

Pacific Yearly Meeting Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 2, 2004

PLENARY I

The 58th gathering of Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) opened with worship on 8th Month 2, 2004, at 7:35 pm at Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California.

Clerk Jim Anderson welcomed Friends to the annual session, noting that many Friends have worked to make this a rich meeting for all of us.

Brajesh, on the conference staff at Mt. Madonna, welcomed us back. PYM stretches and nourishes their community as no other group does. He described the Mt. Madonna residential community, conference center, and children's school and specific logistics of our stay here.

Reading Clerk Joan Rawles-Davis read from the epistle of the 2003 New York Yearly Meeting.

Clerk Jim described the organization of our week. We were advised to be welcoming of one another, especially of newcomers, to be attentive to our own experience so that it may guide us through the week, to avoid the "overflowing of our plates," and to remember the place of empty spaces in our lives. Two questions that we will consider during the week are: "Who are we called to be as Friends in this time and place? What are the structures and patterns of life that we need to serve this calling?" He reviewed the specific topics of the subsequent sessions, which focus on these questions.

Assistant Clerk Krista Barnard read the list of Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups. Friends from these Meetings and Worship Groups were present. [See also Attenders List, ATTACHMENT A]:

Apple Seed Meeting	Inland Valley Meeting	Sacramento Meeting
Berkeley Meeting	La Jolla Meeting	San Diego Meeting
Central Coast Preparative Meeting	Lake County Worship Group	San Francisco Meeting
Chico Meeting	Live Oak Preparative Meeting	San Jose Meeting
Claremont Meeting	Marin Meeting	Santa Barbara Meeting
Davis Meeting	Marloma/Long Beach Meeting	Santa Monica Meeting
Delta Meeting	Monterey Peninsula Meeting	Santa Cruz Meeting
Fresno Meeting	Napa-Sonoma Meeting	Sierra Foothills Worship Group
Friends House Worship Group	Orange County Meeting	Southern Humboldt Worship Group
Grass Valley Meeting	Orange Grove Meeting	Strawberry Creek Meeting
Honolulu Meeting	Palo Alto Meeting	Ukiah Worship Group
Humboldt Meeting	Redwood Forest Meeting	Visalia Meeting

Visitors from other Meetings included Dorene Mercer (Multnomah Monthly Meeting), Giri Sequoyah from Australia Yearly Meeting, and Andrew Secrest (Berkeley Friends Church). We particularly welcomed the Friends attending Pacific Yearly Meeting for their first time. Friends representing many Friends organizations were introduced.

The Children's Program, the Junior Yearly Meeting program, and Young Friends' activities were described, as were Arrangements, Registration, Secretariat services (including our daily newsletter, the *Miracle*), and worship sharing. Assistant Clerk Krista Barnard read announcements. We closed at 9:20 pm, after a time of quiet worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mount Madonna Conference Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 3, 2004

PLENARY II

Our session opened in worship at 10:20 am. Reading Clerk Joan Rawles-Davis read from epistles of the 2003 Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and the 2004 Australia Yearly Meeting.

Clerk Jim Anderson welcomed Friends from other Yearly Meetings and Friends organizations: Lonnie Valentine, Ohio Valley YM, representing Earlham School of Religion; Stephen McNeil (Strawberry Creek Meeting), serving as Clerk of Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Kathy Guthrie and Tim Barner (Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting), staff to FCNL; and Shan Cretin (Santa Monica Meeting), regional director of the Pacific Southwest Region of American Friends Service Committee.

Jane Peers (La Jolla Meeting) announced that Jorge Martinez (Mexico City Meeting) is regrettably unable to join us this year. Jorge has translated *Faith and Practice* into Spanish, and Jane presented a copy of this new book to Jim as our clerk.

PYM 2004-01 Pacific Yearly Meeting expresses deep appreciation for Jorge Martinez' faithful work in translating our *Faith and Practice* into Spanish.

PYM 2004-02 We approved these Friends for our Epistle Committee. Linda Dunn (Inland Valley Meeting), Sue Torrey (Central Coast Preparative Meeting), and John Holding (San Francisco Meeting).

Nominating Committee

Clerk Marilee Eusebio introduced Committee members, distributed copies of their report [final, approved version ATTACHMENT N], and noted several corrections to it. Friends are asked to direct further suggestions and corrections to members of the Committee. Friends interested in serving Yearly Meeting are asked to complete a form (pink this year) indicating their interest in specific jobs.

PYM 2004-03: We approved Jan Tappan and Sandy Farley as recording clerks for this PYM week.

Ministry and Oversight Committee

Committee Clerk Tom Farley, Sandy Farley and Eric Sabelman introduced the presentation with a story, "Voices," by Eric Sabelman. Diego James Navarro read selected parts of State of the Meeting reports from several Meetings. Common threads in the reports this year centered on these questions:

How do I find a deeper, more spirit-filled foundation for my life ?

In what ways does the Meeting community provide a trusting environment for my growth in the Spirit ?

