



QUAKER  
EARTH CARE  
WITNESS



ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025



# WHO WE ARE



## QUAKER ACTION IN CHALLENGING TIMES

**At Quaker Earthcare Witness, we feel called to act with the boldness and moral clarity that these urgent times demand.** We believe humanity is crossing a threshold – spiritually, ecologically, and morally – and that the choices made in the years ahead will shape the fate of generations. In the face of ecological breakdown, deep inequality, and rising violence, we hear a clear leading to help guide the human family toward a future rooted in humility, courage, justice, and kinship with all life. Our work is not only to envision such a world but to actively campaign for it – to live as patterns and examples of a new way of being, grounded in reverence for life and a devotion to truth, love, and the sacred. We believe that the transformation the world needs is profound but possible, and that the human family can grow into its responsibilities with grace when guided by conscience, compassion, and a shared commitment to the common good.

In 2025 QEW doubled its team with the addition of the Operations & Engagement Coordinator and the QuakerEarth Organizing Fellow. As our team expands, so has our work.

This year we launched the Quaker Youth UN Ambassadors Program, sending a diverse cohort of 16 young Friends to virtually attend the COP30 negotiations. Keith Runyan, General Secretary, attended in-person and hosted the side event “Ethics and Faith Transforming Community, National, and Global Climate Action” in partnership with Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), Quakers in Britain, Brahma Kumaris, and Soka Gakkai Buddhists.

QEW published the QuakerEarth Action Map, representing the work and witness of Quakers across the world. Through the efforts of Jonny Costello, QuakerEarth Organizing Fellow, we have added 57 Meetings, and counting, to the map.

We closed out the year celebrating the award of a Shoemaker Grant to further fund our QuakerEarth Campaign, and collaborate with Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) to support and nurture a new era of young climate activists through trainings, spiritual guidance, and empowerment.

*Photo above was taken by Tom Cameron, Co-Clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness*

**Staff, above, from Left to Right:**  
*Jonny Costello, QuakerEarth Organizing Fellow*  
*Sweet Miche, Communications & Outreach Coordinator*  
*Keith Runyan, General Secretary*  
*Sofia Di Pietro, Operations & Engagement Coordinator*

**Clerks, below, from Left to Right:**  
*Suellen Lowry, Co-Clerk*  
*Elaine Emmi, Co-Clerk*  
*Tom Cameron, Co-Clerk*  
*Ranae Hanson, Recording Clerk*





# CAMPAIGNS

# EVENTS

## Protect Our Earth | Save the IRA

When Congressional negotiations threatened to gut the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in early 2025, QEW launched a campaign to protect critical clean-energy provisions. Guided by a values-driven strategy, the campaign:

- » Targeted key districts – Volunteers used a spreadsheet linking IRA projects to congressional districts to identify lawmakers whose constituents benefited most from the law. More than 20 district leads coordinated outreach to their representatives.
- » Hosted monthly Action Hours – Dozens of Friends gathered on Zoom to receive spiritual grounding, learn about the stakes, and call or email their members of Congress. These sessions produced 354 phone calls and 1,106 emails to lawmakers; an additional 238 calls followed one-on-one outreach.
- » Engaged meetings nationwide – The team reached 371 Quaker meetings through letter-writing campaigns and presentations. Friends across traditions—including unprogrammed meetings, Friends of African descent, evangelical Friends, and others—took part, reflecting broad unity on the urgency of climate legislation.
- » Partnered strategically – QEW collaborated closely with Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and other faith-based groups to coordinate messaging and lobby visits. A delegation traveled to Washington, D.C., while others met with district offices in states such as New Jersey and North Carolina.

- » Won tangible results – The campaign helped ensure that tax credit transferability remained intact and prevented the imposition of a 60-day construction “cliff,” preserving billions of dollars for clean energy. While lawmakers made other cuts beyond our influence, these victories will accelerate renewable energy deployment and job creation.

Beyond the numbers, volunteers reported that the campaign taught them to frame climate action in terms that resonated with their neighbors, to ground activism in prayer and song, and to value data-driven strategies. As one reflected, “our community learned that we have a role as people of faith to build political power and that strategic analysis can make a difference.”



QEW Action Call  
Protect our Earth | Save the IRA

## SUPPORTED ACTIONS & TRAININGS

QEW supported or hosted over 15 additional programs to equip Friends for faithful action, including:

### The Road Ahead: Becoming Hope in the Trump Era

General Secretary Keith Runyan offered a conversation exploring how Friends might step into moral and spiritual leadership during turbulent times. The session introduced the emerging QuakerEarth Campaign and invited participants to imagine how to unify Quaker climate action.

### Health, Relinquishment, and Planetary Care

We explored the question “what is the most important thing for each of us to do with the time we have?” with award-winning author Ranae Hanson. We reflected on the profound connections between personal well-being and planetary health, guided by stories and insights from Hanson’s book *Watershed: Attending to Body and Earth in Distress*.

