

Pacific Yearly Meeting Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 1, 2005

PLENARY I

The 59th gathering of Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) opened with worship on 8th Month 1, 2005, at 7:30 PM at the Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California.

Clerk Jim Anderson welcomed Friends to the annual session, noting that many Friends have worked to make this an opportunity for each of us to deepen our connections to the spirit and each other and to rise to the work that lies before us. He briefly described the schedule for the week, highlighting business items (e.g., site), the Friday vigil in Santa Cruz and the fact that our children will join us for the first fifteen minutes of our daily worship sessions for a time of programmed children's worship.

Roll Call

Assistant to the Clerk Bob Runyan read the list of Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups. Friends from the following Meetings and Worship Groups were present. [Also see the Attenders List, *Attachment A*]:

Apple Seed Monthly Meeting	Monterey Peninsula Monthly Meeting
Berkeley Monthly Meeting	Orange County Monthly Meeting
Central Coast Preparative Meeting	Orange Grove Monthly Meeting
Chico Monthly Meeting	Palo Alto Monthly Meeting
Claremont Monthly Meeting	Redwood Forest Monthly Meeting
Davis Monthly Meeting	Reno Monthly Meeting
Delta Monthly Meeting	Sacramento Monthly Meeting
Friends House Worship Group	San Diego Monthly Meeting
Grass Valley Monthly Meeting	San Francisco Monthly Meeting
Honolulu Monthly Meeting	San Jose Monthly Meeting
Humboldt Monthly Meeting	San Luis Obispo Worship Group
Inland Valley Monthly Meeting	Santa Barbara Monthly Meeting
Kauai Worship Group	Santa Cruz Monthly Meeting
La Jolla Monthly Meeting	Santa Monica Monthly Meeting
Lake County Worship Group	Sierra Foothills Worship Group
Las Vegas Worship Group	Southern Humboldt Worship Group
Live Oak Preparative Meeting	Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Marloma/Long Beach Monthly Meeting	Ukiah Worship Group
Mexico City Monthly Meeting	Visalia Monthly Meeting

Introductions

Visitors from other Yearly Meetings were introduced, including Julie Peyton, Northwest Yearly Meeting and the Friends World Committee; Nancy Yarnall, North Pacific Yearly Meeting and Friends World Committee Field Staff; Lonnie Valentine, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Earlham School of Religion; and Andrew Secrest, Berkeley Friends Church and Western Association of Friends.

Brajesh, of Mt. Madonna Center, welcomed us to the Center, a community whose underlying practice is the study of Yoga; the center also includes this conference center and an elementary and secondary school.

Logistics

The Children's Program, the Junior Yearly Meeting program, and Young Friends' activities were described as were arrangements; registration; secretariat services, including the daily newsletter, *The Daily Miracle*; and worship sharing.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee brought the name of Sarah Rose House (Orange Grove) to serve as Reading Clerk as David Lederman is unable to serve.

PYM 2005-01: Friends approved the nomination of Sara Rose House as Reading Clerk for this year's session.

Epistle Committee

On behalf of Ministry and Oversight, Aimee Elsbree (Claremont) presented the names of John Holding, Clerk (San Francisco), Robin Durant (Orange Grove) and Evan Nelson (La Jolla) as members of the Epistle Committee.

PYM 2005-02: Friends approved John Holding, Clerk, Robin Durant and Evan Nelson as members of the Epistle Committee.

Announcements

Assistant to the Clerk Bob Runyan read announcements.

Minutes

These minutes were corrected and approved.

Closing Worship

The meeting closed at 9:20 PM after a time of shared, quiet worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 2, 2005

Plenary II

Meeting began, following morning worship, at 10:20 AM, with a gathering silence.

Our Reading Clerk, Sara Rose House, shared with us parts of the epistle from “the other PYM,” Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Clerk Jim Anderson welcomed new arrivals.

Last year we received a Spanish language version of our Faith and Practice translated by Jorge Martinez, who is here this year and we acknowledge his gift to us.

The clerk made a few announcements regarding travel to a vigil, listening devices, and the comfort of participants.

The clerk read a letter received from Humboldt Friends regarding Friends traveling under a leading to visit Guantanamo Bay prison.

Naming Committee

Linda Dunn (Inland Valley) spoke for Naming Committee, who are to bring us names proposed for the Nominating Committee on Friday. She urged our cooperation and support of their work.

Latin American Concerns Committee

Committee Clerk Rolene Walker spoke about Casa de Los Amigos in Mexico City. She gave a brief history and summarized current developments. They are now “legal” again with a reconstituted board. The future is looking exciting and hopeful. [A report from the committee is attached, *Attachment B*]

Website

Ellie Huffman of Ministry and Oversight Committee reported on the work of that committee’s subcommittee on electronic communications. Ministry and Oversight asks that the Yearly Meeting approve the web site that the subcommittee has developed. Clerk Jim Anderson proposed a minute which was not approved, concerns arising over identity privacy and how the policies referred to in the proposed minute were developed and what they are. Those policies will be posted and distributed before the item is reconsidered.

