



QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS ANNUAL REPORT November 2018 - October 2019

Affirming our essential unity with nature

Above: Friends visit Jim and Kathy Kessler's restored native plant habitat during the Friends General Conference Gathering in Iowa.

OUR WORK THIS YEAR

Quaker Earthcare Witness has grown over the last 32 years out of a deepening sense of spiritual connection with the natural world.

From this has come an urgency to work on the critical issues of our times, including climate and environmental justice. This year we are excited to see that more people are mobilizing around the eco-crises than ever before, both within and beyond the Religious Society of Friends.

With your help, Quaker Earthcare Witness is responding to the growing need for inspiration and support for Friends and Meetings.

QEW is the largest network of Friends working on Earthcare today. We work to inspire spirit-led action toward ecological sustainability and environmental justice. We provide inspiration and resources to Friends throughout North America by distributing information in our newsletter, *BeFriending Creation*, on our website quakerearthcare.org and through social media.

We are dedicated to a spiritual transformation within the Society of Friends with regard to our connection with the natural world. We work toward that transformation by continually seeking the Light in all our endeavors and depending on the testimonies and Friends' process in our work. **Thank you for being on this journey with us!**

QUAKER ACTIVISM & EDUCATION

This summer we sponsored the QEW Earthcare Center at the Friends General Conference annual gathering, including scheduling and hosting presentations every afternoon, showcasing what Friends are doing regarding Earthcare, displaying resources to share, and giving talks. We offered presentations on climate justice, indigenous concerns, eco-spirituality, activism and hope, permaculture, and children's education. We also sponsored a field trip to a restored prairie (thanks to Jim Kessler, QEW Steering Committee member, who planned the trip and restored, along with his wife Kathy, this plot of Iowa prairie).

Our General Secretary, Communications Coordinator, and members of our Steering Committee presented workshops and talks at monthly and yearly meetings including North Pacific Yearly Meeting, Piedmont Friends Fellowship and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), Intermountain Yearly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

We worked across the branches of Friends, including co-leading a series of webinars on earthcare and participating in a panel at Friends World Committee on Consultation Section of the Americas (see article in April-June *Befriending Creation*)

QEW participated in COP24 (see article in Jan-March *Befriending Creation*)

We joined an interfaith planning committee for the youth-led global climate strikes on September 20 and recruited Friends to attend in their local communities.

We filled more requests for educational resources from Yearly and Monthly Meetings.



QEW at our Steering Committee Meeting in April 2019.

PUBLISHED PRINT & MEDIA CONTENT

We produced four print and electronic issues of *Befriending Creation*, a 12-page newsletter designed to promote the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness, stimulate discussion and action, share practical ideas and news of our network's work across the US and Canada, and encourage a sense of community and spiritual connection with all Creation among Friends. Archived copies of *Befriending Creation* can be accessed on our website at quakerearthcare.org/publications.

We produced or contributed to three videos for wide distribution this year. *Quaker Earthcare Witness: A Panorama* (quakerearthcare.org/panorama) is a twenty-minute film inspiring Friends to connect with their love of the planet, their faith, and their work to live in right relationship with the natural world. It features personal testimonies, spectacular photography, and evocative music. The film was generously created by QEW Steering Committee member, Barbara Adams (representative from Baltimore Yearly Meeting).

In collaboration with Friends Journal, we produced a QuakerSpeak video (quakerearthcare.org/quakerspeak) that has been widely distributed in the Quaker world (release date was in November, but the video was produced earlier in the year). The film featured four QEW Friends: Shelley Tanenbaum, Hayley Hathaway, Barbara Adams, and Beverly Ward (Field Secretary for Earthcare, Southeastern Yearly Meeting). They describe their passion for earthcare, the urgency of global climate change and environmental justice, and QEW's work.

Also collaboratively, we produced a video with Friends World Committee on Consultation, featuring public Friends describing their sense of eco-spirituality (quakerearthcare.org/fwccvideo), the changing environment that we are experiencing and their calling, including QEW's General Secretary.

We also wrote a chapter in the book *Friends and Sustainability* released by Friends Association for Higher Education.

