

**The Religious Society of Friends
Pacific Yearly Meeting**

**2010
Representative Committee**

**Orange Grove Meetinghouse
Pasadena, California
Third Month, Sixth Day, 2010**

Pacific Yearly Meeting

2010 Representative Committee

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Some were uneasy about this interim process, and clarity for the future was requested. Since the current Faith and Practice does not address this question, it was suggested that the question go to Discipline Committee for consideration for the future. The nomination was held for later approval.

See Attachment 1: *Report of Nominating Committee presented at RepCom 2010.*

Naming Committee

Names were brought forward for the new Naming Committee: Brian Vura-Weis (Palo Alto), Jim Anderson (Chico), Shane Lightner (Santa Monica), Sharon Gates (Orange Grove), and Darcy Stanley (Strawberry Creek). Those not present will be contacted during the day about willingness to serve.

Ministry and Oversight Committee

Jean Lester, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight, reported that George Lakey has been invited as keynote speaker for our annual gathering. The theme will be “Engaging one another in the spirit.” From Friends General Conference, Vanessa Julye will speak again on race relations. The committee has a draft statement on child abuse and safety to pass out. Brian Vura-Weis, who will be in residence at Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City March 19-29, reports that 1000 copies of the Advices and Queries have been printed in Spanish at a cost of \$650.

Registrar

Liz Baker presented, on behalf of Registrars Joe Magruder and Margaret Mossman of Berkeley Meeting and the Finance Committee, the proposal for annual session fees. This is expected to raise total fees of \$159,750. Expected total expenses for the session are \$160,283. For the Memorial Service on Thursday only, Friends may attend for free. There was discussion of the merits and demerits of different fee schedules for partial attendance for children, with respect to encouraging children to attend for the full week, especially concern over the proposal that there be no partial week fee schedule for children, while there is one for adults. The question was raised of whether it was in our best interest to charge a day fee for those who might want to attend only, for example, the plenary address. Concern was raised that fees are prohibitively high, especially in view of no camping availability. Questions were raised as to whether we might fully subsidize children, or whether a reduced fee for elders might be considered. It was suggested that monthly meetings might be asked to consider this question of subsidizing children’s participation. Consideration of a possible larger scholarship fund was also proposed. Concern over the costs of a plenary speaker was raised. Concern was expressed that we need to address this overall policy question of how to set fees for the annual session in RepCom, rather than having this same debate with the Registrar’s proposal each RepCom.

RepCom 2010-1: *Representative Committee approved the session fee proposal, with the exception that registrars and finance committee were asked to change the fees for part-time attendance for children, and to address other concerns expressed. Differential fees reflecting early and late payment dates will also be added to the proposal.*

See Attachment 2: *PYM 2010 Session Fees presented at RepCom.*

After a 20-minute break, Representative Committee reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

Clerk Marilee Eusebio thanked Janet Lindlom, Jake Shirikjian, and Myungeun Strickland of Orange Grove Meeting for their help in arranging this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Flowers, Assistant Treasurer, reported on behalf of Treasurer Gary Wolff. Fiscal year is October 1, 2008-September 30, 2009. The expected contribution per member is \$38. This does not include the voluntary contribution for Youth Program Coordinator, which amount is also roughly \$38.

Contributions from meetings were roughly as expected, but return on investments lower. Ministry and Oversight and Friends House Moscow Committees overspent their budgets. Annual session surplus last year was \$15,437. Money is needed for the Youth Program Coordinator, with only roughly \$23,000 having been contributed so far. It was suggested that a separate major account for YPC be set up.

See Attachment 3: PYM RepCom 2010 Treasurer's Report*

*See Finance Committee below for addition of lines to Treasurer's Report.

RepCom 2010-2: *Representative Committee accepted the Treasurer's report.*

Finance Committee

Ed Flowers, Clerk, reported for Finance Committee. A letter will be sent out asking for Monthly Meetings to send contributions or at least to let the Committee know when monthly meetings will provide contributions and how much.

An augmentation to \$3,927 (for 2008-09) was recommended for Ministry and Oversight.

An augmentation to \$2,644 (for 2008-09) was recommended for Friends House Moscow.

RepCom 2010-3: *Representative Committee approved the following augmentations to the 2008-2009 budget:*

Augmentation to \$3,927 for Ministry and Oversight

Augmentation to \$2,644 for Friends House Moscow.

An augmentation of \$400 for committee travel was recommended for the Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee (for 2009-10).

