them were shared in “Advance Documents.” The working groups and projects have concrete, ongoing programs but do not necessarily directly support the administrative operations or the spiritual life of QEW: 1. **Sustainability Faith and Action** (assists Friends to discern their concerns, lift up and support leadings, and sustain and nourish witness moving into action). 2. **Mini-grants** (matches grant to support projects that benefit the environment). 3. **No name** (without a clerk or agenda, sitting in silence, seek the larger truths that inform our environmental work). 4. **Population** (impact of population and its growth on the Earth). 5. **United Nations** (environmental justice linked to UN programs and policies). 6. **Friends Committee on National Legislation** (the work of FCNL’s Energy and Environmental program). Mini-grants Working Group prepared a slide show with several photos about projects that received financial support in many parts of the world. This year Mary Coelho, active member of QEW, presented her recent book about nature, physics and spirituality: **The Depth of Our Belonging: Mysticism, Physics and Healing**. Also Hayley Hathaway and Pamela Haines shared the presentation and discussion **“Envision or perish: what we must start imagining the world we want”**, they mentioned that we were called to live up to this time, as people of faith with spiritual stamina, interfaith work is very important, as well as international embracement of the concept of Mother’s Nature. I enjoyed very much attending this gathering of hard working and committed Friends. I also learned about Quaker process in an enriching experience and it is also a source of hope in difficult times.

The PacYM Representative to QEW is Paty Constantino, Mexico City Monthly Meeting.