### Rising Together: Resilience & Action for Trying Times

Daniel Hunter shared tools for responding strategically to systemic inequities, building trust and resilience within our communities, and organizing powerfully in uncertain times..

### What Can My State Do? A Quaker Panel on State-Level Earthcare Advocacy

QEW convened a virtual roundtable with Quaker leaders from across the United States. The stories and collective wisdom of our panel illustrated how localized advocacy can empower us to resist corporate power and support transformative policies.

### Sound Sanctuary: Finding Stillness, Hearing Earth

At the Young Adult and Youth (YAY) Gathering, an event by Friends General Conference for children, youth, and young adults, Sweet Michele hosted a workshop with guided listening, mindful practice, and creative sound projects to help us rediscover the quiet spaces within and around us and learn how listening can transform our relationship with our planet.



Daniel Hunter



Participants in our YAY workshop showcase their visual soundscapes made from natural sounds

# GATHERINGS

In the spring, **From Faith to Regeneration** invited Friends to deepen our faith through an Earthcare centered community and to inspire our collective ability to build a regenerative Quakerism. We welcomed **Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel (left)**, Director of Programs for the All-Africa Conference of Churches and **Dr. Daniel Christian Wahl (right)**, author of *Designing Regenerative Cultures*, as our keynote speakers.



In the fall, **Common Ground: One Community, One Earth** gathered Friends to recommit to the shared ground beneath our many differences and our collective responsibility to the Earth we all call home.



Our keynote speakers **Geoffrey Garver (left)**, author of *Ecological Law and the Planetary Crisis*; **Eileen Flanagan (center)**, author of *Common Ground: How the Crisis of the Earth is Saving Us from Our Illusion of Separation*; and **Bill McKibben (right)**, founder of Third Act, spoke to the moral, political, and ecological stakes of this moment, and to the things that connect us and our responsibility to each other and the planet.

During our Fall Gathering, Friends traveled from Powell House to Albany, New York, to join the **No Kings** demonstration to stand as a public witness against the authoritarian systems that fuel planetary destruction. **We were reminded that when we stand firmly on the common ground of love and justice, we can rise to meet the extraordinary challenges of our time.**



# Mini-Grants

QEW's Mini-Grants Program continued to anchor our work in lived, community-based Earthcare. Over the past year, grants supported a diverse set of projects across North America and East Africa, reflecting both ecological need and emerging leadership within the Quaker community. These included renewable energy installations, youth-led climate education, tree nurseries, school gardens, and community-based climate communication.

This year's projects highlight a growing shift from isolated acts of support toward a more interconnected and locally led movement of Earthcare. In East Africa especially, the Mini-Grants Program is revealing a depth of leadership, initiative, and spiritual grounding that is reshaping how QEW understands our role.

## Mini-Grant Highlights:

- » Solar installations at Quaker meetings and community centers, advancing clean energy access
- » Youth-led climate education and climate-smart agriculture training in Rwanda
- » Tree nurseries and reforestation efforts in Kenya and Uganda
- » School-based gardening and nutrition programs strengthening food security
- » Community radio initiatives translating climate science into local knowledge
- » Ongoing development of community-based environmental leadership across East Africa

# QuakerEarth Action Map



This year, QEW intensified outreach to populate the Quaker Earth Action Map, a global database of Quaker environmental projects. Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow, Jonny Costello, made 108 calls to meetings and discovered that many Friends practice sustainability without labeling it as Earthcare. For example, meetings worship in unheated buildings, avoid paved parking lots, divest from fossil fuels and cultivate personal gardens. Costello encourages Friends to recognize and share these “unintentional Earthcare” efforts so that the map reflects the full breadth of our witness.

## QEW Launches Africa Working Group

This year, we took an important step toward our future by approving the formation of a QEW Africa Working Group. This group signals a more global, interconnected, and locally rooted Quaker Earthcare movement.

What is emerging is more than an expansion of QEW's work; it is the beginning of a new center of gravity for Earthcare within the Quaker world. In Kaimosi, Kenya, Friends are envisioning a hub for Earthcare education, training, and community life. The East Africa Yearly Meeting contributed land for this project, which is shaped by African leadership and grounded in local realities.