RepCom 2010-4: *Representative Committee approved the augmentation of \$400 for committee travel for the Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee in the 2009-2010 budget.*

A total budget line of \$500 (to be added) was recommended for Clerk's Invited Guests for George Lakey (for 2009-10).

RepCom 2010-5: *Representative Committee approved adding a total budget line of \$500 for Clerk's Invited Guests for George Lakey (for 2009-10).*

New lines were added to the Treasurer's Report, as follows:

under Other Income, line 3120 – Youth Program Coordinator – Income,

3121 – YPC Contributions – Meetings

3122 – YPC Contributions – Individuals

3123 - YPC Contributions - Other

Under Other Expenses, line 3220 will be Youth Program Coordinator – Expense; under Other Current Liability, line 2780 will be Youth Program Coordinator – Reserve.

Under Expense, line 5239 will be Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee.

Concerns were expressed over the voluntary nature of contributions to the Youth Program Coordinator. It was suggested that meetings be asked to put this item into their budget and inform PYM of their expected contributions.

Secretariat

Don Bean, Clerk of Secretariat Committee, reminded us that it is important to submit both paper and electronic copies of reports to Clerk, Recording Clerk, and Secretariat.

Secretariat will be charged per hour per computer at the next annual session, so Friends are strongly encouraged to bring and use their own computers.

Latin American Concerns Committee

Dottie Vura-Weis reported that the committee is creating a bilingual website with the url:

<http://LatinAmerica.PacificYearlyMeeting.org>

The committee has been meeting primarily by conference call. Nominating committee will be asked to find more members from S. California and someone to work on website.

Peace and Social Order

Hubert Morel-Seytoux, Clerk, reported that the committee will propose four interest groups. The committee will request time to bring a minute on interfaith issues, and another on war tax resistance. Several Friends asked, and the Committee agreed, that proposed minutes get to Monthly Meetings as soon as possible so that they can examine them long before the yearly session. The committee reminded us that we approved a minute last year on health care, including a single-payer option, and asked that monthly meetings set aside a period for reflection and discernment on how to proceed with this concern as the US faces this concern. Members of the committee are available to travel to monthly meetings to help facilitate such reflection.

The minutes of the morning session were approved as corrected.

The morning session of PYM Representative Committee ended at 12:45 p.m.

Representative Committee reconvened following lunch at 1:45 p.m.

Futures Sub-committee

Jim Anderson, Clerk of the Futures Sub-committee of Ministry and Oversight, presented a report in written and oral form. He asked representatives to notify him if their meetings had not received the proposals (12 page packet) that had been sent to monthly meetings last October. Questions the subcommittee addressed included discernment of what the basic purposes of PYM and its annual sessions are, and what are the responsibilities of meeting representatives. The possibility of moving some business to RepCom was discussed. Suggestions included looking at the structure of the week of the annual session

Jim discussed responses that had come from monthly meetings. Very different responses were received on the issue of shifting business to RepCom, with some uncomfortable with a smaller group and representative rather than direct decision-making, at RepCom, and others preferring opening up yearly meeting space for other activities.

See Attachment 4: Future of PYM subcommittee of M&O, Report to PYM Representative Committee March 6, 2010.

See Attachment 5: DRAFT job description: Monthly Meeting Representatives to Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Several Friends told of low attendance at and interest in PYM, and in monthly meetings' meetings on PYM, in their monthly meetings, and concern over the processes of communication, selection of meeting reps and committee members, and introduction of new members to the processes of PYM. Several mentioned the significance of the early morning sessions on transformative Quakers, one urging that this be moved to a more central time of day. More time for reporting and discussion of committee and other Friends' activities was desired.

One meeting envisioned an annual meeting that was more spiritually based, moving much business to RepCom. One Friend stressed the importance of Representative Committee being an open meeting. Some meetings spend money on many people's attendance at the annual session. One Friend spoke of not attending the last PYM because of the contentious – and even “political” – manner in which business was conducted the year before. Another echoed that, and added that there was not enough time for committee reports and discussion, and that more preparation by all was needed. Many reflected the need for time for real discussion of both business, including financial priorities, and other matters. One asked the committee to look at how we are or are not “walking on God's path.” One suggested structuring the session in such a way that those who could not attend full-time could attend perhaps Thursday to Sunday, in order to increase attendance. Actual meeting responses rather than a committee summary might provide more complete information.

The committee will be in touch with Monthly Meetings soon again on these issues

Unity with Nature

Joe Morris, Clerk, presented the Annual Report 2010 of the Unity with Nature Committee, including the “greening” of the yearly sessions with respect to food, bicycling, and the like. 2010 will be the 25th anniversary of the committee. The committee is in active contact with almost all meetings, conducting an annual survey of involvement and activities. It is encouraged by such activities, but does not find encouraging what is not happening at the national level, and hopes to be a more active resource in that context. While the committee is not currently still working on a Testimony in this area, it did find the question of whether there is that of God in all living beings to be invigorating the discussion.

