

**Pacific Yearly Meeting
68th Annual Session Minutes and Reports**

PLENARY IX

Plenary IX opened with silent worship at 10:03 am.

Epistle Reading:

D.J. Bloom noted that the epistles collected from far and wide can be accessed on the PYM website under the epistles category. He then read the Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting, held at Friends House, London on 24 – 27 May 2013. The epistle reported that at the Annual Session, special attention was given to discernment and deep listening, and to the meaning of being a trustee within the Yearly meeting.

Clerk's Welcome: The Clerk welcomed all to the final plenary of the 68th Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Naming Committee, Final Report:

The Naming committee, Jim Summers, Liz Baker, and Marilee Eusebio, convener, brought the following names for Nominating Committee:

For terms ending in 2017: Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), Graciela Martinez (Visalia), and Nora Cooke (Grass Valley)

And for the term ending in 2015, Marion Holzwarth (San Bernardino/Ojai Worship Group)

AS Minute 2014-06: The Naming Committee recommendations for the Nominating Committee were approved. Stephen Matchett and Elaine Emily were approved as co-clerks.

Nominating Committee, Final Report:

Stephen Matchett (San Francisco) co-clerk, reported that the slate is unchanged from the previous plenary. He asked for approval for the names brought forward earlier. (Attachment 1)

AS Minute 2014-07: The Nominating Committee slate (unchanged from the first reading) is approved.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Giving Budget: Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City), Clerk of M&O, stated the purpose of the ad hoc committee: to examine the recommendations in the proposed giving budget, and to recommend criteria for selecting organizations that will receive PYM donations. Two persons, Claire Gorfinkel (Orange Grove) and George Mills (Palo Alto), will serve on this committee in addition to the Clerk of M&O. They will make recommendations to Representative Committee. Friends may bring questions and concerns about this to Bronwen, Clerk of M&O.

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Clerk's Comments: The Clerk expressed appreciation for those on either side of the table, and especially for the sound person who has done a fine job.

- Gratitude was expressed from the floor for the job done by the Clerk,
- Gratitude was expressed from the floor for Alyssa Nelson, Youth Program Coordinator and for those unseen helpers especially Don Bean for this PYM event.

Ten minutes was taken for worship or a break.

Hearing our Epistles.

Middle School Children's Program Epistle: The program participants read the Epistle in turn, which provided a picture of their week of learning and other delights. (See Attachment 2)

Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle: Nina and David Shaw read the epistle in haiku form which described their very full schedule this week. (See Attachment 3) Co-clerks are Jarod Rischpater, Maya Price, and Natasha Herrera. Clerk of M&O is David Shaw. M&O members are Miles Pangelina, Nina Shaw and Rose Nadis.

Young Adult Friends Epistle: The epistle was submitted after the final plenary and is attached. (See Attachment 4).

Primary School Children's Program Epistle: The program participants read their colorful epistle in turn, which also included pictures of the activities of their week. (See Attachment 5)

Preschool Epistle: This epistle, read by Martin Walden (Central Coast), described the activities, the processes developed, the depth and wonder, and appreciation of the animals that happened during the week. (See Attachment 6)

PYM Epistle:

Clerk and Epistle Committee, Nicolas Wright (Mexico City), clerk, Julian Garrett (San Jose), and Valerie Nuttman (Santa Cruz), read the Pacific Yearly Meeting 68th Annual Session Epistle, describing concerns and also the strengths that drew us together. (See Attachment 7)

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Comments:

A Friend prefers that we strike the term “older” from the title of the epistle. Numerous comments and suggestions were offered from the floor. A Friend suggested that we trust our committee to incorporate or not incorporate the offered suggestions.

Gratitude was expressed for the Epistle Committee for capturing the sense of the session. A request was also made to acknowledge in future gatherings the original native residents of the site.

Clerk’s Closing Remarks: The clerk feels even more honored and appreciative than at the beginning of the week. He is grateful for the support he has received throughout the week.

- Gratitude was expressed for the good and lovely discussion.
- A friend commented that we honor beauty, integrity, equality, that our own selfish needs be kept low and the needs of the corporate body be held high. We were reminded that substance is important but also the process.

Minutes were approved with corrections.

Meeting closed with silent worship at 11:52.

