

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of North American Friends (Quakers) and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.



QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

A Movement Worthy of Our Times

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is a North American Quaker nonprofit that works to embody a growing ministry of earthcare within the Religious Society of Friends. Our network is dedicated to bringing about a spiritual shift in Quakerism and beyond that can tip the scales towards a life-giving future for our species and all others as we stand at the crossroads of facilitating a mass extinction or regeneration of Life in the 21st century.

In 2023, QEW supported earthcare projects from Indonesian preschools to the cloud forests of Veracruz, Mexico, and dozens of other projects through our minigrants program. We co-hosted side events at COP28 in Dubai with the Quaker United Nations Office and held an Earthcare Center at Friends General Conference hosting speakers and workshops and gave talks from Switzerland to Alaska. Throughout the year, we published dozens of articles focused on topics ranging from indigenous land stewardship to campaigns for eco-justice to reworking our local economies for a renewable energy transition. On the ground, we helped organize for the Vanguard Divestment campaign and NY Climate Week, showing up at actions across the country.

As we witness the escalation of warfare the world over, QEW has been called to deepen its engagement and ministry regarding the intersections of Earthcare and Global Peacemaking.



Photo by Kathy Barnhart

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

We strongly believe that there can be no Peace on Earth without Peace with Earth. And conversely, that there can be no Peace with Earth without Peace on Earth. The two are inseparable. We must tame and transmute the flame of human conflict and ecocide if we are to bring about a life-giving future for our species and the Web of Life. Such a transformation will require unprecedented global cooperation and solidarity – and warfare is the antithesis of such unity. We are now, as a species, too powerful to remain in rivalry with ourselves.

To achieve a genuine world beyond war we will need to address the root causes of war – eliciting campaigns for global healing, reconciliation, and transformative justice that redress our deepest wounds and the systems that perpetuate them. Only through this profound change within and amongst ourselves can we become, on net, a regenerative species within the Web of Life.

Rounding out the year, QEW hired Keith Runyan as our new General Secretary as well as Miche McCall as our new Communications Director.

With new vision and new voices, QEW is hoping to become a bolder ally to activist and advocacy efforts with our strategic partners, deepen into our spiritual foundations, and evolve into an organization that is as bold as our times are urgent – a prophetic organization for prophetic times.

HOW WE WORK

QEW works through five domains: supporting Quaker and interfaith campaigns for eco-justice, bolstering the advocacy efforts of partner organizations at the UN and in Washington, sharing our ministry on eco-spiritual matters through talks and workshops across North America, directing funds around the world through our mini-grants program, and publishing pamphlets, curriculum, and our Quarterly newsletter, *Befriending Creation*, to empower, inspire, and inform the Quaker Environmental Movement.



Campaigns

This year we supported:

- GreenFaith's No Faith in Fossil Fuels
 - » We helped organize hundreds of Quakers from across the country to join 75,000 others in the March to End Fossil Fuels last September.
- Banking on the Future with Third Act
 - » We held a workshop to support the Banking on our Future Day of Action.
- The Earth Quaker Action Team Vanguard Campaign
 - » We worked to keep our network connected to EQAT's work through BeFriending Creation.



Advocacy

Our United Nations Working Group helped hold a forum to hear from five climate activists/advocates/policy analysts about their experience at COP27.

QEW observers included Peniel Ibe (AFSC) and Wes Gobar (Yale University), Frank Granshaw (QEW and Portland State University), and Clarence Edwards (FCNL). Lindsey Cook (QUNO) attended in person under the auspices of the FWCC.

During COP27, the Parties established a necessary Loss and Damage Fund. This fund will support the countries that have done the least to create the climate problem yet are most vulnerable and impacted by the effects of climate change.



Worship Outside Vanguard Headquarters photo by Ryan Leitner

Our Friends Committee on National Legislation Working Group promoted the following: Our Friends Committee on National Legislation Working Group promoted:

- » A focus on a just transition in the \$1.5 trillion omnibus Farm Bill that determines how food is grown, what food is grown, and who can afford it.

- » The reintroduction of the Fossil Free Finance Act, a bill that requires all banks holding more than \$50 billion in assets to cut their financing of greenhouse gas pollution by 50% by 2030 and stop all funding of fossil fuels by 2050.

Publications and Communications

We produced four print and electronic issues of Befriending Creation, our 12-page newsletter designed to share news about QEW and highlight the work our network and Friends worldwide are doing to promote Earthcare in their communities.