Ministry and Oversight

Committee Clerk Joe Franko and other committee members presented the State of the Society report. Joe introduced the concept of community as our business this week. We seek to be in unity with the Spirit that guides us all, through a community discernment process. He shared Thomas Kelly’s words: Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-worn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home. He called us to join this week in an experiment in living our Quakerism.

Jane Peers offered an invitation to our discernment:

Welcome into a miracle that happens as we gather and form an outpost of The Blessed Community. We realize that our choice of site limits who may attend, yet that miracle occurs. We sprang from a wide-spread Pacific rim collection of Friends. Our annual session is a great time to feel the continuity of Friends and to appreciate the precious gifts that everyone brings. We need to consciously drop some of our worldly ways and become real to each other, seeing the tongues of fire lighting each of us.

Steve Smith introduced a period of worship, to be punctuated by excerpts from our state of the meeting reports as read by Zachary Moon and Ellie Huffman. [A copy of these excerpts is attached to the minutes as *Attachment C*].

Themes reflected in the excerpts were these: The Search for Good Order; Doing Justice, Loving Mercy; Children and Youth; Growing and Dying; Turning to the Light.

Announcements

Bob Runyan, assistant to the clerk, read announcements

Minutes

The minutes were read and approved as corrected.

The meeting ended with worship

Faithfully submitted,

Sandy Farley, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

Tuesday 8th Month 2, 2005

Plenary III

Meeting opened at 7:15 PM, with silence.

Reading Clerk Sarah Rose House read from Epistle of German Yearly Meeting.

Clerk Jim Anderson welcomed us to a working or threshing session.

Jim Anderson laid out the opportunity before us this evening, to engage in discernment around the site issue. We are to receive a proposal that the Yearly Meeting commit to holding its annual sessions at the Visalia site for a period of years. He invited us to search for community through deep listening to one another.

Ellie Huffman, clerk of Pacific Friends Outreach Society Board, gave a brief history of the organization, beginning in 1996. Remarkable changes in the scale and the focus of the Visalia development plan came about as a result of the concerns raised last year that the facilities would be too “corporate.”

Roena Oesting, clerk of the Site committee, offered a report on the Visalia site for our yearly meeting sessions. [The report is attached, *Attachment D*] It raises a series of questions about the site proposal, and offers a comparison of Visalia with two university sites under consideration. In the past three years the committee has looked at over 100 sites for the holding of YM, and the report reviewed the premises the committee works with. They do not have a formal recommendation to offer regarding the Visalia site.

A few specific questions regarding the proposed temporary and permanent facilities were answered.

Ministry and Oversight Clerk Joe Franko clerked the discernment process that followed. He spoke of the work already done by many Friends. “You can’t cook the stew if you don’t gather the ingredients.” He noted that M&O has held listening projects. The Presiding Clerk sent a letter to each meeting asking for input. “We have done a lot of home work”.

Joe reviewed some of the many questions which have arisen in addressing this “Gordian knot:”

- Should we hold property? Other religious groups are having difficulty managing property, including camps.
- Should we really be two Yearly Meetings? Would Visalia be at the farthest edge of each?
- Which is greater environmental impact-- building or traveling from place to place?
- Is a permanent site consistent with our spiritual values? Would it foster the growth of our spiritual lives?
- We spend \$100,000 to \$130,000 to hold our annual session each year. Is this a right use of those resources?
- What is the work of our Yearly Meeting? Will a permanent site foster that work?
- Has right order been followed? Did we act in good faith?
- Is our sense of HOME connected to a place, or deepened by a place?

Plenary III

Joe Franko recognized speakers from the silence as Friends lovingly expressed their hopes and concerns. At the end of our time, we closed in worship, out of which came “Someone’s worrying / dreaming, Lord, kum bay ya.

Faithfully submitted,

Sandy Farley, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mount Madonna Conference Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 3, 2005

PLENARY IV

The meeting opened with worship on 8th Month 3, 2005, at 10:25 AM at the Mount Madonna Center, Watsonville, California.

Reading Clerk Sarah Rose House read from the 2005 Epistle of the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

Minutes

The minutes from Session III were read by Recording Clerk Sandra Farley, corrected and approved.

Clerk Jim Anderson then reviewed the agenda for this plenary.