Facing unprecedented challenges in the world, how do I balance the call to meet the needs of the wider community with my hunger to know God ? How do we support each other as Friends in our efforts to discern the balance ?

Eric Moon responded to these queries, drawing on conversations he heard as Brinton Visitor to Friends in North Pacific Yearly Meeting. Listening to Friends, he noticed that we frequently describe our Meetings with words like: small, few, overcommitted, stressed, and tired.

"Small" seems to be a universal image among Friends. Through most of our history, we have been few in numbers, relative to other religious groups; we have attracted non-Quakers to our good works, but not to our membership rolls. Might "small" be a good thing ? Is our perceived small size part of our ministry ? Does it keep us from growing ? Do we perpetuate "smallness" because many of us have come to Friends from larger denominations ?

Is it possible to be a “nominal” Quaker ? The Religious Society of Friends arose at a time when many people were nominally religious; are we now becoming as complacent as society was then ? Instead of “We do utterly deny all outward wars...” do we now think “We do utterly resent all wars because they are so inconvenient...”?

When we feel overstressed, we begin talk about balancing demands, as in our third query. What we call “spiritual renewal” and what we call “Quaker social concern” are not two different things, but two parts of the same thing. As you open yourself to the one, inevitably you will sooner or later encounter the other. As this “one big thing” grows in your life, its balance, its center of gravity, repeatedly shifts. With God’s work in us growing, we need to determine its current centerpoint, grasp and lift there. Re-finding that center, we can discern what we are truly called to do, and we become more faithful and effective.

Jim’s query last night asked us about structures; as we consider the need for Quaker structures, we are reminded that each of us is also a “Quaker structure;” our challenge may be in the practice of our individual lives as well as in the work of our Meetings and committees. While we rightfully care about the quality of our Quaker *process*, the world may be in need of more Quaker *product*.

From the worship, a Friend cautioned us to be gentle with those who would rather seek depth gradually instead of plunging in; gratitude is a way to greater depth. Another Friend spoke of her Meeting’s work to increase their sense of community, using queries to help define their community and support each other in the Spirit. We were reminded that we may be more effective through our listening than through our actions.

Several Friends spoke to the image of smallness. When George Fox climbed Pendle Hill, he didn’t see a *small* people to be gathered. Yet, while some churches are small because they are exclusive, we are open. Our influence ripples out into the whole world. Jamaicans say, “Can you small yourselves down ?” when asking others to make room on a bench. We need to “small ourselves down” to make room for the Spirit in our lives.

Stephen Myers, a Young Friend, and Mallory Marshall, from Junior Yearly Meeting, also responded to the queries. Stephen spoke of seeking to find a balance in his life. He has seen the effectiveness of organizing large groups to address specific issues, but as a Quaker, he realizes that small, intentional communities can be effective as well. Mallory spoke of her concerns for community among Friends and heard that others felt as she did; their support affirmed that the spirit of community is with us here.

From the worship, Friends spoke of the power that the words of Ministry and Oversight Committee have given us. We must listen and respond. Friends have had an influence in world events greater than our relative size. We have been effective when we have had integrity, when our actions have mirrored our words.

Friends also reminded us of the power of community. Our tradition of corporate witness has great power, yet we should not use our testimony on corporate witness as an excuse to avoid individual action. Our work is most powerful when the activists among us work together with those who tend to our spiritual foundations to discern the way forward.

Meeting closed with worshipful silence.

Faithfully submitted,

Jan Tappan, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mount Madonna Conference Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 4, 2004

PLENARY III

Our session opened in worship at 10:25 am. Joan Rawles-Davis read from the epistle of the 2003 Junior Yearly Meeting of Wilmington Yearly Meeting (Ohio) and an epistle from Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings' Friends attending YouthQuake 2003.

Clerk Jim Anderson reviewed the agenda for this plenary. Jim welcomed Friends, arrived since our sessions began, from other Yearly Meetings and Friends organizations: Cassilde Ntamamiro from Burundi Yearly Meeting, Bruce Birchard (Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting), and two Friends from Sierra Friends Center's Woolman Semester: student Mandy Janoo and teacher Sierra Curtis McClane.

Our worship tomorrow morning (preceding Plenary IV) will lead into our discernment on the relationship between PYM and Pacific Friends Outreach Society (PFOS). Jim asked that we continue in silence from worship and prepare ourselves for the session by reading materials he and PFOS have provided.

Site Committee

Clerk Pat Smith (Claremont Meeting) reported that the Committee has been considering locations for PYM in 2006, but has not come to unity on a specific site. An open Committee meeting on Friday will allow Friends to participate in the discussion that will inform our choice of site.

