

Greetings from the Cuban Quakers to all Quakers in the world.

United together from the 22nd to 25th day of second month in the year 2024 in the city of Gibara, Province of Holguin, Cuba, we have celebrated our 96th Annual Meeting.

Here on the northern coast of the immense Atlantic that borders the enormous rocks that are bathed by blue waters, amid this beauty rises a handsome pine tree that grew on its banks and has survived cyclones, tempests and here it is, alive because it has its roots among the rocks. Like the pine we have been whipped by material deficiencies, problems, exodus but our church remains sustained by the rock that is the Lord.

Aware that nothing nor nobody will be able to prevent the message of a full life and hope from being announced to the world: Our church, Quaker Friends in Cuba, will continue to be constant and faithful to the Christ of Glory. We are inspired by the text from Isaiah 60:1 "Arise and shine because the Light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen in you."

Amidst conferences, Bible studies, messages, work meetings, exchanges of ideas, important agreements have been made to sustain the work of the monthly meetings and missions. One of the most important moments was the recognition of the pastoral gifts of our sisters Yuliet Santi Fera and Adolfinia Núñez Muñiz and the ministerial gifts of Elina Aguilera Rodríguez.

A special service took place at night to give thanks for the life of our beloved pastor Julieta Pérez Pérez who in life was pastor and minister of this Yearly Meeting. In his tribute, her husband, the pastor and minister Heredio Santos Balmaseda expressed his gratitude to the brothers and sisters who, during the process of her illness, supported him with all that was necessary as much from the Yearly Meeting as from the monthly meetings of Banes and Miami. He bid farewell honoring her with these words: "Thank you for what you were, for what you are, and for what you will be in my life."

Near the close of our meeting, we saw with pleasure that four youths arose ready to do pastoral work where necessary committed to the great command of Jesus: Go into the world and preach the gospel to all people."

In other business, the Cuban Quaker Institute of Peace named a new board of directors to continue the training work and at the completion of Yearly Meeting Sessions the Alternatives to Violence Facilitator Training workshop will be held.

Our time together ended with us united in one sole idea: Exhort ourselves to move forward, in each moment remembering our Quaker principles of integrity, simplicity, humility and peace. As George Fox told us: Now the Lord God has opened to me by his invisible power how that every man was enlightened by the divine Light of Christ; and I saw it shine through all, and that they that believed in it came out of condemnation and came to the Light of Life.

In the Light,

Rosario Concepción Fernández

Lisdainy Rodríguez Fuentes

María Isabel Leyva C