Friends General Conference

Bruce Birchard, the General Secretary of Friends General Conference, introduced us to Friends General Conference, an association of Friends Yearly Meetings and several monthly meetings, including Davis and Sacramento of this Yearly Meeting. He described the general work of Friends General Conference, including recently expanded programs such as traveling ministries, religious education, publications, bookstore, Quakerfinder.org web site, the committee on racism and youth ministries. The latter program works to help Friends recognize the ministry of younger Friends and to build an age-integrated society. He then reminded us of the opportunity to attend the first ever West Coast Session of the Friends General Conference Gathering next summer. The 2006 Gathering, *Swimming in Living Waters*, will be held in Tacoma, Washington, from July 1 to 7, giving Friends an opportunity to come together to listen to God's voice. (He noted that eleven Friends from Pacific Yearly Meeting presented workshops at this year's gathering.)

Jim Anderson also introduced Shan Cretin, the Regional Director of the Pacific Southwest office of the American Friends Service Committee.

Jim Anderson reported that the incorporation of Pacific Yearly Meeting has been accomplished. As part of the incorporation process, Friends will be asked to approve the bylaws of the Yearly Meeting, which are posted, later in the week.

Alternatives to Violence Project Subcommittee of Peace and Social Order

John Holding and Janet Riley spoke about the Alternatives to Violence Project, reminding Friends of our 2002 minute encouraging Friends to support Alternatives to Violence Projects in prison. As a result of this work, the Alternatives to Violence Project is being asked to develop programs in twenty-three of California's prisons. We now need to expand the number of Friends able to do this work.

Unity with Nature Committee

Committee Clerk Kristina Perry reported for the Committee:

As Friends, who is God calling us to be in this time and place? What are the structures and patterns of life that are required to respond to that call? Faith is not separable from how we live. Our faith often requires us to dissent from living as the current social order would have us live.

Kristina Perry described relevant interest and affinity groups as well as the vigil to be held on Friday in Santa Cruz to observe the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. The Committee continues its work in developing an assessment of the ecological footprint of the cost of holding Yearly Meeting. Finally, the Committee brings a pair of minutes regarding the environmental impact of travel to do Quaker business.

In discussion of these proposed minutes, we were reminded of the need to be tender toward Friends whose physical condition requires greater use of resources. Friends spoke of the benefits of face-to face contact among Friends; of the value of letters of introduction explaining the proposed minute to Friends organizations; and of a number of other issues balancing ecological concerns on the one hand, and the benefits of greater interaction among Friends on the other. Some felt the queries contained in the proposed minute should first be addressed by our own meetings. Friends came to unity on the following minute, which was approved:

PYM 2005-03: Pacific Yearly Meeting is concerned about the environmental effects of travel to do Quaker business. We urge all Friends to consider the environmental impact of our travel, as we witness in the world, and to conduct our business in ways that minimize environmental damage and that ultimately restore the natural world

The second minute, requesting that representatives to Friends organizations carry this minute and associated queries to these organizations, was held over for further Committee and Yearly Meeting consideration.

Nominating Committee

Committee Clerk Sharon Gates encouraged Friends to make the Committee aware of their interest in serving the Yearly Meeting and their suggestions regarding the abilities of others to serve the Yearly Meeting. There is a form to facilitate this process.

The Nominating Committee's First Report was shared with Friends.

Treasurer's Report

Sherri Sisson, Treasurer, highlighted various items from the financial statement for 2004 and 2005. [See *Attachment E*]. She noted that income from assessments paid by monthly meetings were slightly higher than budgeted because of an increase in membership. Committee expenditures were substantially below budget. As a result, the expected transfer from reserves, to compensate for anticipated loss, did not occur.

PYM 2005-04: Friends accepted the Treasurer's report for 2004.

Finance Committee

Stratton Jaquette, Finance Committee Clerk, presented the proposed budget for 2006. Friends were encouraged to meet with the Committee to present concerns about specific items. (*See Attachment E*)

The Committee brought several items for our consideration. The first was a budget augmentation for Young Friends travel to the World Gathering.

PYM 2005-05: Friends approved augmenting the budget for Young Friends Travel (5288) for fiscal year 2005 by \$1,000 to \$1,600, this amount to be balanced by increasing the transfer from reserves by \$1,000.

The second item recommended that limitations be established for several reserve funds.

PYM 2005-06: Friends approved establishing the following limits to reserve funds:

2743 FWCC Section of the Americas Travel (5279) Reserve	\$500
2744 FGC Central Committee Travel (5278) Reserve	\$500
2745 FUM Travel (5280) Reserve	\$1,500
2746 General Reunion of Friends, Mexico Travel (5281) Reserve	\$500

Stratton Jaquette reported that the proposed budget includes adjustments in allocations for liaison/delegate travel to cover at least sixty percent of the full cost.