Friends General Conference

Eric Moon introduced our guest, Bruce Birchard, General Secretary of FGC, reading from his travel letter. Bruce Birchard spoke of the history of Friends General Conference and its mission to serve Friends and Friends Meetings, primarily from the unprogrammed tradition. Member Yearly Meetings appoint members to the governing body, a structure that does not have governing authority over the constituent Yearly Meetings. The two largest programs are the annual gatherings and the bookstore. Other programs include

- • the Traveling Ministries Program, identifying and connecting seasoned Friends for visits with Meetings,
- Quaker Press of FGC, publishing books and other resources for nurture of Friends Meetings,
- • the Religious Education Committee, supplying curricula and materials for First-Day Schools,
- • support for Quaker efforts at outreach, including www.Quakerfinder.org, a web site with basic information about Quakers and a nationwide Meeting locator service based on zipcodes, and
- • the Friends Meetinghouse Fund, providing advice and financial loans to groups seeking to build, renovate, or purchase Meetinghouses.

Bruce spoke of the influence FGC Gatherings have had on individual Friends, and of Friends' impact on FGC. He told us of plans for the 2006 Gathering, the first week in July at Pacific Lutheran University near Tacoma, Washington. This Gathering will provide a rich opportunity to share deeply with other Friends of all ages through a wide variety of activities and workshops.

Friends World Committee / World Gathering of Young Friends

Sandy Farley presented a request from FWCC that PYM appoint two Young Friends (ages 18 - 35) to be our representatives to the World Gathering of Young Friends, August 16 – 24, 2005, at Lancaster University, U.K.

PYM 2004-04: We ask PYM Nominating Committee to name two young Friends to represent PYM at the World Gathering of Young Friends, to be held in August 2005. We ask PYM Finance Committee to allocate \$4,000 to support the attendance of these representatives.

Discernment: Youth, Young Friends, and Pacific Yearly Meeting

Zachary Moon (Strawberry Creek Meeting) spoke of his experiences growing up in Pacific Yearly Meeting, of the support he has felt among Friends here, and of his concern that we increase support of our younger Friends as they grow in the Quaker tradition. The transition into the adult world is often rocky; aspects of our spiritual foundations

are shaken profoundly. Zac was led to bring young people together with each other and with adults in their Meetings to share experiences of growing in Quakerism, to explore their desire for community, acceptance, and a voice in the larger Quaker world. As part of this concern, a group of Friends – Janine Carmona, Faith Eastwood, and Forrest Parker (all from Humboldt Meeting), Cris Haggins (La Jolla Meeting), Mallory Marshall (Visalia Meeting), and Eleni Richey (Santa Cruz Meeting), with mentors Carl Magruder and Kristina Perry (Humboldt), Carin Anderson and Chris Moore-Backman (San Francisco), and Gordon Bishop and Zachary Moon (Strawberry Creek) -- gathered at San Francisco Meetinghouse the week prior to PYM for “The Shalom Project,” an intergenerational experience to explore deeply what it means to be a Quaker in our times. Participants in the Shalom Project shared their experiences with us, and we responded from the silence.

Kristina Perry (Humboldt) spoke of the community of love and support that she found in the project and introduced the query that provided the focus for our responses:

What do I yearn for from my spiritual community?

Participants spoke powerfully of the personal changes experienced during the week’s activities, of the need for a supportive spiritual community that values all members, and of the transforming power of a community where we love each other and where we search lovingly for each other.

From the worship, Friends acknowledged that dialogue is needed. We ache at the disappearance of our young people, and we also long for deeper connections, for vulnerability and trust within our community. Younger Friends long for the stability and support of their connection to their Meeting community as they move into the responsibilities of adulthood. We spoke of the need to expand the role of our youth in our Meetings, and the need to value the contributions and talents of all our members. We need to break our passivity of spirit. Dialogue is a start, but complete change is needed; surface change will not be enough.

Friends rejoiced to see in these young Friends the faces of our future. Together we can fire the spirit in our souls. Growing up in Yearly Meeting can be a profoundly wonderful and joyous, wild ride. We strive to become as instruments in an orchestra, contributing equally to the joyously harmonious sound. Listen, listen, listen, to our hearts sing !

Faithfully submitted,

Jan Tappan, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 5, 2004

PLENARY IV

Discernment: Pacific Yearly Meeting and Pacific Friends Outreach Society

At about 10:30 am, following our morning worship, we entered into a discernment on the relationship between PYM and the Pacific Friends Outreach Society. Clerk Jim Anderson began our session by reminding Friends that we have a great challenge and opportunity: to speak truth with love. We heard from those who yearn for home – a home for our memories, our youth and a place of witness. We heard from others who have concerns about right use of our resources, about whether such expenditures for site or even gatherings are in line with Jesus’ call for radical witness in the world. We heard a common desire to continue our pursuit of greater clarity on this issue. [Friends’ ministries summarized in ATTACHMENT C]

While we do not have unity on these issues, we have a common commitment to search for greater clarity. We closed our session, knowing that there is much more that needs to be shared. We hope that we have listened to each other, listened beyond the words.

