

*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 Quaker Vision for the Decade Ahead

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 2024, QEW launched the QuakerEarth Campaign - a 10-year plan to address the pressing need in this decade for Quakers to rise to the challenge and develop a Quaker Environmental Movement worthy of our times. We launched QEW on the Road - galvanizing and uniting Friends from South Africa to Europe, the US to Canada. We supported efforts in the Never Vanguard Campaign - taking part in a 200+ person march on the largest funder of fossil fuels in the world and the broader Summer of Heat protests pushing banks towards fossil fuel divestment. We hosted side events for UN Climate Negotiations in Baku, Azerbaijan, the High Level Political Forum, and other events on the international stage - bringing a Quaker Voice. We got our hands dirty, supporting rainwater harvesting to ecological restoration and community health from Kenya to New England.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

This year, the Earth spoke in no uncertain terms—through record heat, melting ice, and floods that washed away the illusion of control. And yet, amid the tumult, something older and quieter is rising: a wisdom as old as the hills. In the pulse of coral reefs, the unfurling of leaves, and the turning of seasons, Life is offering us instruction—if we will humble ourselves enough to listen. Around the world, unprecedented action is finally stirring. Humanity is beginning to remember what Earth has always known: that to survive, we must move in rhythm with Life, not against it. QEW is committed to helping Friends align with this deeper wisdom—and rise in sacred partnership with a living planet.

We live in a dire moment - but the Light shines brightest in the dark. As we enter 2025, we ask that Friends not seek so much to “have hope” but to become hope. QEW aims to lead this charge as it lays the groundwork for the first-ever global map of Quaker Environmental Action, seeks to protect US Climate Legislation, and empowers monthly meetings and Quaker organizations to become centers of resilience, spirituality, and action.

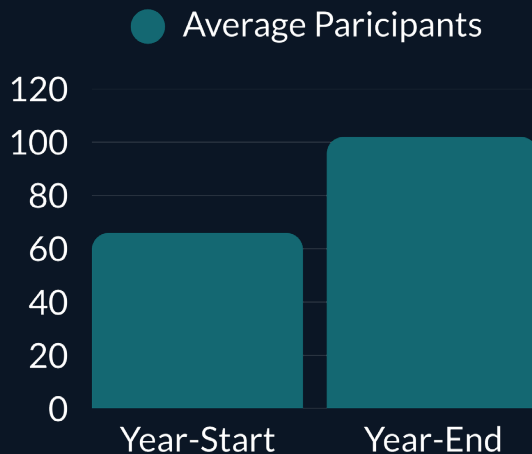
With new vision and new voices, QEW is hoping to become a bolder ally to activist and advocacy efforts with our strategic partners, deepen into our spiritual foundations, and evolve into an organization that is as bold as our times are urgent – a prophetic organization for prophetic times.

## 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.

# Events

The past year marked a period of significant growth for our community, with the average number of attendees growing from approximately 65 to over 100 per event by the close of the year. This expansion in our collaborative witness was supported by monthly events, worship sharing sessions, book groups, and powerful keynote presentations at our gatherings.



QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

## PEACEMAKING & EARTHCARE

with Joyce Ajlouny & Lindsey Fielder Cook



REGISTER AT  
[QUAKEREARTHCARE.ORG/EVENT/PEACEMAKING](https://QUAKEREARTHCARE.ORG/EVENT/PEACEMAKING)



**JULY 20**

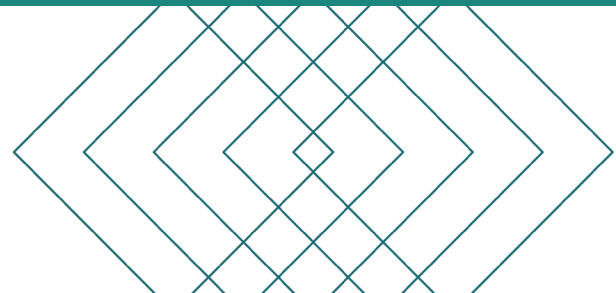
**11AM ET  
 8AM PT  
 5PM CEST**



***“How do I be effective in service to what I love?”***

QEW offered a keynote address with Daniel Schmachtenberger, discussing the crisis we face, the importance of uniting spirit and strategy, and this moment as a rite of passage for us all. The recording of this keynote has nearly 30,000 hits on YouTube, the largest viewership for any QEW media to date.