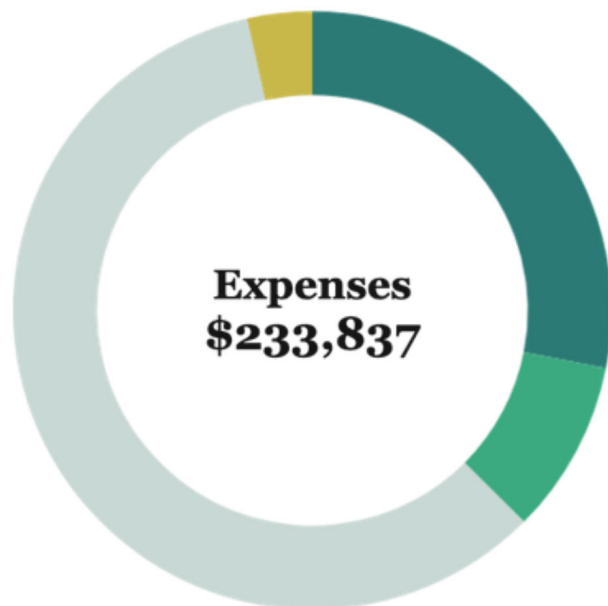
With the support of the QEW Mini-Grants Program, Handidi Junior School has transformed its grounds into the Handidi Green Patch.

# FINANCIALS

- Unrestricted Donations (82.7%)
- Restricted Donations (7.8%)
- Gathering Fees (9.2%)
- Interest (0.3%)



- Admin (28.1%)
- Development (9.4%)
- Program (59%)
- Special Program (3.5%)



## Income

QEW's finances remain healthy thanks to the generosity of individuals and meetings. Total income for the fiscal year was \$263,553, exceeding our budgeted projection of \$217,250 by 21 %. The majority of income (\$212,189) came from individual contributions (119 % of budget). Workshop contributions brought in \$7,052, Steering Committee registration fees accounted for \$23,564, and our mini-grant fundraising and other restricted project income added \$19,954. Interest and publication sales provided modest additional revenue.

## Expenses

Total expenses were \$233,837, about 3.5 % above the budget of \$226,026. Personnel costs—including salaries, healthcare and payroll taxes—totaled \$141,651, about 92 % of the amount budgeted. Other significant expenses included general administration (\$32,267) for accounting, equipment, fundraising and postage; education and communications (\$25,525) for printing, website maintenance and project support; and outreach and program costs (\$34,394) for Steering Committee meetings, travel and mini-grants. Our website overhaul cost more than budgeted, reflecting the importance of digital infrastructure. We also invested in further travel and outreach to support campaign work.

## Net Income and Reserves

After accounting for expenses, net ordinary income amounted to \$29,717. After recognizing unrealized investment gains (\$1,512) and vacation accruals (\$3,288), the organization closed the fiscal year with net income of \$27,941. QEW ended the fiscal year with total assets of \$125,703 and total equity of \$93,005, including \$17,203 in temporarily restricted funds for Mini-Grants, population projects, and the UN Working Group. The organization also ended the year with \$27,941 in net income and no long-term debt. The completion of repayment on a \$20,000 interest-free loan reduced long-term liabilities to zero. These reserves position QEW to weather economic uncertainties and invest in the emerging QuakerEarth Campaign.

# QUAKEREARTH CAMPAIGN

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

The approval of the \$92,000 Shoemaker Fund grant represents a pivotal turning point for Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), transforming our capacity to act as a coordinated force for earthcare and climate justice. We are incredibly excited that this funding allows us to fully resource the QuakerEarth Campaign, a strategic multi-year effort that integrates our spiritual resources with professionalized community organizing.

QEW is launching local campaigns designed to build deep political power within our strongest regional bases of volunteer support: California and Philadelphia. We will be partnering with monthly meetings to organize through local communities in these regions to drive policy change, corporate accountability, and land and water protection. Selected campaigns will receive strong hands-on accompaniment over the next two years including staff support, comprehensive organizing and campaign trainings in partnership with EQAT, strategic coaching, and deep pastoral care. Local teams will organize deeply through Quaker, interfaith, youth, and local communities with the help of QEW staff. By grounding strategic community organizing in deep spiritual care and powerful nonviolent spirit-filled tactics, we are preparing these regional coalitions to achieve long-term earthcare wins for people and planet.

The Shoemaker Fund grant also provides the critical infrastructure for the QuakerEarth Action Map, the first-of-its-kind global interactive tool that makes Quaker environmental witness visible to the public. By spotlighting local meeting solar installations, reforestation projects, and policy campaigns, the map allows young seekers and activists to discover Quaker communities as tangible anchors for climate action. Furthermore, the funding supports a dynamic multimedia outreach campaign designed to share these stories of transformation through video and social media, specifically targeting youth and wider interfaith audiences. These integrated efforts ensure that the work of the QuakerEarth Campaign is not only impactful on the ground but also accessible to a new generation looking for a spiritual home for their activism.

## 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 2024 - October 2025.

Faithfully submitted by:

- » Keith Runyan, General Secretary
- » Sweet Miche, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- » Sofia Di Pietro, Operations & Engagement Coordinator
- » Jonny Costello, QuakerEarth Organizing Fellow