Religious Education for Children Committee

Sandy Farley, Clerk, reminded us of the availability of their mobile bookstore of children’s materials, as well as of one-day Confabs for teachers who have taught or may teach First Day Schools. The first will be March 27, hosted by Palo Alto Meeting, and these will also be available to other meetings who wish to serve as hosts. Friends General Conference has now taken over the reprinting, with revisions, of *Earthcare for Children*.

Children’s Program

Joe Magruder talked of the organization of the children’s program for the next session, and the need for teachers for the annual session.

Naming Committee

Liz Baker reported that Shane Lightner is willing to serve on Naming Committee, but not as Clerk. Brian Vura-Weis and Darcy Stanley are not willing to serve.

Annual Gathering Draft Schedule Review

Clerk Marilee Eusebio passed out a draft schedule for the annual session July 26-31, 2010. She urged all to contact Pat Smith early on requests for interest group time. The tabling fair has been discontinued. Singing or games have been added as alternatives to the dance.

A Friend spoke to the importance of clerking ourselves, and helping the Clerk to preserve the time allotted to our closing worship, a time that re-integrates us as a community, prepared to return to our daily lives. The Clerk echoed this sentiment.

See Attachment 6: Pacific Yearly Meeting 2010 Draft Schedule

Representative Committee took a brief break at 3:15 p.m.

Following a break, RepCom reconvened at 3:35 p.m.

Nominations

RepCom 2010-6: *The Representative Committee approved the nominations brought earlier for the Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee, which run through the end of the annual session 2010:*

- *Lanny Jay (Redwood Forest) from Ministry and Oversight*
- *Kate Watkins (Santa Monica) for Southern California Quarter*
- *Alyssa Nelson (Clerk) (Davis) for College Park Quarter*
- *Mary Klein (Palo Alto) as parent of JYM youth*

Nominating Committee asked to be relieved of the responsibility of necessarily finding the last member of the committee specifically from JYM Adult Committee, and allowing a wider pool. Nominating Committee reminded us that this is not yet a standing committee, but only a three-year committee at this stage. We were reminded that it is Nominating Committee that makes these nominations, with suggestions from the constituencies, and not the constituency that appoints such a person.

RepCom 2010-7: *Representative Committee approved having an at-large member added to the YPCSC.*

RepCom 2010-8: *Representative Committee approved the Naming Committee's nomination of Sheri Sisson for the Nominating Committee through the end of the next annual session.*

RepCom 2010-9: *Representative Committee approved these nominees for the 2010 Naming Committee:*

- *Jim Anderson (Chico) (Convenor)*
- *Shane Lightner (Santa Monica)*
- *Sharon Gates (Orange Grove)*
- *Kristy Updegraff (Sacramento) was approved as alternate.*

Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee

Alyssa Nelson, Clerk of the Committee, reported on the committee's work on development of a job description, and hiring. They received 13 applications and interviewed 3 people. They have made an employment offer to Sarah Beutel of Mountain View Monthly Meeting in Denver. Sarah is a University of Denver graduate who is particularly interested in issues of power and privilege. She will start part-time in April and full-time in May.

Alyssa, on behalf of the Committee, proposed the following minute, prepared in consultation with the Treasurer and Finance Committee:

Treasurer Gary Wolff is authorized to open and establish a checking account to be styled as "Pacific Yearly Meeting's Youth Program." Pacific Yearly Meeting's Taxpayer Identification Number

shall be used by and for this account. Until further notice, the number of signatures required to transact business on this account shall be one (1). Until further notice, the following persons shall be the authorized signers on this Pacific Yearly Meeting, Inc. account:

Gary Wolff
Ed Flowers
Alyssa Nelson
Elizabeth Boardman
Lanny Jay

A Friend asked why we needed to have a separate account for this activity, and why we need five signatories. The committee felt that this was necessary.

