

Friends United Meeting

Report to North Carolina Fellowship of Friends

Bill Eagles, NCCFF representative to the FUM Board

Kelly Kellum, General Secretary

Spring 2022

FUM adopted the theme, "Cultivating Seeds of New Life," this year to shape its direction and vision. Inspired by the parables of Jesus, it recalls the Kingdom of God, organic and containing the life-force to transform the world with beauty and life.

New Vision for Missions:

FUM works through the newly-appointed Friends Africa Board of Missions to empower African Friends to a mission of being a sending and supporting church. The current effort is to fully fund and support Nicholas and Dorcus Otieno's ministry in Tanzania. Kenyan Friends appear enthused and encouraged in supporting this ministry and the Otieno family.

The Mission Board and Wabash Friends Church (IYM) have recently collaborated in hosting Global Discipleship Training for leaders of Tanzania Yearly Meeting. This model equips and empowers church leaders with discipleship skills and provides micro-loans to establish businesses to release them for ministry.

New Energy for North American Ministries:

FUM conducts a number of important programs and resources in North America, including Stoking the Fire, Unleashing the Power, and Flourishing Friends. Colin Saxton continues his work strengthening relationships among FUM members and providing services and support. The Billy Britt Fund, honoring a long-serving member of FUM's board and former Superintendent of North Carolina Yearly (and a warm friend and important minister to all North Carolina Friends) has been launched to support this work that was close to Billy's heart. (Also, FUM recently received funding to expand our support for Latino congregations.) We pray for and encourage one another, and we capture a glimpse of God's Kingdom at work.

New Ways of Sustaining FUM's Ministries:

FUM has formed a group to consider new ways to fund our ministries. That Sustainability Committee includes Friends from Iowa, Nairobi, Jamaica, and Western yearly meetings and Judy Ritter from North Carolina (FCNC). The Sustainability Committee is exploring multiple business models and ideas. It is a blessing to have business-minded Friends who care deeply about the work of FUM serving on this committee.

New Members:

FUM has historically been an organization of Yearly Meetings, but during the 2021 Triennial Sessions, FUM approved New Pathways to Membership for Smaller Groups. The Executive Board has since received one

request for membership and is in preliminary discussions with a second group. One is in the US and the other in Latin America. Each group has the potential to add life and strengthen the FUM's mission.

New Staff and Leadership:

In January FUM hired Getry Agizah as African Ministeries Programme Coordinator. She will continue to coordinating the work of the Friends Peace Teams, coordinating Girl-Child Education, and overseeing FUM's relationships with Samburu Friends Mission and Turkana Friends Mission. Kate Gunza, our Communications and Events Coordinator, will be traveling more to capturing stories of what God is doing among African Friends. Emones Muhindi, Operations Manager, will oversee the office and represent FUM on the Lugulu Hospital Board. Please pray for Getry, Kate, and Emones as they undertake work previously done by Shawn and Katrina McConaughy who have returned to the US to other work among Friends. Friends are encouraged support their work with donations to the Africa General Fund.

After twenty years of service to FUM, Kim Schull resigned as the Administrative Assistant in Richmond. Earlham School of Religion student and former Nairobi Yearly Meeting General Secretary, Sussie Ndanyi is currently the Office Intern. Her presence, leadership experiences, and support in the office are a timely blessing, as the office is currently understaffed.