



Representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Plenary Meeting 5th-12th August 2024

Purpose

As discerned by Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC), Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) has asked YFGM to nominate a Friend to act as BYM's representative at the FWCC World Plenary Meeting in person in South Africa.

The theme will be, 'Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and one another'. *Ubuntu* is a word from Zulu, emphasising community, connection, and interdependence.

World Plenaries are held every 7 or 8 years. More can be learnt about the World Plenary here: <https://fwcc.world/wpm>

Duties

- [The application](#) must be made by December. An invoice can then be sent to BYM for payment.
- It is suggested by QWRC that the representative consult with YFGM members Tas Cooper, who works for FWCC, and Liam Brighton, who has been involved in the preparation for the 2024 World Plenary.
- Prepare spiritually and practically for the event.
- Attend the event itself and making the most of the experience.
- Outreach following the event to share experiences and knowledge gained.

What you could gain

- A fully paid for two-week long trip to South Africa (one week FWCC youth gathering, one week FWCC world plenary) with the opportunity for dialogue and worship with Friends from different countries and traditions.
- Learn more about the FWCC and Quaker relations on a global level.
- Opportunities for Bible study, Meeting for Worship, and epilogue. Worship will include many of the forms used by Friends worldwide. This will include unprogrammed expectant 'waiting' worship, programmed worship featuring pre-prepared hymns and sermons, and semi-programmed worship combining the two.

Skills Required

- Good knowledge of BYM structure and processes.
- Knowledge of/interest in one of the World Plenary strands. Three strands will run through the event, one about ubuntu/community (which will inform the others), one about addressing historical injustice, and one about the environment. Friends will be asked to choose one strand and follow it through the event.
- Able to prepare spiritually and practically for the event – this will probably involve quite a bit of reading.
- Be outgoing and comfortable with engaging with people from different places and cultures, and of different ages and Quaker communities (including different ways of worship).

- Be prepared to engage with Friends with views which potentially stand in opposition to our own, with the knowledge that not all Quakers worldwide share the stance of BYM on some issues (e.g. LGBT+ equality).
- Able to keep other Friends informed about the World Plenary, including through the use of social media.

Time Commitment

- Able to attend the whole Meeting.
- Able to spend time preparing for the event spiritually and practically, as described in the skills above.
- Able to be involved in follow ups to the event, including sharing their experience with other British Quakers – this might be online or in person.

No specific YFGM events are required, but you should remain in contact with YFGM and YFGMers, and report to both YFGM and BYM following the event. The reports could be in person or in writing.

Further details

The Meeting languages will be English, Spanish and Kiswahili.

A gathering for Young Adult Friends from around the world has been announced, to take place from 1 – 5 August 2024, immediately before the World Plenary Meeting. A place at this event will be paid for by either BYM or YFGM.

The event is intended to improve mutual understanding of Quaker diversity amongst Young Adult Friends worldwide, to reinforce international Quaker identity, and to re-establish the Young Adult Friends global network, leading to joint actions and plans. Find out more here: <https://fwcc.world/global-young-adult-friends-gathering-announced/>