RepCom 2010-10: *Representative Committee approved the following minute:
Treasurer Gary Wolff is authorized to open and establish a checking account to be styled as "Pacific Yearly Meeting's Youth Program." Pacific Yearly Meeting's Taxpayer Identification Number shall be used by and for this account. Until further notice, the number of signatures required to transact business on this account shall be one (1). Until further notice, the following persons shall be the authorized signers on this Pacific Yearly Meeting, Inc. account:*

*Gary Wolff
Ed Flowers
Alyssa Nelson
Elizabeth Boardman
Lanny Jay*

Junior Yearly Meeting

Melissa Lovett-Adair (Central Coast), Clerk of the JYM Adult Committee, and 16 members of JYM and the JYM Adult Committee reported that they have heard various concerns. Responding to concerns about sleeping arrangements at the yearly session, they will have gender-segregated sleeping arrangements this year, and earlier bedtimes. Six or seven subcommittees are dealing with all the various concerns. Teens are encouraged to come to JYM, and adults willing to become Friendly Adult Presences are encouraged to contact Melissa Lovett-Adair.

Abuse Prevention and Safety

Sharon Gates reported for M&O on a draft policy for prevention of sexual and physical abuse in programs for youth and children in PYM. The subcommittee consulted widely with other Quaker institutions on development of such a policy. Among the factors necessitating update of such a policy are insurance considerations. Discussion ensued over training, reporting requirements, and other matters. Comments were noted by the committee and will be considered as it further develops the draft.

See Attachment 7: Draft policy for prevention of sexual and physical abuse in programs for youth and children in PYM.

Site/Arrangements

Jim Updegraff, Clerk of Site Committee and Co-Clerk of Arrangements Committee, reported on the arrangements for the next yearly meeting annual session to be held July 26-31 at the Claremont McKenna College site. Single and double rooms will be available. Arrangements clerks will work with those needing wheelchairs.

Announcements

Appleseed Monthly Meeting is moving on the first First Day of April to West County Community Services Building, Petaluma Avenue at Walker in Sebastopol. Meeting remains at 10 a.m. Mailing address and phone number remain unchanged.

Orange County Monthly Meeting is moving from Santa Ana to Irvine.

Minutes Approval and Closing Worship

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Representative Committee closed with silent worship at 5:45 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,
Carolyn Stephenson, Recording Clerk
Marilee Eusebio, Clerk

Summary List of Approved Minutes

- RepCom 2010-1:** *Representative Committee approved the session fee proposal, with the exception that registrars and finance committee were asked to change the fees for part-time attendance for children, and to address other concerns expressed. Differential fees reflecting early and late payment dates will also be added to the proposal.*
- RepCom 2010-2:** *Representative Committee accepted the Treasurer's report.*
(See Attachment 3)
- RepCom 2010-3:** *Representative Committee approved the following augmentations to the 2008-2009 budget:*
Augmentation to \$3,927 for Ministry and Oversight
Augmentation to \$2,644 for Friends House Moscow.
- RepCom 2010-4:** *Representative Committee approved the augmentation of \$400 for committee travel for the Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee in the 2009-2010 budget.*
- RepCom 2010-5:** *Representative Committee approved adding a total budget line of \$500 for Clerk's Invited Guests for George Lakey (for 2009-10).*
- RepCom 2010-6:** *The Representative Committee approved the nominations brought earlier for the Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee, which run through the end of the annual session 2010:*
- *Lanny Jay (Redwood Forest) from Ministry and Oversight*
 - *Kate Watkins (Santa Monica) for Southern California Quarter*
 - *Alyssa Nelson (Clerk) (Davis) for College Park Quarter*
 - *Mary Klein (Palo Alto) as parent of JYM youth*
- RepCom 2010-7:** *Representative Committee approved having an at-large member added to the YPCSC.*
- RepCom 2010-8:** *Representative Committee approved the Naming Committee's nomination of Sheri Sisson for the Nominating Committee through the end of the next annual session.*

Summary List of Approved Minutes (continued)

RepCom 2010-9: *Representative Committee approved these nominees for the 2010 Naming Committee:*

- *Jim Anderson (Chico) (Convenor)*
- *Shane Lightner (Santa Monica)*
- *Sharon Gates (Orange Grove)*
- *Kristy Updegraff (Sacramento) was approved as alternate.*

RepCom 2010-10: *Representative Committee approved the following minute:*

Treasurer Gary Wolff is authorized to open and establish a checking account to be styled as "Pacific Yearly Meeting's Youth Program." Pacific Yearly Meeting's Taxpayer Identification Number shall be used by and for this account. Until further notice, the number of signatures required to transact business on this account shall be one (1). Until further notice, the following persons shall be the authorized signers on this Pacific Yearly Meeting, Inc. account:

*Gary Wolff
Ed Flowers
Alyssa Nelson
Elizabeth Boardman
Lanny Jay*

Attachment 1

Report of Nominating Committee to Rep. Committee - Third Month 6th, 2010

This has been a busy year so far for Nominating Committee. At the end of Yearly Meeting we were charged with forming the Youth Programming Coordinator Supervisory Committee (YPCSC) and to do so as expeditiously as possible, so that committee could begin its work in the search for and hiring of a Youth Programming Coordinator. Further, the nomination process was not a simple one. Yearly Meeting charged us with finding committee members that would fill some specific constituencies. It's expected that these individuals will serve for the next three years (thru 2012) and will also be liaisons between YPCSC and those constituencies. We were charged with finding committee members that were also be serving on JYM Adult Committee and on Ministry & Oversight, an active adult number from College Park Quarter and from Southern California Quarter, and last, a parent of a youth active within JYM.