We 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

BY THE NUMBERS

17,000+ views on social media
7,300+ copies of our newsletter
40 in-person and online events



Ministry

Ecological Grief Resources

Hayley Hathaway and Gayle Matson held a 14-person, 10-week peer-to-peer ecological grief support group. The group helped Friends lean into complex emotions, build resilience, strengthen community bonds, and open hearts to new ideas that help us transform heavy emotions into meaningful actions.

Faithfulness Groups

Mary Ann Percy and Marcelle Martin held a two-part workshop on an Introduction to Faithfulness Groups for Those Called to Earthcare. This sprouted a faithfulness group of four people that meets once per month to listen inwardly and speak openly about the ways we are called to nurture spirit-led lives.

Book Group

A four-session book group on Quaker ecotheologian Cherice Bock's book, A Quaker Ecology: Meditations on the Future of Friends, was created after a QEW workshop attended by 93 Friends.

Online Worship Sharing

We host monthly worship sharing sessions to build community and deepen faith.

QEW Presents!

We connect speakers to monthly and yearly meetings to offer talks on a wide variety of Earthcare concerns.

Monthly Online Events

Talks included:

- » Financial and Economic Roots of the Climate Emergency with Pamela Haines
- » Living in Right Relationship with the Living World with Mary Ann Percy
- » Fifty Acres and a Fool: The Ploughshares Farm Story with Brent Bill

FGC Earthcare Center

We bring Friends together at our Earthcare Center each Gathering with Friends General Conference. The Center serves as a hub for those interested in learning about spirit-led environmental action, living in right relationship with our planet, the histories of Quaker relationships with Indigenous peoples, and seeking community and support in their Earthcare.

Programming included:

- » AK Friends Conference Seeking Right Relationship with Indigenous People: Apology and Beyond with Jan Bronson and Cathy Walling
- » A Virtual Climate Conference with Frank Granshaw
- » Innovative Technology with Paul Klinkman
- » Right Relationship with the Living World with Mary Ann Percy

- » Environmental Justice in a Rapidly Changing World with Shelley Tanenbaum
- » Creation Vigil with Sister Confianza del Señor
- » Divesting from Fossil Fuels with Eileen Flanagan
- » Reflections on Quaker Relations with Indigenous Peoples Past and Present with Charley Basham and Margerite Dingman



Our Practice: Steering Committee, Governance, and Staff

We are a volunteer-led organization guided by a 50-person steering committee. We use Quaker process and decision-making to guide our work. Our steering committee includes 30 nominated representatives from Quaker Yearly Meetings and about 20 at-large members, with Friends from California to Nova Scotia. Members serve on QEW committees, visit their yearly meetings on behalf of QEW, distribute our resources, provide workshops, write for our newsletter, and lead Earthcare efforts in their communities.

Each year, we gather for two steering committee meetings. The theme of our spring online meeting was "Gratitude in Our Witness." Our plenaries included a talk about student environmentalism and sustainability with Elson Bankoff, founder and editor-in-chief of Ecosystemic Magazine, a youth-run environmental action journal. We also participated in a "How to Love your Mother...Earth" performance with Living Mirror Playback Theatre in Tampa, Florida.

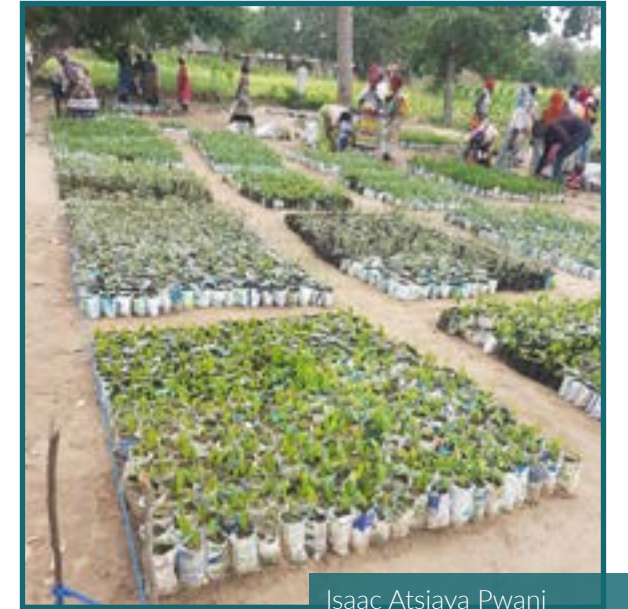


And in the fall, we gathered in person for the first time in three years at Pendle Hill. The theme of this meeting was "See How They Love One Another." Highlights of this meeting were the introduction of our new General Secretary, Keith Runyan, and our farewell party in honor of our outgoing General Secretary, Shelley Tanenbaum.