The final recommendations, for later consideration, included approval of the budget, a separate proposal for a \$500 contribution to Pacific Friends Outreach Society, and a recommendation that the Fiscal Year 2006 assessment level for member meetings be \$36, keeping that for Mexico City at \$10.

Jim Anderson also introduced Alan Lessik, the Regional Director of the Pacific Mountain office of the American Friends Service Committee.

Bob Runyan read a variety of announcements.

Minutes

These minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 3, 2005

PLENARY V, Youth Plenary

Clerk Jim Anderson welcomed everyone to the Youth Plenary session and made a few announcements.

Meeting then settled into silent worship.

Zachary Moon (Strawberry Creek) expressed gratitude to those attending and introduced four Friends, each to share a little piece of themselves, leading us into open worship.

Darcy Stanley (Strawberry Creek): What is up for us? What is burning in our Quaker lives? I feel sad and scattered today, with no time to be open to the Spirit right now. I don't want to be open; I'm scared. I fear I am not enough to hold the Spirit right now. This feeling is not permanent.

I believe in continuing revelation; the truth will be revealed. It is not our choice how or when it is revealed. My concern is that as I attempt to serve Friends in so many ways, how much of the *doing* is getting in the way of *being* a Quaker. Are we too busy for God?

The Spirit is patient for us. How long are we willing to wait?

Faith Eastwood (Southern Humboldt): What does it mean to be a Quaker? Is it coming to meetings and believing in the testimonies? I need to bring the testimonies into my life to live them. Just believing the testimonies is not enough. I'm not willing to give up comfort, let alone die for my beliefs! I must be willing to change myself, if I want to change others.

Chris Cameron (Humboldt): JYM is the heart of Yearly Meeting because we are really trying to find the Spirit. I really need help in learning how to meditate so I can get something out of all the worship sharing, meetings for worship and so on. I need a mentor in the spirituality aspect of Quakerism. I'm still not sure if I believe in God. I'm looking for help in this.

Ramona McCabe (Santa Cruz): Quakerism is the hardest religion to be raised in. There is so much acceptance and not enough guidance. Sometimes I go to a church, but I don't want to be told what to believe. I'm having trouble discerning what I personally believe. I need more information and more guidance before I can decide what being Quaker means to me.

We settled into a rich worship period in which Friends responded with their yearnings and understandings of life as Quakers.

Faithfully submitted,

Sandy Farley, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 4, 2005

Plenary Session VI

Meeting gathered in silence following morning worship.

Reading Clerk Sarah Rose House read from the epistle of Intermountain Yearly Meeting 2004.

Clerk Jim Anderson greeted us, asking us to seek obedience to truth. He reviewed the agenda.

Minutes from Plenary V, the Youth Plenary, were read and approved.

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Donna Smith (Redwood Forest) invited us to the annual Section of the Americas meeting that will be in Guatemala in March of 2006. We are invited to attend and visit among Latin American Friends along the way. Nancy Yarnall, FWCC field staff, will be available to answer questions.

The World Gathering of Young Friends happens in 10 days in Lancaster England, on the theme *Let us then see what love can do*. Darcy Stanley and Kate Newlin are our delegates. They are joined by Melina Larkin, Stephen Myers, Sara Wolcott, Alyssa Nelson, and Eleni Richey, who have been accepted as participants. Together they have raised funds for their travel and for the travel of some less wealthy Friends [\$9674 was contributed to World Gathering scholarships for other young friends' travel.]. Seventy countries and ninety-seven yearly meetings will be represented. We are invited to an interest group today so we can help them prepare a presentation on PYM culture and community.

Finance Committee

Stratton Jaquette, Committee Clerk, says the committee is seeking a CPA willing to review our books [not a full audit] this year when Sherri Sisson retires as Treasurer. Stratton called attention to some aspects of the budget being proposed for approval. Peace and Social Order Committee has requested a budget increase from \$600 to \$1500 to support the work of the AVP subcommittee, and Finance recommends this increase. Transfer from reserves will be increased in that amount.

Finance Committee proposes a policy change that full travel reimbursement, currently of 16 cents per mile, will be given directly to the meeting representatives who attend Representative Committee (March) and PYM (August). The financial impact is included in the proposed budget [5208]. The matter of reimbursement of representative travel to Annual Session was raised by one Friend but left to future consideration. Recommendations for PFOS and FUM donations are not in the budget, pending future consideration, i.e., no contribution is included.

PYM 2005-7: Friends approved establishing a policy of giving the full travel reimbursement, currently 16 cents per mile, directly to the meeting representatives who attend Representative Committee or Annual Session.

PYM 2005-8: Friends approved the budget for fiscal year 2005-2006, including the increased budget for Peace & Social Order [Attachment E].