Further, once nominating found appropriate individuals willing to serve, they were appointed by the Clerk of Yearly Meeting and the Clerk of Nominating on an interim basis, so they could begin their work immediately. The following have been appointed:

from Ministry and Oversight:	Lanny Jay (Redwood Forest)
from JYM Adult Committee:	Sue Rios (La Jolla)
from Southern California Quarter:	Kate Watkins (Santa Monica)
from College Park Quarter:	Alyssa Nelson (Davis), clerk
parent of a youth in JYM:	Mary Klein (Palo Alto)

While not technically a function of the Nominating Committee, as it pertains to YPCSC, I will mention it here. The immediate supervisor of Youth Programming Coordinator is *ex officio* on YPCSC. The naming of this individual was not left to Nominating Committee, but instead to the Clerk of Yearly Meeting, and to the clerks of Nominating, M&O, and JYM Adult Committee. The name that the four of us have brought forward is Elizabeth Boardman (San Francisco).

The names of Lanny Jay, Kate Watkins, Mary Klein, Alyssa Nelson (as clerk) and Elizabeth Boardman (as the immediate supervisor of the Youth Programming Coordinator) are being brought today for approval.

The clerk of YPCSC is here at Representative Committee, and will be reporting on that committee's activities.

Unfortunately, I have to report that we have had several resignations and we do not have names to bring forward today to for these positions. Sue Rios has resigned from YPCSC, & Roena Oesting has resigned as our liaison with Evangelical Friends Church Southwest. Melina Larkin after serving for three years JYM Adult Committee, has left that committee leaving a one-year partial term (which at this point is actually only five months). Last, Elizabeth Bills have asked to be replaced as Recording Clerk for our 2010 annual session.

Attachment 1 (continued)

In addition, Keith Wedmore has resigned from Nominating Committee. The outgoing Naming Committee when notified of Keith's resignation, started a search for a replacement and came forward with Sherri Sisson (Orange County). While pressing interim appointments can be made by the clerk of Yearly Meeting and the clerk of Nominating Committee, Nominating Committee does not name its own members. With no clear guidance found in Faith and Practice on how to handle specific situation, the clerk of Nominating Committee, requested that this interim nomination be considered by what often constitutes an executive committee in other Quaker bodies, specifically the presiding clerk, treasurer, recording clerk and the clerk of M&O, and these Friends approved the nomination on an interim basis.

This clerk recommends that the question on how to handle a pressing interim appointment to Nominating Committee in the future be referred to Discipline Committee for their consideration and recommendation.

In addition to finding Friends willing to do service within our Yearly Meeting, Nominating Committee is attempting to update the job descriptions for all the positions within our Yearly Meeting, and we hope to present this at our annual session.

Respectfully submitted,
David-James Bloom, clerk, Nominating Committee

Attachment 2

2010 PYM Session Fees Presented at RepCom, March 6, 2010

Est. total expense for Session: \$160,283

	Age/Status	Fee	Est. # of Friends	Totals
Age	0-5	\$50	10	\$500
Age	6 to 12	\$200	25	\$5,000
Age	13 to 18	\$225	30	\$6,750
Adults	double occ.	\$425	225	\$95,625
Adults	single occ.	\$500	50	\$25,000
Adults	3-day double	\$325	25	\$8,125
Adults	3-day-single	\$350	25	\$8,750
Adults	commuter	\$200	50	\$10,000
Total:				<u>\$159,750</u>

NOTE: There is no three-day option for kids.

Attachment 3

Pacific Yearly Meeting Representative Committee – March 6, 2010 Treasurer's Report

This is the final report for Fiscal Year 2008-09 (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009). A detailed report is attached.

General Account - Highlights

Revenue

Revenue from 4101-Contributions from Monthly Meetings (\$46,588) was very close to Budget (\$46,100).

Income from 4104-Return on Invested Capital (\$1,315) was considerably less than Budget (\$5,000). This was due to interest rates on our money market accounts being less than expected.