Announcements and Closing Worship

Assistant Clerk Krista Barnard read announcements. We closed at 12:40 pm, after a time of quiet worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 5, 2004

PLENARY V

MEMORIALS

Members of our Ministry and Oversight Committee led us in our memorials session. Committee members – assisted by two young Friends, Forrest Parker and Raul Kohl -- read the names of 42 deceased Friends, interspersed with poems.

Leonard Dart (Claremont)
Mary Roth (Apple Seed)
Diana Araujo (Visalia)
Elaine Schooley (Berkeley)
Sheila Hill-Fajors (Berkeley)

These words spoken
In an hour of silence
Make up a life
I don't know

Each person speaking
Out of the loss
Adds a color, an edge
A piece to be found

Those who stay silent
Bring a shimmer
A shining wholeness
To the completed time.

This was a life I saw,
A life lived here,
A life lived no more
I know why I came.

-- John Pixley (1994)

Betsy Eberhardt (Redwood Forest)
Ingrid Irvin (Redwood Forest)
Stephen Jones (Redwood Forest)
W. Norman Cooper (Santa Barbara)
Genevieve Nowlin (Santa Barbara)

Roland Schinzinger (Orange County)
Elsa Clay (Orange County)
Marjorie Goddard (Orange County)
Edith Robinson (Orange County)
Nicki Garman (Fresno)

I often feel that death is not the enemy of life, but its friend, for it is the knowledge that our years are limited which makes them so precious. It is the truth that time is but lent to us which makes us, at our best, look upon our years as a trust handed into our temporary keeping. – Joshua Liebman

Timothy Saunders (Strawberry Creek)
Jean Flores (Strawberry Creek)
Leona Harvey (Palo Alto)

Polly Straka (Palo Alto)
Frances Wilson (Palo Alto)
Ellen Gonzales (Mexico City)
Asenath Young (Orange Grove)
Frank Nicholson (Orange Grove)
Alan Strain (Santa Cruz)
Toussaint Jennings (Orange Grove)

Neal Burstein (San Diego)
Doreen Moore (Palo Alto)
Marjorie Stout (Redwood Forest)
Vicki Thompson (San Jose)
Stella Toogood Cope (Berkeley)

Samuel Lindley (Humboldt)
Kirk Jacob (Humboldt)
Ernie Goertzen (Berkeley)
Mildred Douglass (Honolulu)
Henrietta Vitarelli (Honolulu)

Edilith Eckart (Humboldt)
Rea Soares (Marloma / Long Beach)
Eve Todd (La Jolla)
Martha Fort (La Jolla)
Norman Girbeck (Inland Valley)
John Dart (Maui Worship Group)

I feel that love is victorious, there is no dark it
cannot light, no depth it cannot reach.

-John Greenleaf Whittier

We closed our worship singing *Swing low, sweet chariot*.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
Jim Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 6, 2004

PLENARY VI

Our session opened in worship at 10:25 am. Joan Rawles-Davis read excerpts from the epistle of the 2003 Canadian Yearly Meeting and the “Power Shuffle” from the epistle of the 2003 Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Clerk Jim Anderson thanked Friends for the support we are providing him as our new clerk. He reminded us of the queries for the week that consider who we are as a community and how our actions, our commitments, our giving of ourselves express that community.

Jim summarized his reading of past PYM minutes: PYM has not minuted a decision on a permanent site. During the next year, he will work with Ministry and Oversight Committee regarding how we are to work with the issue of a permanent site.

During the next year, the Discipline Committee will work on how we should move forward with using and sharing *Fe y Practica*, the Spanish translation of our Discipline, including the possibility of making it an official document of the Yearly Meeting.

Minutes

We considered, modified, and approved minutes of the second part of Session III. Friends offered a number of suggestions regarding the minutes of Session IV, as well as the question whether we should record minutes of discernment sessions.

Epistle Committee

Sue Torrey (Central Coast) gave the first reading of their draft epistle. Other committee members are Linda Dunn (Inland Valley) and John Holding (San Francisco), and Friends are encouraged to bring comments and suggestions to any of them.

Nominating Committee

Clerk Marilee Eusebio (Davis Meeting) brought additions and corrections to their earlier report.

Holding Corporation

Lanny Jay (Redwood Forest Meeting) reported for the PYM Holding Corporation. In 2003, Finance Committee recommended that the Yearly Meeting incorporate. During this past year, this proposal has been further considered by Ministry and Oversight Committee, Finance Committee, and the Holding Corporation; all support this action. The reasons for incorporation (primarily legal liability) were discussed in some detail. This would not change how we conduct our business. Some reservations and questions were raised, to which Lanny responded.

PYM 2004-05 Friends approved incorporating the Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends under the laws of the State of California. One Friend stood aside from this decision.

Treasurer's Report

Sherri Sisson, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report for our fiscal year ending September 30, 2003 (and a year-to-date account of the fiscal year that will end this September), including session expenses and a balance sheet showing funds and reserves. [ATTACHMENT B]

PYM 2004-06 Friends gratefully accepted the Treasurer's report of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, including income and expenses for the 2003 PYM session.