We thanked Brad Stocker for his service as our clerk. Along with our continuing clerk, Beverly Ward of Southeastern Yearly Meeting, we welcomed two new clerks: Suellen Lowry of Pacific Yearly Meeting, and Elaine Emmi of Indiana Yearly Meeting.

Our QEW Mini-Grants Program

Each year, QEW offers mini-grants to Quaker meetings, churches, and other Quaker organizations to support hands-on projects that foster Earthcare. This year, we made a special call for donations to do larger grants of up to \$1500. We were delighted to receive \$11,250 for dispersal – more than our mini-grants program has ever received. This year, 0% of funds donated went to overhead – we dispersed all money donated directly to grant recipients. In the future, fundraising campaigns for mini-grants will transparently allocate 15% to overhead to maintain the financial solvency of QEW, given the requisite staff time and energy required to run the mini-grants program. In this fiscal year, we were honored to:



Isaac Atsiaya Pwani
Community Tree Nursery

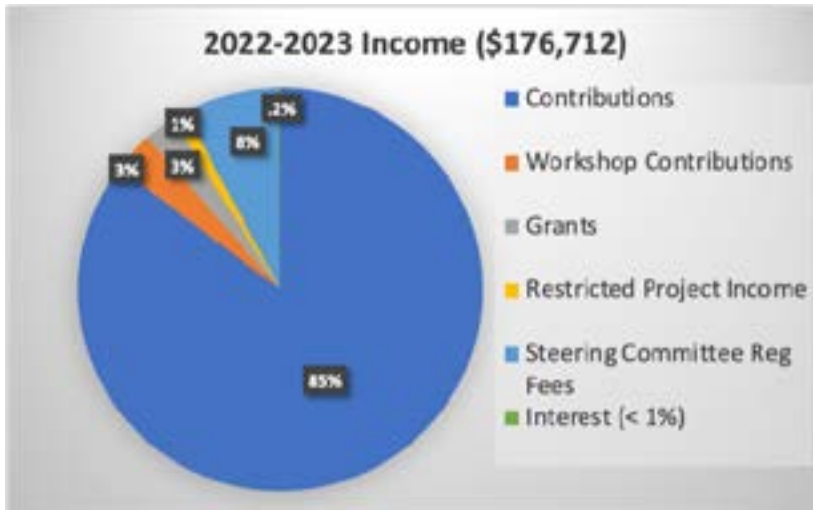
Support the conservation and restoration of a cloud forest and four reforestation workshops in Huatusco, Veracruz, Mexico	\$1500
Fund the production of Joglo Preschool's Classroom Culture Curriculum: Regenerative Cultures of Justice and Peace, integrating alternatives to violence and permaculture approaches to Earthcare.	\$1500
Support two young women at the Monteverde, Costa Rica, Friends School to complete environmental science internships	\$1500
Sponsor the purchase of seeds, equipment, and support climate change education for a growing Quaker Tree Nursery in Kwibuka Yearly Meeting of Friends, Burundi	\$1500
Complete the planned transition to a carbon-neutral meeting house through the purchase of a solar-powered geothermal heat pump at Concord Monthly Meeting in New Hampshire	\$1500
Support a 3-day Climate Justice training event at Guilford College to promote Earthcare dialogue and its intersection with Quaker testimonies	\$500
Help Berkeley Friends Church sponsor the Isaac Atsiaya Pwani Community Tree Nursery in eastern Kenya to build community climate preparedness	\$750
Support Ubugeni Bwomora: Art that Heals programs that use art as a medium to engage and empower youth living with HIV in rural Rwanda	\$500
Build the Youth Impacts Development and Environment Change (YIDEC), a network of climate-conscious youth in Kigali, Rwanda	\$1500
Establish a tree nursery for environmentally beneficial edible plants with the Friends Church Kyenjojo in Uganda	\$500

STAFF TRANSITION

This year, QEW stepped into a complete staff transition with the planned retirement of General Secretary, Shelley Tanenbaum. In the early spring, staff members Hayley Hathaway and Emily Carroll also decided to move on to new work. QEW is deeply grateful for the contributions of these individuals to our work and wishes them the best in retirement and their future ventures. With Shelley planning to retire and the two younger staff members stepping down, our personnel committee had a great deal of work to do hiring our new staff team. QEW hired Miche McCall as our new Communications and Outreach Coordinator in the late Spring and Keith Runyan as our new General Secretary in the Fall. Both are excited to bring a bold and inspiring vision to QEW, expand our activist and advocacy work as allies to frontline activists, and diversify and internationalize our network - bringing in the voices of the next generation.