Expenses

Overall actual expenses (\$54,257) were below Budget (\$74,675). However, two line items were over budget:

5228-Ministry and Oversight Committee (Actual \$3,927 vs Budget \$2,500). The Future of PYM Subcommittee and the Youth Program Coordinator Subcommittee were very active. Also, the budget was reduced from the prior fiscal year (from \$5,500 to \$2,500).

5282-Friends House Moscow - PYM delegate travel (Actual \$2,644 vs Budget \$2,400). This expense was for reimbursement of expenditures from the prior fiscal year for a trip to Moscow for the Executive Committee of Friends House Moscow.

Assets and Liabilities/Reserves

Our total Assets in the General Account stand at \$162,532. This balances with our Liabilities and Reserves with \$89,751 in Uncommitted Reserves.

Session Account - Highlights

The 2009 Annual Session netted a surplus of \$15,437 compared to a deficit of \$31,428 from the 2008 Annual Session.

The total fee paid to The Conference Managers in 2009 was \$13,207 compared to \$16,859 in 2008.

Attachment 3 (continued)

Youth Program Coordinator – Restricted Contributions

In FY 2008-09, a total of \$1,000 from seven individuals was contributed to the restricted contributions account for the Youth Program Coordinator. The contributed amounts ranged from \$50 to \$500.

In FY 2009-10 to date, a total of \$18,065 from 13 meetings and six individuals was contributed. The contributed amounts ranged from \$38 to \$3,648.

The total available in restricted contributions is \$19,065.

Several new accounts within the General Account were created to track the donor-imposed temporarily restricted contributions and expenses for the Youth Program Coordinator project.

Other Income

3120 – Youth Program Coordinator – Income

3121 – YPC Contributions – Meetings

3122 – YPC Contributions – Individuals

3123 – YPC Contributions – Other

Other Expense

3220 – Youth Program Coordinator – Expense

Other Current Liability

2780 – Youth Program Coordinator – Reserve

The Finance Committee may wish to consider setting up a separate major account for the Youth Program Coordinator with a separate budget much as we do now for the Annual Session. Presently the major accounts are the General Account and the Session Account. In addition the following account was created to track the associated committee expenses:

Expense

5239 – Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee

Gary Wolff, Treasurer
March 6, 2010

Attachment 4

Future of PYM subcommittee of M&O Report to PYM Representative Committee March 6, 2010

One year ago our subcommittee informed you that we were developing proposals designed to strengthen the role of monthly meetings in our yearly meeting, and to give representative committee a stronger role in our business activities. At a gathering of monthly meeting representatives at AS 2009 we shared drafts of such proposals, and received feedback from many of you on the direction of our work. We carried these concerns and recommendations into a weekend meeting in early September of 2009, and there gave attention to how we could bring the monthly meetings into the process of developing these proposals. We distributed in October a 12-page packet of materials to monthly meeting representatives, asking that these be considered by the meeting and that responses be returned to our subcommittee by mid January. We have met twice by conference call since the September meeting, and can report to you on the progress of this discernment process.

The material sent in October described the recent history of our efforts in PYM to discern directions regarding the structure and purpose of the yearly meeting, this work itself being the most recent expression of the periodic arising among us of a concern over right holding of our yearly meeting. The monthly meetings were asked to consider and offer responses to four proposals:

- a- that we develop a vision statement to clarify for ourselves the purpose of our yearly meeting.
- b- that we shift major business items from the annual session to representative committee, with appropriate changes in the structure and operation of representative committee to support this strengthened role.
- c- that we strengthen the role of monthly meeting representatives to yearly meeting, to carry the additional responsibilities of decision making and to connect the life of the monthly meetings more strongly to the work of yearly meeting, and
- d- that we experiment with a new scheduling pattern at our annual session, opening up the gathering to more time for discernment and fellowship, and allowing friends to more easily attend a part of the gathering if conditions make it difficult to attend the entire meeting.

The response from monthly meetings so far has been modest but informative. About a dozen meetings, and a number of individuals, have sent in responses at this point. Our committee plans to distribute to monthly meetings an interim account of monthly meeting responses, and a review of the discussion at this Representative Committee meeting, to initiate a second round of monthly meeting discussions of these proposals. Today we are providing you with a brief summary of the feedback we have received on our proposals from Monthly Meetings. We have also prepared a preliminary "job" description for the role of Representatives that we wish to have Monthly Meetings consider and comment on.