Finance Committee

Committee Clerk Stratton Jaquette presented highlights from their revised report [ATTACHMENT F]. He noted that the most substantive change they recommend is to increase – to full costs -- our reimbursement for travel by PYM representatives to Friends organizations.

They also recommend that the Finance Committee's budget for fiscal year 2004 be augmented by \$400 to \$1300, this amount to be balanced by increasing the transfer from reserves by \$400. This increase is because interim appointments to the Committee resulted in higher than expected travel expenses.

PYM 2004-07 We approved augmentation of the fiscal year 2004 budget for the Finance Committee by \$400, to \$1300, this amount be balanced by an increase in the transfer from reserves.

In their report, Finance Committee also recommends a number of policy changes regarding the keeping of PYM financial records.

PYM 2004-08 Friends approved that the Yearly Meeting discontinue moving unused funds from line item 5206 (Young Friends PYM Scholarship) into reserve fund 2742 (Young Friends Travel Reserve).

PYM 2004-09 Friends approved renaming line item 2721 as Pre-Publishing Reserves, *Faith and Practice*, and using this reserve for that purpose.

We discussed the Committee recommendation that travel expenses to Representative Committee be covered for all previous Presiding Clerks. There was concern that this might seem to be making the appointment of a Presiding Clerk an appointment in perpetuity. We took no action on this recommendation.

PYM 2004-10 Friends approved the establishment of limits on the following Reserve funds:

2713 Clerk's Travel and Discretion (5202) Reserve	\$2,000
2714 Committee Supplemental (5237) Reserve	\$2,000
2722 Equipment Purchase (5207) Reserve	\$1,500
2723 Account Audit (5210) Reserve	\$4,000
2749 Latin American Concerns (5212) Reserve	\$1,500

At present, PYM reimburses travel by PYM representatives to several Friends organizations at differing rates. Finance Committee recommends that PYM provide full travel reimbursement to all nominated PYM representatives to Friends organizations. Given the complexity of this proposal, we agreed to consider it at Representative Committee and then at next year's August session.

Stratton reviewed the proposed budget for our fiscal year 2004-05 [ATTACHMENT B, p. 1-2, right-hand column], to be considered for possible approval at tomorrow's session.

Committee to Name the Nominating Committee

Zachary Moon (Strawberry Creek) reported for the Committee – other members are Ann Bleile-Kratzer (Fresno) and Sue Scott (Inland Valley). They propose the following Friends as new members:

- 2005 Marilee Eusebio (Davis)
- 2006 Darcy Stanley (Berkeley)
- 2007 Elaine Emily (Orange Grove)
- 2007 Forrest Parker (Humboldt)
- 2007 Ann Harwood (Orange Grove)

The Committee suggested that Sharon Gates (Orange Grove), already a member, serve as Clerk for 2004-2005.

Announcements and Closing Worship

Assistant Clerk Krista Barnard read announcements. We closed at 12:55 pm, after a time of quiet worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 7, 2004

PLENARY VII

Our session opened in worship at 8:15 am. Reading Clerk Joan Rawles-Davis read excerpts from the epistles of the 2003 New England Yearly Meeting and the 2003 Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Minutes

We considered and approved the revised minutes of Session IV. We considered, further revised, and approved the revised minutes of Session VI. Also, we approved enclosing in the session packets some reports submitted by Committees and Friends but not actually heard in plenary. [ATTACHMENTS D, E, G, K, M]

Statistical Clerk

Gary Wolff, Statistical Clerk, reported that the Yearly Meeting experienced a net increase of thirteen members this year [ATTACHMENT H]. Our annual growth rate over the past several years averages out to about three-quarters of a percent per year.

Registrars

Registrars Kim Lacey and Susie Stanley reported that about 457 Friends attended PYM this year, approximately the same as last year's 454. There are fewer teens this year than last, because they grew up and are now adults. Friends accepted their report. [ATTACHMENT J]

Committee to Name the Nominating Committee

PYM 2004-11 We approved the following additions to our Nominating Committee: to serve through PYM 2005, Marilee Eusebio (Davis); to serve through PYM 2006, Darcy Stanley (Berkeley); to serve through PYM 2007, Elaine Emily (Orange Grove), Ann Harwood (Orange Grove), and Forrest Parker (Humboldt); Sharon Gates (Orange Grove) to serve as Committee clerk through PYM 2005.

Nominating Committee

Clerk Marilee Eusebio reported for the Committee, encouraging Friends interested in serving on Committees (except Ministry and Oversight and Nominating) to visit the meetings of those Committees.