PYM 2005-9: Friends approved continuing the per member assessment for FY2006 at the same level as last year: \$36 per member except for Mexico City, which is assessed \$10 per member.

Clerk Jim Anderson then introduced the topic of the permanent site proposal. He shared correspondence from several meetings. Some favored, some opposed the proposal; some were unable to make a recommendation since their discussion revealed substantial divergence of views.

Jim Anderson felt that neither he nor Shan Cretin (immediate past clerk) would appear sufficiently neutral to clerk on this issue. Margaret Mossman (Berkeley), the most recent former YM clerk available, was asked to preside.

Joe Franko, clerk of Ministry and Oversight Committee set the stage for our considerations. He observed that some of the process we have gone through in past years has not reflected good order. Joe thanked PFOS for their faithfulness and courage. He read a minute approved by the PFOS Board. [See Attachment F]. They propose in that minute to continue work to develop a suitable annual meeting site if the Yearly Meeting will commit to meeting at Quaker Oaks in Visalia for 8 consecutive years.

Joe thanked the Site Committee for their labors. He asked us to have the courage to let go of our preconceived notions of what unity will look like. He invited Diego Navarro, Laura Magnani, and Steve Smith of Ministry and Oversight Committee to share perspectives on the conduct of our discernment process.

Steve Smith spoke about being mindful of the choice of language.

Diego Navarro reminded us that the spirit sometimes has a longer timetable for us to discern truth than we think is needed.

Laura Magnani spoke of people among us laboring under profound leadings and concerns which seem to be in conflict. But the Spirit may dwell in paradox.

Margaret Mossman came forward to clerk, as: "we try now to see what love can do." Jane Peers accompanied Margaret in support of her work guiding our discernment.

The Yearly Meeting then entered a worshipful period of sharing in response to the proposal.

Under the clerkship of Margaret Mossman, we held a loving exploration of our hopes, needs, pain, anger, yearnings for home and security, joys, and opportunities for witness around the issue of a permanently available site for the Yearly Meeting. In the time allotted, unity was not reached. Even though we experienced pain as a result of our lack of unity, we recognized a transformation in the nature of our discourse, revealing the clear presence of love among us.

Jim Anderson resumed clerking. Minutes will be read at our next plenary session. We closed in worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Sandy Farley, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 4, 2004
 PLENARY VII

Memorials

Members of our Ministry and Oversight Committee led us in our Plenary for Memorials. Committee members read the names of 37 deceased Friends. Each group of names was introduced with a brief reading, and followed by sharing arising out of worship.

<p>Arabelle Hufbauer, Berkeley John Jory, Berkeley Jean Moffett, Berkeley Otto Heck, Berkeley Vanita Blum, Berkeley</p>	<p>He that hath found some fledged bird's nest may know at first sight if the bird be flown; But what fair well or grove he sings in now, that is to him unknown. They are all gone into the world of light. Henry Vaughan</p>
<p>Mappie Seabury, Berkeley Peter Trier, Berkeley Robert Feeney, Claremont Noel Peattie, Davis Celeste Jones, Inland Valley</p>	<p>These words spoken In a hour of silence Make up a life I don't know</p> <p>Each person speaking Out of the loss Adds a color, an edge A piece to be found</p> <p>Those who stay silent Bring a shimmer A shining wholeness To the completed time.</p> <p>This was a life I saw, A life lived here, A life lived no more I know why I came. John Pixley</p>
<p>Shirley Peacock, Honolulu Sakiko Obuko, Honolulu Paul Tanner, Marin Marjorie Drath, Marin Ignacio Gonzalez, Mexico City</p>	<p>Their work is done, their joys accomplished, but the sharing of their lives continues in the memories of others. Walter Jones</p>
<p>Marjorie Cohen, Marloma – Long Beach Anne Friend, Marloma – Long Beach Joel Ivey, Orange County Ida Frugoli, Palo Alto</p>	<p>Sorrow cannot be fought and overcome; it cannot be evaded or escaped; it must be lived with. Whether it be sorrow for our own loss, or sorrow for the world's pain, we must learn to shoulder the burden of it, to carry it so</p>