Attachment 4 (continued)

Brief summary of responses to the subcommittee proposals as of March 5, 2010:

Little attention was given to the formulation of **vision statements**, but some meetings did explore what they found valuable in the annual gathering: intergenerational experience, opportunities for youth, fellowship, interest group sharing, coordinating activities, information sharing, learning about Quaker faith and practice, grappling with issues.

Various responses were offered to the **proposal to shift business to representative committee**. Some looked to underlying issues: do we trust one another to do business on our behalf? How are matters brought to business plenary—with what procedures and what preparation? [The sense was that both procedure and preparation were often inadequate.] What business should our YM undertake, and to what end? Some questioned whether “representative” decision-making was really “Quakerly?” And whether other YM’s engaged in it. Some were reluctant to give Representative Committee responsibility for important decision making, feeling the Annual Gathering was the more appropriate or authoritative setting. Others noted that the Annual Gathering was not a fair representation of PYM as a whole, was “selected” in various ways, and its own claim to authoritative decision making was problematic. In addition, some suggested it was too diverse for good business procedures. “A real dilemma,” it was noted. There was the suggestion of returning to Executive Committee meeting at mid-year and Representative Committee during annual session, or experimenting with a half-yearly business meeting and an August “conference” gathering. Some considered the idea of increasing the numbers of Reps for larger meetings, if Representative Committee was to have a central decision making role. A number suggested the more frequent meeting of a representative or steering committee [as in some other yearly meetings] would be required if the business shift were to take place. In addition, some noted that present attendance at Rep. Comm. is light, and this condition would need to be remedied.

There was much support for relieving the **annual gathering** of the “pressured and often contentious” plenaries, to deal in some way with the press of business in order to open the gathering to 1- more opportunities for spiritual nurture and learning, and 2- plenary gatherings that “grappled with real issues” rather than being filled with lengthy reports. There was also significant support for **strengthening the place of the monthly meetings** and the role of the representatives. For some, this accent on decentralization was healthy, and helped to reduce the phenomenon of “yearly meeting” friends with too little connection to monthly meetings, shaping yearly meeting life. It furthermore might in return direct the resources of YM to the support of monthly meetings.

The proposal for **redesigning the annual session week** was appealing to some in its including a weekend and also in its allowing some who normally could not afford to come, to attend. Others felt the “split” had the effect of fragmenting the week, both in the partial attendance effect, and in the grouping of business and other activities. There was concern about the coherence of the youth program. Some observed that other yearly meetings [e.g. IMYM] employ a version of this two-stage week with good effect.

This preliminary review gives some of the range of views among us. Can we work together to find the common way forward, one that preserves what deeply nurtures us but reshapes what frustrates our yearnings to be that beloved community in service to one another and to the world?

Attachment 5

DRAFT job description:

Monthly Meeting Representatives to Pacific Yearly Meeting

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE YEARLY MEETING

Qualifications:

The Representative should be an active participant of the Monthly Meeting, able to participate in the Annual Gathering of the Yearly Meeting and the Representative Committee Meeting in March of each year. Familiarity with, or prior attendance at the Annual Gathering is helpful. Access to e-mail is useful.

Job Description:

Representation of the Monthly Meeting at Representative Committee Meetings and at the Annual Gathering of the Yearly Meeting by bringing to the Yearly Meeting concerns from the Monthly Meeting and by reporting back on actions and concerns of the Yearly Meeting, so that the Monthly Meeting is informed and included in the life of the Yearly Meeting. The Representative and Observer appointed by the Monthly Meeting should be provided with a copy of the Proposal for Revitalizing the Yearly Meeting

Each Monthly Meeting shall appoint one Representative and one Observer for a three year renewable term.

Tasks: The Representative is expected to:

- Represent the experience, concerns and needs of the Monthly Meeting in the gatherings of Pacific Yearly Meeting's Representative Committee Meetings and the Annual Gathering
- Participate in seasoning and decision-making of the Representative Committee and the Annual Gathering

Attachment 5 (continued)

- Carry the business and communications of PYM back to the Monthly Meeting for its consideration, involvement and action
- Educate the Monthly Meeting on the workings and the purposes of the Yearly Meeting
- Encourage participation of Monthly Meeting members and attenders in the Yearly Meeting and help facilitate their attendance by assisting with transportation and scholarship needs
- Remain informed about and engaged in the life of both the Monthly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting

Expectations and Timelines:

Representatives and Observers are responsible for attending the two-day Representative Committee gathering in March, and Representative Committee Meeting(s) at the Annual Gathering (5 days) during the summer. Time during the year must be scheduled to meet with members of the Monthly Meeting to carry out the information gathering and sharing activities described above. Travel Costs to the Representative for attending Representative Committee Meetings is reimbursed by the YM.

