

FRIENDS UNITED MEETING  
Report to NC Fellowship of Friends  
November 2024

Some highlights of the year at FUM.

### **Ramallah Friends School**

Last October, FUM received the news of the Hamas attack in southern Israel which unleashed a hell-storm of attacks on Gaza and the West Bank. RUM's historic and current role is care for its students, staff, and all who make up the school community. For them, this has been a horrifying year. Many families have lost family members and friends. Significant economic stresses include loss of jobs and reduced pay. The market neighborhood near the school burned to the ground. It has been a year of stress, grief, fear, and anger.

Recently, the school organized training in Alternatives to Violence and renewed its commitment to weekly chapel services.

FUM continues to seek a willing volunteer to serve as Quaker Life Coordinator at the school to work through the Living Letter program.

### **Staff travels**

Travels by staff have included a number of yearly meetings, development visits (including those directed to Ramallah Friends School needs), and government representatives. General Secretary Kelly Kellum and John Muhanji represented FUM at the FWCC World Plenary Gathering in South Africa, where Kelly gave a plenary address representing the Section of the Americas.

### **Belize**

In September, Belize Friends School honored Frank Tench for his contributions as a dedicated leader upon the occasion of his retirement. Antoliana Budna is the new principal whose early efforts are inspiring. She is already making strides in academic programming and organization.

Oscar Mmbali's leadership and administrative oversight and strategic direction are setting the foundation for FUM's ongoing ministry.

### **Triennial Planning**

Plans for the FUM/QMI/USFWI Triennial sessions are underway. It is scheduled for July 5-12, 2026, likely in Indiana. Senatorial assistance has been sought for visa assistance to make most likely fuller participation in this important event.

**Also** we are in need of an additional representative to the General Board.

Submitted by Bill Eagles  
NCFE representative to the FUM Board