Participants at a 1987 Friends General Conference Gathering workshop, led by Bill and Alice Howenstine, collectively formulated the following epistle:

For six days at the Friends General Conference Gathering at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, our workshop group has considered questions of how to live in harmony with the natural environment. Together with all the Gathering we have listened to Marshall Massey speak about the necessity for a Quaker testimony on unity with nature.

We have concluded from our worship and our study that there is, indeed, a need for Friends to give forceful witness to the holiness of creation and to demonstrate in their lives the meaning of this testimony.

We believe right relationship with our natural environment is basic to the achievement of peace and a just social order, and the equitable distribution of the world's resources, both today and through generations to come.

Arising from the Gathering is a continuing organization of Friends concerned for unity with nature. We call upon Friends everywhere to join us in support of this group, and in continuing consideration of, and witness to, a corporate testimony on living in unity with nature.

The beginning line-up of officers and representatives:

Clerk: Bill Howenstine
Treasurer: Steven Elkinton
Recording Clerk: Lella Russell Smith
Program Coordinator: Carol Dunbar Kimbrough
Newsletter editor: Jack Phillips
Regional representatives coordinator: Fannie Fonseca-Becker
Regional Representatives:
Midwest: Karen Greenleaf
Southeast: Drew Foster
Pacific Yearly Meeting: Bob Schutz
Pacific NW, Canada: eric maya joy
Mid-Atlantic: Fannie Fonseca-Becker

They began fast and furious and BeFriending Creation was one of their first projects. (There had been a Unity with Nature newsletter published by Pacific Yearly Meeting Unity with Nature committee and edited by Bob Schutz since 1985.) A logo of hands holding the Earth followed soon after in November, 1987, designed by Lucy Sikes of Brooklyn, N.Y. A new logo by Gretchen Barnett was adopted in the late 1990s, and that was the basis of the current watercolor version by Mary Coelho, a QEW supporter from Cambridge, Mass.

The expenditures budget has grown as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>$767*</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>(10 mo.)</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$92,793</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>$105,140</td>
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</table>

Fiscal Year 2018-2019: Approved Budget of $103,801

*This does not include BeFriending Creation expenses (can't determine them from the minutes)
**This big jump is due to hiring a general secretary. Until this time all the work was done by volunteers, except editing the newsletter. These amounts do not include the Ann Kriebel/San Luis (AK/SL) project, which raises its own funds.

Past clerks of FCUN / QEW:

- **eric maya joy**, October 1988 - October 1990
- **Isabel Bliss**, October 1990 - October 1992
- **Bill Howenstine**, October 1992 - October, 1993
- **Ted Bernard**, October 1993 - October 1995
- **Stan Becker**, July 1999 - October 2002
- **Kim Carlyle**, October 2002 - October 2004
- **Barbara Williamson**, October 2004 -
- **Hollister Knowlton**, October 2007 - October 2009
- **Shelley Tanenbaum**, October 2011 - October 2013
- **Stan Becker**, October 2016 - October 2018
- **Mary Jo Klingel**, October 2018 - present

We gathered and acted after hearing an address by Marshall Massey, author of "In Defense of the Peaceable Kingdom," at Oberlin College in July, 1987. We are still in process of defining our mission and activities and name.

BeFriending Creation, August 15, 1987
Quaker Earthcare Witness
P.O. Box 6787
Albany, CA 94706
info@quakerearthcare.org
tel:510-542-9606

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