Attachment 6

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING 2010

Hours	Mon 7/26	Tue 7/27	Wed 7/28	Thu 7/29	Fri 7/30	Sat 7/31
7:00 - 8:30	Outdoor Worship, Bible Study, Transforming Quakers					
8:00 - 9:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:15 - 10:30		Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Plenary VIII
10:45 - 12:15		Worship Sharing	Worship Sharing	Worship Sharing	Worship Sharing	Worship 10:45 - 11:45
12:30 - 1:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	CLEAN UP! 11:45 - 12:45
1:45 - 3:15	Registration, Committee Mtgs	Plenary II 1:45-3:30 Guest Speaker	Interest Groups	Plenary V 1:45 - 2:45	Plenary VII	EVALUATION MEETING 1-2
3:30 - 5:00	Newcomer Orientation; Meeting for Parents	4:00-5:15 Intergenerational Games	Plenary III	Plenary VI Meeting for Memorials 3:00 - 5:00	Interest Groups	
5:30 - 6:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
6:45 - 8:15	Plenary I	Interest Groups	Plenary IV Open Committee Meetings	All-Ages Dance until 10p; Board Games, Singing	Community Night 7:00 - 9:30	
8:30	12 Step; Affinity Groups, Open Time	12 Step; Affinity Groups, Open Time	12 Step; Affinity Groups, Open Time	12 Step; Affinity Groups, Open Time	12 Step; Affinity Groups, Open Time	

Attachment 7

Policy for Prevention of Sexual and Physical Abuse in PYM Programs and Activities Short Title: Abuse Prevention Policy

May 2010

Pacific Yearly Meeting takes reasonable and necessary precautions to insure that our children, young people, and the adults who work with them are safe and secure during their programs and activities, and that the safety and reputation of teachers and program organizers is also protected. However, in an organization made up almost entirely of volunteers, strict requirements regarding references and background checks are cumbersome at best and nearly impossible to enforce. It becomes the responsibility of *all* who work with children and young people to be aware of situations in which abuse might occur and prevent those occurrences by following strict guidelines.

Volunteers:

- All volunteers who work with children and young people are well known (active members and attenders for at least six months before the event, for example) to the program organizers or to their meetings so that the program organizer may easily determine their suitability.
- Any occasional or casual volunteers who drop in to help may not be left alone with the children or any child not their own, except in an emergency. This includes teen volunteers with children.
- One-to-one conversations and activities not visible to others, even by fully trusted and familiar volunteers, are strongly discouraged.

Program activities:

- All programs, rooms, activities are staffed by at least two adults.
- Locations of activities, programs, classes are easily accessible by parents and other concerned adults—an area outdoors, or with windows, or near adult activities.
- Field trips or activities in a remote location include an extra adult—for example, two to stay with the group, one to go for help.

Responding to reports of suspected abuse:

- All reports of suspected abuse are taken seriously, and heard with compassion and without judgment. It is not the responsibility of the report taker to decide whether or not abuse has occurred. Reports made to volunteers or parents must be shared with one of the following, who will then notify the others: the Adult Clerk of JYM, the Children's Program Committee Clerk, the Clerk of M&O, and Clerk of PYM. However, when a teacher reports suspected abuse to a clerk, the responsibility to report to the official agencies does not shift to the clerk. The person hearing the initial report is responsible for the report.

Attachment 7 (continued)

- Teachers, medical workers, and therapists are mandated reporters and must report any incidents of suspected abuse as defined by law. We should hold PYM program organizers and teachers to the same standard. The person hearing the report, or a clerk as listed above must make a report to the local child protective service hotline or local law enforcement.
- All involved adults are held to a standard that respects the confidentiality, sensitivity and reputation of all concerned.

Sexual abuse may include, but is not limited to:

- verbal or visual obscenities,
- unwanted sexual comments, teasing or jokes,
- unwanted sexual or suggestive touching or closeness,
- pressure for dates or meeting alone,
- sexual intercourse or touching without consent,
- sexual intercourse, contact, or touching, even with consent, between two minors or between a minor and an adult,
- any sort of threat, implied or stated, if the victim “tells.”

State information regarding mandated reporting can be found at
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/PUB132.pdf>

Note regarding sexual harassment and unwanted sexual activity between adults:

Although this policy is primarily concerned with the safety of children, similar care and concern is extended to adults who report unwanted sexual attention. These reports are referred to the Clerk of M&O, who will discern how to proceed. One important concern may be whether or not, and how, to involve police or other authorities.