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Attachment 1. Nominating Committee Final Report

PYM OFFICERS

Presiding Clerk (one-year term)

2015 *Steven Smith, Claremont (2012)*

Assistant to the Clerk (one-year term)

2015 *Amy Cooke, Grass Valley (2014)*

Arrangements Clerks (two-year terms)

2015 *Don Bean, Conejo Val (2013)*

2016 *Eric Moon, Berkeley (2014)*

Historian/ Archivist (three-year term)

2016 *Jan Tappan, OG, (2013)*

Reading Clerk (one-year term)

2015 *Diego Navarro, Santa Cruz (2014)*

Recording Clerks (two-year terms)

2015 *Leslie Zondervan-Droz, Hum (2013)*

2016 *Stephen McNeil, Str Cr (2014)*

Registrars (two-year terms)

2015 *Joyce Samati, Strawberry Creek (2012)*

2016 *Sarah Tyrrell, Berkeley (2012)*

Statistical (Co-)Clerk (three-year term)

2016 *Lee Knutsen, Palo Alto (2007)*

2016 *Don Bean, Conejo Val (2013)*

Treasurer

(three-year term, 10/1/13 - 9/30/16)

2016 *Roy Allen, Berkeley (2013)*

Assistant to Treasurer (one year term)

(not requested this year)

2015 *Janet Gastil, SD (2014)*

2015 *Linda Rowell, Chico (2012)*

2015 *Barbara Babin, Redwood For (2010)*

2016 *Shayne Lightner, Santa Monica (2013)*

2016 *David Lederman, OC (2013)*

2017 *Joe Magruder, Berkeley (2011)*

2017 *Walt Jones, Delta (2013)*

2017 *Julie Harlow, Davis (2014)*

Children's Program Committee

(6 members, 3-year terms)

2015 *Nate Secrest, Lake Co (2012)*

2015 *Davetta Williams, Claremont (2008)*

2015 *Terrill Keeeler, Live Oak (2011)*

2016 *David Forbes, SC (2013)*

2016 *Heather Levien, Berkeley (2013) clerk*

2017 *Denise Williams, Santa Barbara (2011)*

Ex Officio: current and past coordinators

Discipline Committee

(6 members, 3-year terms)

2015 *D J Bloom, Apple Seed (2012) clerk*

2015 *Chuck Orr, La Jolla (2014)*

2016 *Carolyn Stephenson, Hon. (2010)*

2016 *Liz Baker, Sac (2013)*

2017 *Carl Magruder, Str. Cr. (2014)*

2017 *Alyssa Nelson, Davis (2014)*

Ex Officio: Historian/ Archivist

PYM COMMITTEES

Ministry and Oversight Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms)

2015 *Bronwen Hillman, Mexico City (2011)*

clerk

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Finance Committee

(6 members, 3-year terms)

- 2015 Mary Miché, Lake Co. (2012)
- 2015 Ed Flowers, Apple Seed (2013)
- 2015 *Claire Gorfinkel, OG, (2011)*

- 2016 Laura Magnani, Str. Creek (2013)

- 2017 *Stratton Jaquette, PA (2014) clerk*
- 2017 *Martha Hunkins, Hum (2010)*
- Ex Officio: Treasurer(s), Statistical Clerk

- 2015 Margaret Bean, Guat. (2013)

- 2016 Laura Kohl, LJ (2013)

- 2017 -----
- 2017 -----

- El S -----
- Guat Donna Smith (2014) *clerk*
- Mex Nick Wright (2014)
- (plus three members appointed by Guatemala MM, Mexico City MM, & El Salvador Project)

Holding Corporation

(6 members, 3-year terms)

- 2015 Stratton Jaquette, Palo Alto (2008) *pres.*
- 2015 Beth McCleary, Reno (2012) *treas.*

- 2016 Jeff Kroeber, San Jose (2013)
- 2016 Amy Cooke, Grass Val (2013) *secy.*

- 2017 *Jennifer Carr, Las Vegas (2014)*
- 2017 *Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Vis (2014)*
- Ex Officio: Treasurer, Presiding Clerk
(This committee appoints its own officers.)

