

QEW Report

2017 is an ambitious year for Quaker Earthcare Witness.

During the first 100 days of the new presidential administration, QEW joined other faith-based groups in producing multiple actions highlighting climate change. These culminated with the April 29 march in WashingtonDC, with the help of local Friends' Meetings in the DC area.

The publications committee has drafted material for distribution electronically and as trifolds to talk about climate change with deniers (and those in denial). Both Earthcare for Children and Earthcare for Friends curricula are being updated from their 2010 and 2004 editions. These publicaions are in high demand.

A member of the steering committee has been traveling to reach out on QEW 's behalf to students on college campuses in the mid-Atlantic area to work on addressing climate change

QEW's most ambitious project in its history involves co-hosting a side event at the UN in July during the High Level Policy Forum on food sovereignty and access to water as climate change accelerates. The forum is part of the Decade for People of African Descent. Our NGO-level representative to the UN is co-ordinating this major effort, which will boost the visibility of QEW. Donations to meet the \$6500 expenses required for hosting (space rental, food, materials) are still needed. Please mark contributions to QEW for this important effort as "Food Sovereignty."

In the spring meeting in Atlanta, QEW's faithful treasurer for 10 years, a SAYMA Friend from Memphis, reported that QEW remains underfunded, and reserves to meet the budget shortfall are getting thin. He also made a "passionate" appeal for a Friend to come forward to replace him in his duties

Also at the Atlanta meeting, the Sustainability Faith and Outreach Committee re-iterated QEW's support for the Pisac Peru FWCC Minute requesting two concrete actions by meetings and yearly meetings during the 2016-2017 year, and ongoing. The committee also put forward the following minute, which did not find unity:

"QEW affirms the diverse spiritual and theological languages of Friends of diverse Yearly Meetings and is open to publish articles and tri-folds that speak the language of biblical and Christ-centered Friends, as well as non-Christian Friends. We appreciate that Christian language is a gateway for many Friends to access and support the deep spiritual truths of our connectedness with Creation."

A member of the Steering Committee from Celo Meeting has created a tri-fold which attempts to achieve the spirit of this minute, which will be tabled at the FWCC Triennial in Wichita in July under the auspices of Celo Meeting. The QEW publications committee is in discernment over whether it is in accord with the QEW mission statement, and thus could be accepted as a draft tri-fold for QEW.

QEW will continue its long-standing offering of afternoon programs at the FGC Gathering in Niagara, NY. Many Friends thank us for these offerings, along with sponsoring one or two interest groups at the Gathering.

We, the members of and representatives to QEW among SAYMA Friends, invite you to join us in the work challenge and fellowship opportunity with QEW, as we go forward with earthcare in the spirit of planetary and international goodwill during a time of tremendous political challenge in the US.

Respectfully, Bob McGahey, (Celo) SAYMA Representative