PYM 2004-12 We approved the report of Nominating Committee – names of PYM officers, Committee members, and representatives to Friends' organizations -- as presented during this week. [ATTACHMENT N]

Peace and Social Order Committee

Arden Pierce (Palo Alto Meeting) referred Friends to the written report of the Committee. [ATTACHMENT P]

Finance Committee (Budget)

Clerk Stratton Jaquette reported for the Committee. Friends presented specific concerns about the allocation of contributions to the Pacific Friends Outreach Society (PFOS) and Friends United Meeting (FUM). There is great division in our community regarding the PFOS work; division that requires divine assistance to resolve. We are more deeply aware of the pain on all sides of this question. We must have a new readiness not to leave this question behind, but to work on it both in personal conversations and in our committee work.

PYM 2004-13 Friends approved the contribution (line 5265) to Friends United Meeting in our fiscal year 2005 budget, but asked that our Treasurer not disburse it before Representative Committee next March, when FUM policy regarding sexual minorities can be further considered. (This decision does not affect the contribution to FUM from our 2004 budget.)

PYM 2004-14 Friends approved the fiscal year 2005 budget [ATTACHMENT B], at the "Plan A level" (see Finance Committee revised report, p. 8) that reflects an as yet unchanged policy on delegates' travel reimbursement. We minute our acknowledgement of the deep concern and pain in our hearts regarding division over a permanent site and our commitment to work with each other in coming months to seek a way forward. (The donation to FUM is conditioned by minute PYM 2004-13.) Carin Anderson, Bob Barns, Tom Farley, John Holding and John Pixley stood aside from approval of the budget by this minute.

PYM 2004-15 Friends approved an assessment level for member Meetings of \$36 per member, except for Mexico City Meeting (for which it remains \$10 per member).

Announcements and Closing Worship

The meeting closed at 10:55 am, after a time of quiet worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Mt. Madonna Center, Watsonville, California

8th Month 7, 2004
PLENARY VIII

Our session opened in worship at 11:45 am. Reading Clerk Joan Rawles-Davis read excerpts from the epistle of the 2003 Britain Yearly Meeting.

Mt. Madonna Center director Dayanand Diffenbaugh expressed their community's appreciation for our presence at Mt. Madonna Center and the example of our process. Brajesh, their program director, asked for and received feedback regarding our experience here this week.

Epistles and Reports of Children, Junior Friends and Young Friends

The preschool group shared their epistle. (All epistles combined, as ATTACHMENT L)
The lower elementary group shared their epistle, including a poem. The upper elementary group shared their epistle. The middle school group shared their epistle and a cheer. Members of the Junior Yearly Meeting presented the names of their officers and committee members for the coming year and then shared their epistle.

Young Friends, after presenting the slate of their officers and the names of Young Friends to attend the August 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends, read their epistle. Arising from a meeting in deep worship, they propose Darcy Stanley and Kate Newlin as PYM delegates to the World Gathering. Four other Young Friends (Melina Larkin, John Loch, Eleni Richey, Sara Wolcott) also hope to attend the Gathering, and we are asked to support their Meetings in sponsoring them.

Epistle

On behalf of Epistle Committee, Sue Torrey (Central Coast) read our 2004 Epistle.

PYM 2004-16 We gratefully accepted all these epistles. [ATTACHMENT L]

Unity with Nature Committee

Clerk Kristina Perry (Humboldt) reported that the Committee had hoped to open a period of discernment, as the Committee's function shifts to supporting ministry and witness. Our traditional testimonies are inextricably linked to our care for the environment. We return to two queries Jim posed on Monday evening: Who are we called to be as Friends in this time and place? What then are the structures and patterns of life we need to serve this calling? Rachel Findley (Strawberry Creek) quoted Friend Mildred Binns Young: "...Why with all our labor-saving devices and fast transport, are we so short of time? Is it because we are greedy of experience for its own sake? -- to see more, go farther, earn more, learn more, than is feasible in one short lifetime? The human soul needs time, needs to take time, unless experience is to become mere accumulation, bearing bad fruit, like any other kind of ambition."

Minutes

We considered and approved the minutes of Session VIII.

Announcements and Closing Worship

Assistant Clerk Krista Barnard read announcements. Jim Anderson thanked all of us for our help this week. This final plenary closed in worship at 1:00 pm, followed by a closing meeting for worship. We will meet next year -- August 1 to 6, 2005 -- at Mt. Madonna Center.

Faithfully submitted,

Joseph Magruder, Recording Clerk
James Anderson, Presiding Clerk

=====*end*=====

Minutes

Pacific Yearly Meeting 2004

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PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

of the RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING, 2004 EPISTLES

To Friends Everywhere,

The fifty-eighth session of Pacific Yearly Meeting met August 2nd through 7th, 2004, at Mount Madonna Center in California, a mountaintop island of redwoods and oaks surrounded by a sea of coastal fog.