Plenary VII

<p>Alex MacDonald, Palo Alto</p>	<p>that it does not break our stride or sap the strength of those about us through pity or woe. Somehow we must learn not only to meet it with courage, which is comparatively easy, but to bear it with serenity, which is more difficult, being not a single act but a way of living.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Elizabeth Gray Vining</p>
<p>Red Alexander, Orange Grove Ken Morgan, Orange Grove Ralph Pinney, Orange Grove Hal Nicholas, San Diego Elizabeth Robinson, San Diego</p>	<p>Death is the end of a stage, not the end of the journey. The road stretches beyond our comprehension.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Oliver Lodge</p>
<p>Phyllis Wheeler, Pacific Ackworth Virginia Heck, Redwood Forest Guy Littman, Redwood Forest Connie Lindsay, Redwood Forest Richard Shamis, Sacramento</p>	<p>To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven; A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance; ...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ecclesiastes 3:1-4</p>
<p>Priscilla Moulton, Santa Barbara Kay Harvey, San Francisco Bruce Farley, Grass Valley Robert Baloof, Berkeley John Callendar, La Jolla</p>	<p>Their work is done, their joys accomplished, but the sharing of their lives continues in the memories of others.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Walter Jones</p>
<p>Ralph Victor, Fresno Barbara Caplow, Santa Barbara</p>	<p>If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Kahlil Gibran</p>

The meeting closed with the singing of *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

**Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mount Madonna Center, Watsonville, California**

8th Month 5, 2005
PLENARY VIII

The meeting opened with worship on 8th Month 5, 2005, at 9:20 AM at the Mount Madonna Center, Watsonville, California.

Reading Clerk Sarah Rose House read from the 2004 Epistle of the Senior High Youth of Northwest Yearly Meeting.

Clerk Jim Anderson then reviewed the agenda for this plenary session, which included worship with Friends who are to attend a vigil in Santa Cruz observing the memory of the bombing of Hiroshima.

Minutes

The minutes from Session VI were read by Recording Clerk Sandra Farley. Friends raised questions about some sections of the minutes, and these sections will be revised to be heard again at the next session.

Friends approved the minutes of Plenary Session VI, with the exception of those relating to consideration of the site proposal.

Epistle

Our Epistle Committee-- John Holding, Clerk, Robin Durant and Evan Nelson-- gave the first reading of our Epistle, asking that Friends provide comments at a later time, especially regarding themes in the Epistle.

Committee to Name the Nominating Committee

Linda Dunn, convenor, reported for the Committee, bringing the names of Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee. These names include: Nancy Lynch (Santa Barbara) to serve a one-year term ending in 2006, Darcy Stanley [Berkeley] to serve a two-year term ending in 2007, and Sharon Gates (Orange Grove) and Judith Favor (Claremont) to serve three-year terms ending in 2008. Sharon Gates was proposed to serve as Clerk of the Nominating Committee for a one-year term.

Nominating Committee

Sharon Gates presented the Nominating Committee Final Report on behalf of the Committee. There was concern over a specific nomination and further consideration of this report was held over until after our time of worship.

Worship

We were then joined by Junior Friends and entered into a time of quiet worship. Many Friends departed from this worship to attend the vigil in Santa Cruz observing the memory of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki sixty years ago.

Nominating Committee

We further considered the report of the Nominating Committee, holding over our decision on this report until Session IX.

Children's Program Committee and Religious Education for Children Committee

Gail Eastwood, Clerk of the Religious Education for Children Committee, reflected on the work of the Committee in the past six years. We have moved into uncharted territory with the increase in the involvement of children in the life of our Yearly Meeting. She sketched a picture of the relationship of our children to our Meetings. At the monthly meeting level, our children seem to drop out at age ten or twelve, about the age that many early Friends had their first mystical experiences. We tend to turn responsibility for religious education over to young parents, who must constantly reinvent their Meeting's religious education programs, and who often have not been raised as Friends themselves. How do we transmit a religion that is one of experience, not dogma?

Chris Mohr, Convener of the Children's Program Committee, began with data collection, asking us to answer a series of questions as a group. Did we have a formal religious education experience as children? Was it a positive experience? Was it in the context of our family? Can we think of an early spiritual experience? Was it joyful or scary, large or small? Was there somebody we could share that experience with? Did those experiences lead us to, or back to, Quakerism? Are we aware of the spiritual awakenings of our children?

We were reminded of our *Faith and Practice* provisions regarding religious education of children. What can we do to be involved in the nurture of our Meeting's children's spiritual lives?

Friends United Meeting Visitation Subcommittee

Jane Peers and Steve Smith, named to visit Friends United Meeting following minute RepCom 2005-04, reported on their attendance at the Friends United Meeting Triennial, held on July 13 to 17, 2005. [See full written report, *Attachment G*] This visit stemmed from our concern about the Friends United Meeting policy expressed in FUM Board minute 88 GB 52, which effectively excludes members of same-sex couples (as well as other unmarried sexually active persons and people in polygamous marriages) from appointment as Friends United Meeting staff and Quaker Volunteer Witness volunteers. The report included a series of recommendations to Friends United Meeting regarding its hiring policy. There was extensive discussion of the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Friends approved the following minute:

- PYM 2005-10:**
1. Despite differences between Pacific Yearly Meeting and Friends United Meeting—and perhaps especially because of them — we believe that Pacific Yearly Meeting should stay in relationship with Friends United Meeting, so that we may labor in love with them regarding our concerns, while giving spiritual and moral support to those within Friends United Meeting who seek to change the hiring policy stated in FUM Board Minute 88 GB 52.
 2. While the Friends United Meeting hiring policy remains in force, Pacific Yearly Meeting will not send a direct contribution to Friends United Meeting, but will use equivalent funds to defray travel costs of Pacific Yearly Meeting observers to Friends United Meeting gatherings.
 3. For the next Friends United Meeting Triennial (to be held in North Carolina in 2008), a team of two Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends again will be named as observers to Friends United Meeting.