We have a new booklet from the Population Working Group on "Limits to the Human Population on Earth" and a new trifold about our mini-grants program. Find them at quakerearthcare.org/pamphlets.

Our website and social media presence are useful resources for sharing material and we continue to see an increase in traffic. Each week, we distribute an inspirational graphic on Facebook and we regularly post articles of interest.



16-year-old Friend Kallan Benson shared about her activism with Fridays for Future and the youth-led climate strikes at QEW's Fall Steering Committee Meeting.

UPLIFTED ECO-JUSTICE & LOCAL ACTIVISM

We lifted up the rising global youth climate movement with support and articles in *Befriending Creation*.

QEW endorsed and helped organize the September 20 Global Climate Strike, published *A Quaker Youth's Journey* (Jan-March), *Southern Appalachian Quaker Youth Respond to Climate* (April-June), *We, the Future Generation* (July-Sept), and *Hey Ho, Fossil Fuels Have Got To Go* (Oct-Dec).

We encouraged activism by distributing widely and publishing *So You're Ready To Take Action Against Climate Change and Building Communities of Action and Finding Peace in Troubled Times* (Jan-March).

We highlighted Indigenous projects on earthcare and environmental justice: *Selfcare Freedom* (Jan-March), *Feeding Us with Love and Local Tradition* (April-June), *Casa Pueblo and We Had Something, Now We Don't* (July-September), *Flows Repeatedly and Farming for Social Change* (Oct-Dec).



Friends Brad Stocker and Teresa Campos attend the Miami Climate Strikes in September 2019.



Shelley Tanenbaum hosts a workshop at Intermountain Yearly Meeting's summer sessions in New Mexico.

FUNDED LOCAL EARTHCARE PROJECTS

Each year, QEW offers mini-grants of up to \$500 dollars to Quaker Meetings/Churches and other Quaker organizations to support hands-on projects that foster earthcare. In this fiscal year, we were honored to support these uplifting and productive activities:

- Camp scholarships at Mountain Friends Camp, CO
- Butterfly garden in Fayetteville, AR
- Trash pickup and education in St. Paul, MN
- Solar panels at Monteverde Friends School
- Solar project at Durham Friends Meetinghouse
- Environmental education at Barclay College, KS
- Solar project in Philadelphia

LINKED SCIENCE & ECO-SPIRITUALITY

We lifted up ecology and environmental literacy, along with our growing sense of spiritual communion with the natural world in numerous articles in *Befriending Creation*, including *Let Nature Teach* (Jan-March), several articles in the April-June and October-December issue, *The Call and Response* and *Our Spiritual Journey Home* (July-September).

SUPPORTED CLIMATE REFUGEES IN THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

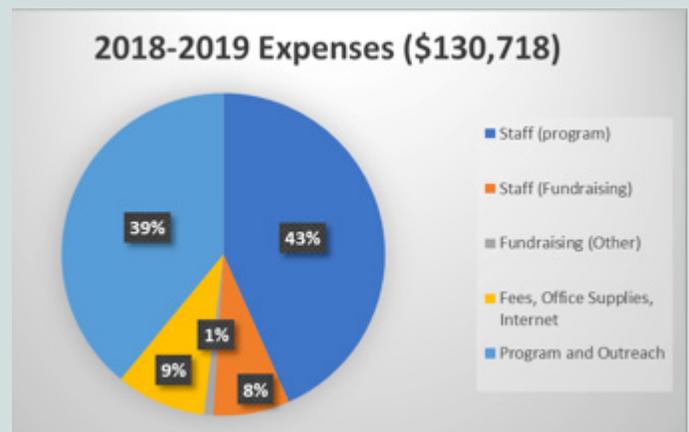
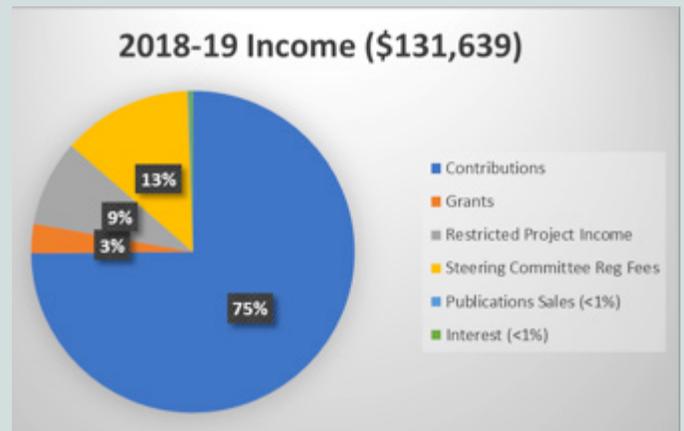
Our United Nations Working Group sponsored events in July 2019 as part of the United Nations High Level Policy Forum in New York City, following on our successful food/water sovereignty side event in 2017 and 2018. Our side event brought together African and African-American members of the climate diaspora. We reported on the event in the July-September issue of *BeFriending Creation: Displaced by Climate Change: Diaspora Communities Share Wisdom*.