Peace and Social Order Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms)

- 2015 *Sandy Yee, Hon (2014)*
- 2015 Emily Leo, Monterey (2010)
- 2015 *Alvaro Alvarado, Sac (2011)*

- 2016 Jeff Kroeber, San Jose (2009)
- 2016 Sandra Gey, Berkeley (2013)
- 2016 Consuelo Santamaria, Mex (2013)

- 2017 *Bill Spencer, Hum (2011)*
- 2017 *Stephen McNeil, Str Cr (2014)*
- 2017 *Anthony Manousos, OG (2014) clerk*
- Ex Officio: clerks CPQM & SCQM P&SO,
1 PYM FCNL rep., & PYM FCL rep.

Junior Yearly Meeting Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms)

- 2015 Kate Connell, SB (2012)
- 2015 -----
- 2015 *Sue Torrey, Cen Coast (2010) co-clerk*

- 2016 Erika Tarabini, Chico (2013)
- 2016 *Sally Kingsland, Str Cr (2014)*
- 2016 -----

- 2017 *Keenan Lorenzato, Davis (2014)*
- 2017 *Steve Leeds, SF (2011) co-clerk*
- 2017 -----
- Ex Officio: Youth Program Coordinator

Religious Education for Children Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms)

- 2015 Tom Farley, Palo Alto (2009)
- 2015 John Cantu, SC (2012)
- 2015 Delcy Steffy, Sac (2013) *clerk*

- 2016 Melanie Cantu, SC (2013)
- 2016 Cate Wilson, OG (2010)
- 2016 Anthony Chang, Honolulu (2013)

- 2017 *Elizabeth Bills, La Jolla (2014)*
- 2017 *Ramona Hussey, Hon (2011)*
- 2017 -----

** JYM Committee recommends vacancies not be filled this year.

Latin American Concerns Committee

(5-9 members), 3-year terms

- 2015 Barbara Babin, Redwood For. (2010)

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Secretariat Committee

(3 members, 3-year terms)
2015 Tom Yamaguchi, Str Cr (2012)
2016 Raph Levien, Berkeley (2013) *clerk*
2017 Dawn Moore, SF (2013)
Ex Officio: Assistant to Presiding Clerk

Site Committee

(6 members 3-year terms)
2015 Lanny Jay, Redwood For (2012)
2015 John Pixley, Claremont (2009)

2016 Pat Wolff, OG (2010)
2016 Sherri Sisson, OC (2013)

2017 Paul Harris, Redwood For (2011)
2017 Pat Smith, Claremont (2014) *clerk*
Ex Officio: Arrangements Clerks
(current & immediate past)

Unity with Nature Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms)
2015 Cody Lowry, OG (2012)
2015 Catya de Neergaard, Berk (2013) *co-clerk*
2015 Muriel Strand, Sacramento (2011) *co-clerk*

2016 Paty Constantino, Mex (2013)
2016 Alice Rosenthal, Berk (2013)
2016 Shelley Tanenbaum, Str Creek (2013)

2017 Rick Herbert, Str Cr (2014)
2017 Cedar Rose Selenite, Chico (2012)
2017 Meagan Fischer, Chico (2014)

Youth Program Coordinator

(staff; appointed by YPC C below)
2015 Alyssa Nelson, Davis (2012)

Youth Programs Coordinating Committee

(6 members, 3-year terms)
2015 Mary Klein, Palo Alto (2013) *co-clerk*
2015 Lynnette Arnold, SB (2014)

2016 Steve Leeds, SF (2013)
2016 Jim Summers, LJ (2013) *co-clerk*
2017 Stephen Myers, Sac (2014)
2017 Jennifer Carr, Las Vegas (2013)

YPCC Youth Members

(4 nominated by YPCC)
2015 Kylin Navarro, SC (2014)
2015 Thomas Rios, LJ (2014)
2015 Natasha Herrera, Mex C (2014)
2015

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Nominating Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms;
selected by Naming Committee)
2015 David Barrows, San Diego (2009)
2015 Carl Anderson, Strawberry Creek (2011)
2015 Marion Holzwarth, SB (2014)
2015 Hannah Mackinney, Str Cr (2014)

2016 Elaine Emily, Str Cr (2012) *clerk*
2016 Tom Farley, Palo Alto (2010)
2016 Rob Cimorelli, OG (2013)

2017 Stephen Matchett, SF (2011)
2017 Graciela Matinez, Vis (2013)
2017 Nora Cooke, Gr Val (2014)

**PYM REPRESENTATIVES, DELEGATES, AND
OBSERVERS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**American Friends Service Committee
Corporation (AFSC)**