One Friend, Tom Davis (Santa Cruz, asked to be recorded as standing aside from the second point of the minute.

Ministry and Oversight Committee

Committee Clerk Joe Franko reported that the Ministry and Oversight Committee has listened carefully to us, and has sensed yearnings – for more time to do our work, to deepen our spiritual foundations, to reconsider our structure. The Committee proposes that the year following our next Yearly Meeting session be a Jubilee year, the specific structure of which is as yet unclear. There are several models, among them a concentration on relationships among us, a concentration on our spiritual life, a year-long threshing session. Ministry and Oversight would like to function over the next two years as a right holding of Yearly Meeting committee, to create a space for the spirit to enter in new ways, to prepare for a year of Jubilee.

Friends urged the Committee to consider the unfinished business from this year and the need for close work with Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends as we plan how we might knit our individual expectations into a shared planning of what is needed in our structures and way of being. There was unease about changing the form and structure of Yearly Meeting annual session without the full involvement of the Yearly Meeting, perhaps in the form of a two-day meeting of Representative Committee in the Spring. Our consideration reflected a need for conversation at all levels on these proposals.

Announcements

Bob Runyan gave a variety of announcements.

Minutes

These minutes were read, corrected and approved.

The session closed with a time of quiet worship at 1:00 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

**Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California**

8th Month 6, 2005
Plenary IX

Meeting gathered in silence at 8:30 AM.

Reading Clerk Sara Rose House read from the Epistle of Netherlands Yearly Meeting 2004.

Clerk Jim Anderson opened the sessions of our last day, and reviewed the agenda

The minutes from session VI that had not yet been approved were read and approved.

Naming Committee:

Naming Committee convenor, Linda Dunn, brought for a second time the names of Friends proposed to serve on our Nominating Committee.

PYM 2005-11: We approved the names of the following Friends to serve on our Nominating Committee, for the terms ending as indicated: Nancy Lynch(Santa Barbara) 2006; Darcy Stanley(Berkeley) 2007; Judith Favor (Claremont) 2008, Sharon Gates (Orange Grove) 2008, with Sharon Gates named to serve as clerk for one year.

Linda also brought for the first time the names of two Friends recommended to serve on our Nominating Committee: Martha Hunkins (Humbolt) to serve a one year term ending in 2006, and DJ Bloom (Apple Seed) to serve a two year term ending in 2007.

Nominating Committee,

Sharon Gates, Clerk, presented the list of nominations for a second time, reviewing changes from the printed version.

PYM 2005-12: We approved the Nominating Committee report—Friends named to serve as PYM Officers, Committee members, and representatives to Friends’ organizations—as presented to us this week. [*Attachment H*]

Friends Bulletin

Anthony Manousos, Friends Bulletin editor, reported. “As you get closer to God, the people you love become more beautiful.” He spoke of his ministry of encouragement. He thanked many for their contributions to *Friends Bulletin*. He spoke of the books and pamphlets recently published. The Friends Bulletin is moving into more book publishing, sensing a need. He invited donations in support of this work. [The Friends Bulletin report is attached as Attachment I]

Holding Corporation

Lanny Jay, Clerk of Holding Corporation, offered copies of the by-laws created as part of our incorporation process. [See *Attachment J*] The only change from the copies distributed earlier in the week was to list the San Francisco Meeting House as the permanent address. We appreciate that the by-laws reflect how we actually do business. He answered a few questions. A few corrections were made.

PYM 2005-13: We approved the proposed By-laws of Pacific Yearly Meeting. [*Attachment J*]

Ministry and Oversight: Web site proposal

Joe Franko, Clerk of M&O, described to us how Pacific Yearly Meeting might benefit from use of a web site. We will put a version of our current Faith and Practice in unalterable form on our web site. We have been developing the web site for 5 years.

PYM 2005-14: Friends approved continuing to use the PYM web site under the care of M&O committee, recognizing that good order was not in evidence in the prior lack of authorization.

Peace and Social Order Committee:

Stephen McNeil, incoming clerk, reported on the several interest groups. He brought a minute from the Committee on health care for all. Recommendations arose for modification of this minute, and Robert Marshall (Visalia), Margaret Mossman (Berkeley) and Jane Peers (LaJolla) volunteered to work further on the minute.