FINANCES

This fiscal year, we increased our budget by about 10% to more adequately pay our staff, in accordance with US Department of Labor standards. We were delighted to have been successful in raising our budget.

Most of our expenditures go directly to publication costs (printing, postage, editing), outreach (visits to monthly and yearly meetings, and events), and maintaining our network (steering committee meetings, conference calls, database maintenance). We spend about 10% of our budget on fundraising (15% of staff salaries plus the cost of the annual appeal). Nearly all of our income comes from monthly/yearly meeting donations and individual donations.

Charts below show our expenses and income distribution.





Above: Trees at Pendle Hill where we held our Steering Committee Meeting. Below: General Secretary Shelley Tanenbaum (right) and Communications Coordinator Hayley Hathaway.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Two Steering Committee meetings were held during this time period: at Twin Cities Friends Meetinghouse in St. Paul, MN (where local Friends showed us how to graciously get on with business during a blizzard) and at Pendle Hill near Philadelphia, PA. Our 50-member Steering Committee includes 30 representatives from 20 Yearly Meetings plus 20 at-large members. Most representatives and at-large steering committee members visit their own monthly and yearly meetings on behalf of QEW, distribute our resources, and/or provide workshops and interest groups.

STAFF

We have a General Secretary and a Communications Coordinator (both part-time employees) and a bookkeeper consultant.



STAY IN TOUCH QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

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SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

DONATE ONLINE AT

quakerearthcare.org/donate

or send a check to:

P.O. Box 6787 Albany, CA 94706

LOOKING FORWARD

How do we build a sustainable and life-enhancing future in these challenging times?

This year (2020) we are facing unprecedented environmental threats to our oceans, our food supplies and fresh water and our climate. We are also experiencing a sea-change in public awareness in these concerns.

The potential for a spiritual transformation to embrace a new way of relating to our environment and each other is stronger than ever.

This year, we will reach out to Friends and beyond:

- Broaden our connections and more widely distribute our resources with an updated website
- Expand our reach with an ambitious plan to connect with monthly and yearly meetings. We will be offering workshops and forums that encourage Friends to act boldly, grounded spiritually in care for our Earth
- Produce a quarterly publication, growing the number of people and Meetings/Churches that receive this resource
- Speak out publicly to support Friends actions on Earthcare
- Sponsor an international forum on water in the African diaspora, building on the success of our three previous forums in 2017-2019.

JOIN OUR MOVEMENT

- Share your Earthcare ministry with us.
- Invite QEW to visit your Meeting to talk about what individuals and Meetings can do in these challenging times.
- Share *BeFriending Creation*—display it at your meetinghouse.
- Make sure your yearly meeting has a Representative to QEW.
- Start an Earthcare group at your meeting. Use Quaker Earthcare Witness materials in your First Day school.
- Share our literature, like pamphlets on key environmental issues, with your meeting, and at special events.
- Apply for a Mini-Grant to support a project.
- Donate, and encourage your Meeting to join our network. We have ambitious plans for the year ahead and rely on your donations to do our work.