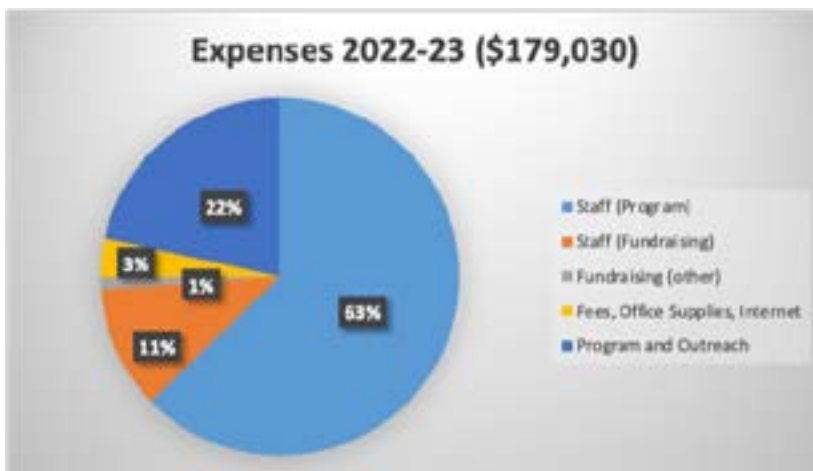
Finance & Development



QEW has a small annual budget—\$180,000—to fund our work on Campaigns, Advocacy, Ministry, Mini-grants, and Publications in North America and Internationally. This fiscal year (November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023) we responsibly increased our budget to keep up with inflation and pay for overlap time during our staff transition. We were delighted to have been successful in our fundraising efforts.

In addition to staff time, most of our expenditures go 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 11% of our budget on fundraising (15 percent of staff salaries plus the cost of the annual appeal).

Nearly all of our income comes from monthly/yearly meeting donations and individual donations. Due to the pandemic, most of our travel was converted to video conferences, including our our Spring Steering Committee meeting, keeping travel expenses.



What's Next? Looking Forward in 2024

We envision a new way of relating to our environment and each other based on mutuality, care, and reverence. This vision is being shared more and more in the Society of Friends and the world. Grounded spiritually in our care for the Earth, we can face unprecedented planetary threats. In 2024, we are working to:

- » Support **Spiritual Ecojustice Campaigns** by bolstering engagement with activist actions in the **EQAT Vanguard Campaign**, **GreenFaith**, and **NY Climate Week**.
- » Support the earthcare advocacy efforts of **FCNL** and **QUNO** as an **organizational advocacy partner** at COP28 and in Washington.
- » **Spread our Ministry** on Earthcare and spiritual response to our Planetary Crisis through events, speakers, and our new **QEW Podcast**.
- » **Publications to empower** and push forward the global conversation in the Quaker Environmental Movement through pamphlets and our Quarterly Newsletter, **Befriending Creation**
- » Expand our **mini-grants focused on climate justice** and allyship with our partners in the global south to build climate resilience and empower the global Quaker environmental movement.
- » **Spiritual grounding** through worship sharing and workshops focused on eco-grief and empowerment.
- » Kickstart **QEW on the Road**, traveling from Quarterly, Monthly, and Yearly Meetings across North America, Friends General Conference, and FWCC in South Africa this summer, bringing QEW's message to the World Plenary.

Join Us

Sign up for an online event at QuakerEarthcare.org.

Invite QEW to offer a workshop for your community.

Share *BeFriending Creation*.

Apply for a Mini-Grant for an Earthcare project.

Volunteer as a contact for your monthly meeting or church.

Make sure your yearly meeting has a representative to QEW.

Start an Earthcare group.

Use Quaker Earthcare Witness materials in your First Day school.

Support QEW by making a tax-deductible contribution. Give at: Quakerearthcare.org/donate or send a check to the address below.

1968 S Coast Hwy #1040
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Info@QuakerEarthcare.org
Social Media: @QuakerEarthcare

Thank you to all our supporters!

QEW relies on our network members, volunteers, and donors.

You have helped to make these projects come to fruition—thank you!

This report describes our activities for the fiscal year, November 2022 - October 2023.

Faithfully submitted by:
Keith Runyan, General Secretary
Miche McCall, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