Stephen also brought the following minute, which was approved:

PYM 2005-15: Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends calls on the US Congress to adopt a Sense of the Congress resolution declaring: "It is the policy of the US to withdraw all US military troops and bases from Iraq." We will send this minute to the all members of the US Congress.

While finding unity in this, we regret that this minute reveals so little of the moral force and divine urgency we feel in regard to war.

Minutes were read and approved.

Meeting closed in worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Sandy Farley, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

**Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California**

8th Month 6, 2005
PLENARY X

The session opened with worship on 8th Month 6, 2005, at 11:15 AM at the Mount Madonna Center, Watsonville, California.

Reading Clerk Sarah Rose House read from the 2004 Letter of Greeting from Britain Yearly Meeting.

Epistles and Reports of Children

The Preschool children shared their epistle. [See *Attachment K*]

The Lower Elementary children shared their epistle. [See *Attachment L*]

The Upper Elementary children shared their epistle. [See *Attachment M*]

The Middle School children shared their epistle. [See *Attachment N*]

PYM 2005-16: We gratefully accepted the epistles of our children.

Committee to Name the Nominating Committee

We heard the second reading of the names of additional persons to serve on the Nominating Committee.

PYM 2005-17: Friends approved the naming of Martha Hunkins (Humboldt) for a Nominating Committee term ending in 2006 and D J Bloom (Apple Seed) for a Nominating Committee term ending in 2007.

The Committee brought the name of Margaret Mossman (Berkeley) to serve on the Committee through 2008. This name will be heard again at Representative Committee.

Peace and Social Order

We returned to our consideration of a minute on universal health care. Stephen McNeil presented the revised proposed minute.

Friends approved the following minute:

PYM 2005-18: As witness to our Quaker faith, our testimonies of community and equality, Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends endorses the spirit and intent of California Senate Bill 840 (Kuehl) “The California Health Insurance Reliability Act.” Pacific Yearly Meeting acknowledges that Senate Bill 840 may be imperfect and likely will be amended. We are grateful to the Legislature for its courage in addressing the issue of health care reform and encourage it to continue its labors toward equitable, affordable, and accessible health care for all.

We were reminded that the ad hoc Liaison Funding Committee (Jan Tappan (Orange Grove), D J Bloom (Apple Seed) and Rachel Findley (Strawberry Creek)) are working on issues relating to funding policy regarding travel.

Statistical Report

Gary Wolff, Statistical Clerk, gave the statistical report. On May 31, 2005, there were 1,527 members of Pacific Yearly Meeting, seven fewer than last year. Thirty-four Friends died this last year, more than in any recent year. The full report is attached to these minutes. [See Attachment O]

PYM 2005-19: We accepted the Statistical Report with appreciation.

Mt. Madonna Center

Brajesh, of Mt. Madonna Center, asked us for our feedback on the site, which we gave.

Bank Account Signatures

Because of our incorporation, it is necessary that we authorize specific Friends to sign checks on our behalf.

PYM 2005-20: Friends approved authorizing the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Clerk of the Finance Committee to open and close bank accounts and to sign checks on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. We approved the standard language required by banks and other institutions to accomplish these tasks.

Registrar

Susie Stanley and Kate Newlin, Co-Registrars, reported that 424 Friends attended Yearly Meeting this year, an average of 366 Friends a day, about 50 less than last year. We ranged in age from one to 96, with 46 children, 42 teens. The written report is attached. [See Attachment P]

Epistles of Junior Friends and Young Friends

Niko East (Visalia) read the Epistle of the Junior Yearly Meeting. [See Attachment Q]

Wendee Clevering (Orange Grove) read the Epistle of Young Friends. [See Attachment R]

Epistle

John Holding (San Francisco) read the Epistle on behalf of the Epistle Committee. The other committee members were Robin Durant (Orange Grove) and Evan Nelson (La Jolla). [See Attachment S]

PYM 2005-21: We gratefully accepted the epistles of Junior Friends and Young Friends, and our Pacific Yearly Meeting 2005 Epistle.

It was suggested that we attempt to translate the Epistle into the languages of those yearly meetings we send the report to.

Attachments to these Minutes

PYM 2005-22: We approved attaching to these minutes, reports brought to Yearly Meeting by Committees, but not specifically referenced in these minutes.

Announcements

Bob Runyan read announcements.

Minutes

We read and approved the minutes of Session X.

Closing Worship

The final session closed with worship at 12:00 PM. The session was followed by our closing worship. We will meet next on July 31 to August 5, 2006, at the University of Redlands.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk

James Anderson, Presiding Clerk