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QEW gathered in the deserts of Albuquerque, New Mexico last fall with indigenous activist, singer, and speaker Dr. Lyla June Johnston as we together envisioned a new story for humanity and the Earth.

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# Activism & Advocacy

## » Vanguard S.O.S

On July 3rd, QEW joined Earth Quaker Action Team in an action of over 200 Friends at the headquarters of Vanguard to demand that the company, which is the world's largest investor in coal, oil, and gas, take meaningful action on climate change.

## » Summer of Heat on Wall Street

Amidst record-breaking heat, The Summer of Heat and called on CitiBank to phase out fossil fuel financing and scale up renewable energy investments. QEW joined Faith Week (July 28th to August 3rd) which saw courageous acts of witness, including the arrest of twenty-three clergy and faith activists at CitiBank headquarters.

## » The Quaker Call to Action

QEW worked to help our network seek out relationships, understanding, and credible news sources during the 2024 election year through BeFriending Creation, email announcements, and a workshop at our Spring Gathering.



Summer of Heat Affinity Group  
at Vanguard Headquarters  
Photo by Ray Bailey

## Publications

This year, saw the creation of three issues of Be-friending Creation, an audio-described version by Brad Stocker of our Introduction to Quaker Earthcare Witness one-pager (making them more accessible), and a set of pamphlets designed to help our community spread QEW's message within their yearly meetings.



Audio for Introduction to QEW

Quaker Earthcare Witness



Bringing Friends Together to  
Care for Earth & Each Other

We are all connected. We need each other to face the overwhelming realities of the climate crisis and to act on these concerns with love, faith, and reverence. Join us in being part of a dynamic, powerful community of Friends taking Spirit-led action to care for the planet and all living things.

## BY THE NUMBERS



Impressions

40,000+



Event Attendees

900+



Followers

2,000+

# Mini-Grants

QEW's mini-grants encourage Quaker witness through practice: recipients match funds when possible and share photos & reports, seeding ideas across our network. Applications are reviewed twice yearly by the Mini-Grant Working Group; who awards small, hands-on grants—up to US \$1500—to Quaker meetings, churches, schools, and partner groups whose projects couple ecological benefit with community empowerment. This year, 10 grants totaling US \$9,250 catalysed climate-positive action from Michigan to Kenya.

Detroit Friends Meeting (Michigan)	Replace failing furnace with energy efficient heat pumps
Plymouth Friends Meeting (Pennsylvania)	Restore school garden, repair broken composter, install rain barrel
Columbia Friends Meeting (South Carolina)	Create community garden space on meeting property to share with neighborhood
Mahanga Friends Church (Kenya)	Restore historic Quaker cemetery, forest management, trails, bee-keeping
Community Pathways Africa (Kenya)	Install gutters and rainwater tanks to harvest rainwater and prevent water damage
West Falmouth Friends (Massachusetts)	Pilot ways to help needy community members grow their own food with regenerative gardening techniques
Berkeley Friends Church → Isaac Atsiaya Pwami Community Tree Nursery (Kenya)	Support community tree nursery in drought-affected, predominantly Muslim area of eastern Kenya
Friends Peace Teams — African Great Lakes Region Initiative (Rwanda)	Art projects linking AIDS survivors to Earthcare
Youth Impacts/FPT — African Great Lakes (Rwanda)	Workshops to build a youth network for Earthcare
Friends Church Kyenjojo-Quakers (Uganda)	Establish nursery for fruit trees & edible plants

## Program Highlights

- » Carbon-free heating in Detroit will cut operating costs and emissions while supporting minority-owned contractors.
- » Garden restorations in Pennsylvania & South Carolina reconnect children and neighbours to sustainable food-growing skills, with produce already donated to local pantries.
- » Eco-heritage & livelihood in Kenya: cemetery restoration honors Quaker history and upkeep is funded through honey sales. Harvested rainwater now irrigates crops and reduces erosion.

## Clerks and Staff of QEW



Above, left to right are our clerks, Elaine Emmi, Beverly G. Ward, and Suellen Lowry.  
To the side are our staff, Sweet Miche and Keith Runyan.



From May to October, Keith Runyan, his partner, Nora Lisette Cooke, as well as their newborn son, Juniper James Lisette, began a traveling ministry – on behalf of QEW - to Yearly and Monthly Meetings across North America and internationally to inspire bold spirit-led environmental action in our times.

