

Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas
Report to North Carolina Fellowship of Friends Annual Gathering
Presented by Bill Eagles, Member of the Executive Committee of FWCC Section of the Americas

The Section is still appreciative of the successful meeting held at Haw River State Park in Guilford County, North Carolina. Friends gathered from “Alaska to the Andes” and were welcomed not only by North Carolina Quakers from our Fellowship, but also by Friends from other Yearly Meetings in the state, including Friends Church of North Carolina, NC Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. The Section Meeting demonstrated the fellowship that enables and is enabled by FWCC’s commitment to consultation.

FWCC sponsors World Quaker Day on the first Sunday in October each year. In 2022 the theme was “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs.” Many Friends from around the world chose this occasion to focus worship, programing, and discussions around the common topic. In 2023 the theme is “Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God’s call to cherish creation – and one another.” Ubuntu is a Zulu word meaning that all human beings are interdependent. It may also be translated as “I am because you are” or “we are because you are.” I have come to think of it as our being intertwined with each other and creation.

That theme is shared with the 2024 World Plenary being held in August 2024 and hosted by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting in South Africa. We are entitled and encouraged to be represented both in person and virtually. (I will not be attending.) Information about representation may be obtained from the FWCC section of the Americas website, the world website, or the Section office in Philadelphia.

The interactive map created and maintained by the Section of Friends Meetings/Churches is available at the Section website and covers includes the United States. Its construction continues. As meetings make use of it by linking information, it will become ever more useful to us all.

There is currently a campaign within the Section and beyond to support this work.

Also, the Southeast Region is in the considering stage for activities during 2024. Interested Friends may contact me for information. I have found my FWCC activities to be rewarding, including visiting Iowa and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meetings this year.