Our week together began with welcomings: to Friends from many parts of the world -- Australia, Burundi, England – and to Bruce Birchard of Friends General Conference. We welcomed a group of young Friends coming from the Shalom Project, a weeklong sojourn at an inner-city meetinghouse, called to explore more deeply their faith and the realities of inner city streets. We welcomed numerous bicyclists to our mountaintop, including an intergenerational group on a 2-day ride from San Francisco Meetinghouse, as we began to look more deeply at our ecological footprint. We also celebrated the recent legal affirmation of the marriages of our members who have been in long-term same-sex relationships. And we minuted our welcome of *Fe y Practica*, a Spanish-language edition of our *Faith and Practice*, brought to us by Friends in our Mexico City Monthly Meeting.

This year, more plenary time was intentionally devoted to greater discernment, to a searching for God's guidance and wisdom.

We used that time to challenge ourselves to go deeper on fundamental issues: the health of our intergenerational connections, the challenges of living our seventeenth-century Peace Testimony in a twenty-first-century world, and the effort to address more directly the long-standing question of creating a Yearly Meeting permanent site. And we were challenged at our meeting for memorials by the loss this year of forty-two of our members, those "living testimonies" who have touched our lives in so many ways.

We undertook our work together from a place of deep spiritual listening, remembering always that the heart of our community is the meeting for worship. A Friend asked that we listen with our hearts and risk being transformed.

And from this place what did we hear ?

We heard questions which were held up to the Light. Is our small size a blessing or a challenge ? Have we lost the process of corporate discernment ? Is it possible to be a "nominal Quaker ?" Must we all dive deeply, or can we value small, steady steps into spiritual waters ?

At this Yearly Meeting, our ears are opened to the cries of the Earth. In one Friend's words, God gave us heaven, and this heaven is called earth. For the first time in the history of our Yearly Meeting, we began to get a more concrete sense of how heavily we tread upon this heaven. Through an ecological footprint questionnaire, we discovered that bringing more than 400 of us together required an extra 42,000 miles of driving, 2500 gallons of gasoline, and 40,000 sheets of paper. However, we shrank our food footprint, as the 60% of us who are meat eaters ate locally produced vegetarian meals.

We labored together on questions raised regarding a permanent site for Yearly Meeting. A group of Friends have been developing a site in the Central Valley of California and have offered it for use by the Yearly Meeting. We heard from those who yearn for home – a home for our memories, our youth, and a place of witness. We heard from others who have concerns about right use of our resources, or whether such expenditures for site or even gatherings are in line with Jesus' call for radical witness in the world. And we heard a common desire to continue our pursuit of greater clarity on this issue.

We listened to our yearnings for this beloved community. A Friend shared a desire for the radical faithfulness and fire of early Friends. A parent yearned for support from other adults in the community to raise our children. Another Friend asked for more joy in our Quaker life, in the sense of "making a joyful noise unto the Lord." And

several voices asked that we find ways to know each other more deeply and that we lovingly hold each other to accountability.

We were particularly opened to hear better the voices of the young among us. A young Friend, sharing his experience of a week in the inner city, asked us, "Have you actually been there, just to be there?" Another expressed a yearning for dialogue with elders and a desire to hear their stories. We heard that they yearn to feel trusted, to be taken seriously. They elderd us to give them equal recognition when they stand in plenary to speak, and they expressed appreciation for our willingness to be in greater connection with them.

Friends, we have begun a journey of taking a deeper look at who we are called to be as Quakers in this time. We look forward to sharing our progress on this journey. In this work, we recognize that it is the yearnings of the young which will guide our future. We leave you with ministry from one of these young Friends:

I see us all as an orchestra. Some instruments are playing loudly, some not at all, and some have forgotten how to play. We have no conductor; we must conduct ourselves. But we must not be afraid of the music we'll play, who will hear it, or how it will sound to others, because I'm sure if we all play together, it will sound very beautiful.

For PYM Friends,
James Anderson, Clerk

Epistle from Young Friends, PYM 2004

Much like the greater body of Pacific Yearly Meeting, the Young Friends group spent the week searching about what it means to be spiritual, in this community and in the world at large. From day one, when several Young Friends (along with others) biked about ten hours to reach Mt. Madonna without using fossil fuels, to our careful and deeply spiritual process for selecting representatives to the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends, we showed our concern for expressing Quaker values in our lives.

At a discernment session about PYM and youth, the query was posed, "What do you yearn for, from your spiritual community?" That question remained in our collective consciousness throughout the gathering. As we questioned our faith, what membership in a Monthly Meeting provides, and acknowledged mistakes made towards and by us in efforts to foster community, many of us began to verbalize how our spirituality moves us and calls us to be bigger than we have seen ourselves to be.

For some Friends, moving up from Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM), the week was a time to get our feet wet. For some, the week was a chance to spend more time connecting with the greater PYM, in discernment, worship sharing, and interest groups. Nor did we forget our younger Friends: some of us braved the weed-infested pond to horse around with the elementary school group. We also "got personal" with JYM, during the "Respectful Relationships" talk, sharing both positives and negatives from our experiences in relationships.