Keith joined the FWCC World Plenary in South Africa as part of the thematic stream on Creation Care – alongside Living the Spirit of Ubuntu and Healing Historical Injustice. Keith gave a talk, attended by hundreds of Friends online and another in person, which was influential on the end epistle of the World Plenary – which took up much of the vision and framings centered in QEW on the Road. An interview with Keith is to be featured in the upcoming FWCC 2024 World Plenary Documentary to be published in 2025.

# QEW on the Road



At the Friends General Conference Gathering, we brought Friends together at our Earthcare Center. Over the week, we hosted eleven events on diverse subjects, from ecospirituality, to Quaker economics, to the story of Alaskan Friends' journey towards Indigenous reparations and repair. With speakers like George Lakey, Cherice Bock, and other Quaker luminaries, the space was rich with insight and inspiration.



COP29 Side event

## What really makes us safe?

Peace, climate finance and climate action in an existential time

This interactive workshop will involve the audience on peaceful, healthy, sustainable and just climate finance and action to avert existential rates of global warming.

### Speakers



Andrew Okem  
IPCC AR7 Working Group II Science



Deborah Burton  
Tipping Point North South Military Spending & Emissions



Harriet Mackaill-Hill  
International Alert Climate Finance in Conflict Zones



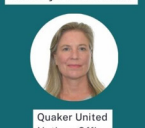
Duncan McLaren  
UCLA School of Law Techno-fixes & Just Transitions



Lucy Plummer  
Soka Gakkai International Faith & Youth



Shirine Jurdi  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Climate Finance



Lindsey Fielder Cook  
Quaker United Nations Office  
**Moderator**

**16 Nov**

**18:30-20:00**

**Side Event Room 6**

## United Nations Climate Negotiations

QEW co-hosted three United Nations Side Events: one in-person event at SB60 in Germany, an event online with the Forum on Sustainable Development, and a final in-person event at COP29 in Azerbaijan. We collaborated with Quaker United Nations Office and other allies to put on programs focused on the intersections of Earthcare, Justice, and Peacemaking.

While climate negotiations face significant headwinds in our current political climate, progress is being made as nations agree to new treaties on loss & damage and climate justice. Our interfaith allies remain a beacon of hope and conscience in the tumult of our world.

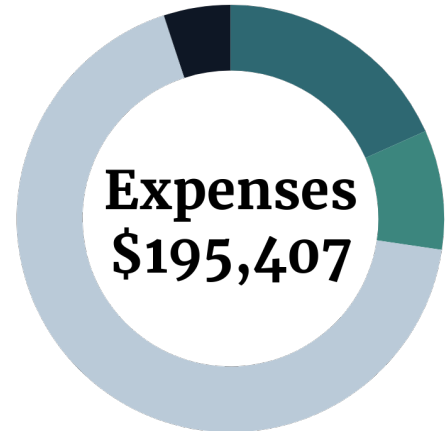
# Financials

QEW continued to strengthen our witness for Earthcare through an active year of outreach, publications, and grants. Our largest investment remained in staffing, which provided the backbone for a full calendar of programs - most notably the launch of QEW on the Road, with visits to Friends meetings, gatherings, and conferences across North America and beyond. We brought Quaker Earthcare presence to FWCC's World Plenary, the Friends General Conference Gathering's Earthcare Center, and three separate United Nations climate events. Befriending Creation, our quarterly newsletter, continued to share Friends' stories of faithful Earthcare, while our Mini-Grant program supported grassroots environmental projects among Friends and their communities.

This work was made possible through the generous support of Friends, foundations, and registration fees. Contributions and grants totaled \$184,936, modestly below budget, while expenses came to \$195,407, also under budget,



- Donations (81.2%)
- Workshop Contributions (3.2%)
- Grants (1.4%)
- Restricted Donations (4.6%)
- Gathering Fees (9.2%)
- Interest (0.4%)



- Admin (18.3%)
- Development (9.1%)
- Program (67.6%)
- Special Programs (5%)

resulting in a expected deficit of \$12,031 to enable program expansion. Outreach and program activities - particularly visitations, publications, and special projects - accounted for a substantial share of spending, reflecting our commitment to direct ministry and capacity building. We closed the year with healthy reserves of \$90,599 in cash and investments, including \$3,466 in temporarily restricted funds for designated purposes, positioning QEW to carry this momentum forward into the coming year.

## 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 2023 - October 2024.

Faithfully submitted by:

Keith Runyan, General Secretary

Sweet Miche, Communications and Outreach Coordinator