Coming to clearness on who would be named as YF representatives to the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends (the first in twenty years), turned out to be a deeply spiritual and therapeutic experience. The truth that came out of the worship was Spirit-led and full of both pain and joy for the Friends involved. Many of us also participated in a discussion about the idea of a permanent site. Views ranged from excited to apathetic, from passionately in favor to holding deep reservations. Though we could not reach unity, most agreed that the discussion was important and should continue.

The question of community also fueled our desire to "cross-pollinate" with young and not so young members of PYM. Young Friends started the week off with nearly twenty new faces in our ranks, compelling us to delve deeper into the sometimes difficult practice of building community. In playing volleyball, in swimming, in two off-site trips – one to the Santa Cruz boardwalk, and the other our annual "non-vegetarian" campout – we continued to build friendships. Creating the community we envision will be a long process, and we may never reach our ideal – we clearly don't have unity about what that ideal is – but we enjoy being together.

In the Light,
PYM Young Friends

Epistle from Junior Yearly Meeting, PYM 2004

Dear Friends,

Speaking in silence,
Ecstatic joy, grins and laughs,
Friendships made evermore.

Junior Yearly Meeting grew tremendously in our understanding of the unfortunate barriers between generations apparent throughout PYM. Doors were opened to discussion early in the week. This was apparent in various programs, such as our discussion with Young Friends on “Respectful Relationships,” which created a deeper bond between our two groups as it had last year.

Our theme was also reflected in interest groups we attended, on subjects such as the draft, the Woolman Semester, and Pacific Friends Outreach Society, which addresses needs for a permanent PYM site. This was a topic of great controversy. Our active participation in the plenaries we attended demonstrated the passion we felt about the worship query “What do I yearn for, in my spiritual community ?” and our need for a deeper connection between the youth and the greater PYM.

With love,
PYM Junior Yearly Meeting

Epistle from Middle School Group, PYM 2004

To Friends Everywhere,

This year at Mt. Madonna, our mornings and afternoons were a combination of programmed learning and a sort of free time, with fun and games.

Mornings were filled with educational topics. We were privileged to have two Friends from Friends Committee on Legislation come talk to us about the death penalty. They knew a lot and had so many fascinating stories to tell us. We all benefited a lot from listening to them speak.

We also talked about sweatshops. We looked at all the clothes we were wearing to see where they were made. After each of us had made a list of the countries our clothes were made in, we looked at a world map and circled those countries. Some of them we had never heard of, like Myanmar.

We all looked forward to our afternoons. We played games like elbow tag, freeze tag, and big booty. We also swam in the lake, went to the Boardwalk, and attended a plenary with JYM, which we enjoyed a lot !

Overall, the week was a success. We loved becoming a community and had a great time, thanks to our new friends and teachers ! Go-o-o Quakers !

Epistle from Upper Elementary Group, PYM 2004

Greetings to Friends of All Ages,

This year at PYM, we, the children of Upper Elementary, had lots of fun. Our biggest project was to make and fly kites. We got to swing on a rope swing, climb up a climbing rope, and go swimming in the pond. We learned songs, read stories, ate snacks, and (some of us) got scrapes and bee stings. We sang the “George Fox Song” every day.

We also got to see some very brave deer, who let us get very close if we stayed quiet. We saw at least one buck, several does, and two fawns. All in all, we had a really great time.

With love, from

Laura Adair, Robert Allen, Eli Fowler, Grady Fowler, Anthony Gillespie, Ty Graham, Mika Ingerman, Maya Kratzer, Rose Mackenzie, Rose Mead, Rita Purcell, Eleanor Roberts-Caudle, Arielle Rubin, Lee Sisson

Epistle from Lower Elementary Group, PYM 2004

To Friends Everywhere,

How are you doing ? Our friends here at PYM are really nice. Some of us didn't like the vegetarian food at Mt. Madonna this year, but some of us wanted to tell you we really liked the lunch, especially the chips and salsa, and the Tofutti Cuties. (Max even liked the tofu !)

We loved the lake here and wished there had been more lifeguards and more volunteers in the afternoons, so we could have swum more. We also loved playing with Legos and beads every day.

Some of us were here at PYM for the first time and were working on making new friends in our group of 15. Some of us have been here lots of times: a couple of us eight times, one of us seven times, one six, and at least one five times. A bunch of us also came to PYM before we were even born !

We love to see each other every year and do the things we love to do together. We wrote a poem about what our spirit looks like:

What is Nature saying to my spirit ?

Listen

Do not be afraid, because God is with you.

Breathe.

Be at peace.

Relax.

You are safe with God.

Things will turn out okay.

Be aware and look all around.

Be aware of poison oak.

Here is good, fresh air; you can always feel and hear things.

You are being protected.

You are important, but not more important than the trees and the animals.

When you are quiet and listen, sometimes you will hear, and sometimes you won't.

You can be happy. Don't worry what will happen.

Peace.

Epistle from Preschoolers, PYM 2004

We played. We had some fights. We made up. We made very good friends. We like to explore a lot. We went to a secret temple. It was dark. We had worship.

With love,

PYM Preschoolers