(4-5 representatives, 3-year terms)
2015 Nancy Mellor, Sac (2012)
2015 Diego Navarro, Santa Cruz (2009) *conv*

2016 Cliff Lester, OG (2010)

2017 David Barrows, SD (2014)
2017 Graciela Martinez, Vis (2014)

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Evangelical Friends Church Southwest

(1 observer; 3-year term)
2016 Emelyn Buskirk, Live Oak (2013)

Friends Bulletin Corp. Board of Directors

(9 member board, 3-year terms; 3 members appointed by PYM, 3 appointed by NPYM, and 3 appointed by IMYM)
2015 Jim Mangis, Visalia (2011) *conv*
2015 Mary Ann Percy, La Jolla (2011)
2016 Sarah Hawthorne, Str Cr (2014)

Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCa)

(1 representative, appointed by PYM Peace & Social Order Committee)
2015 -----

Friends' Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

(6 representatives, 3-year terms)
2015 Hubert Morel Seytoux, PA (2008)
2015 Mark Runyan, Chico (2012)

2016 Sherri Sisson, OC (2010) *conv.*
2016 Amy Southwick, Apple Seed (2010)

2017 Carin Pacifico, Palo Alto (2014)
2017 Carolyn Stephenson, Hon (2013)

Quaker Earthcare Witness (formerly FCUN)

2 representatives, 2-year terms, appointed by Unity with Nature Committee
2015 -----
2016 -----

FGC Central Committee Observer

(2 observers, 3-year term - see note)
2016 Eric Moon, Ber (2013)
2016 ~~*Tom Farley, PA (2013)~~
~~*1 observer selected from Religious Education for Children to work with FGC Religious Education Committee~~

Friends Peace Team Project Board of Directors

(1 member, 3-year term)
2015 Gay Howard, Central Coast (2009)

Friends United Meeting (FUM)

(1 observer, 3-year term)
2015 Elaine Emily, Strawberry Cr. (2008)

FWCC Section of the Americas

(5 representatives, 3-year terms)
2015 Ruth Ross, Orange Grove (2009)

2016 Anthony Manousos, SM (2010)
2016 Jan Turner, Hum (2013)

2017 Hulda Muaka, Palo Alto (2014)
2017 Roena Oesting, La Jolla (2011) *conv.*

Reunion General de los Amigos en Mexico

(1 observer, 2-year term;
the Reunion meets every 18 months)
2015 Jill Anderson, Mexico City (2011)

William Penn House Board

(1 representative, 1-year term)
2015 Hubert Morel Seytoux, PA (2014)

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

M&O SUBCOMMITTEES:

Worship-Sharing Subcommittee:

Electronic Communication Subcommittee

Experimentation and Implementation Subcommittee

Ministry and Leadings Subcommittee

Support for Distant Meetings (Formerly Mexico City) Subcommittee

Racial Justice Subcommittee

Representative Support Subcommittee

Visiting Friend Subcommittee

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ATTACHMENT 2. 2014 PYM Middle School Epistle

We all enjoyed singing, family night, the dance, and swimming at the pond.

We liked hanging out with everybody and having fun with our friends, and playing Magic cards.

We created hand signs instead of words for asking questions.

We liked AVP games, playing the intergenerational Ga-Ga ball activity, and the bookstore visit to listen to Tom and Sandy's stories. We made Beady babies, and some of us climbed up the trees outside the Buckeye room and Maple lodge.

We did service projects at the garden and pond.

In the garden we tasted herbs. We petted and fed the animals (Baa!) and played with the goats (Baa!).

We liked doing the skits (one of us had a great War God costume!).

We liked having lunch before everyone else gets to eat! We liked the food and coffee, cookies and lemonade and hot chocolate, ice tea and orange juice. Desserts! Ice cream!!

We learned a falling leaf meditation, and listened to stories told by Eric (we especially enjoyed "Lost in the desert").

In the museum where we met, we liked the universe posters, the dead pelican, the live snake, rocks, dead animals' bones, and feely boxes. We liked that they let us use this room.

The pond was a special place. We liked hiking to the pond and swimming and kayaking; we learned there are bass nests in the shallow end. We found creative uses for the weeds, like making wigs.

We danced in the boogie barn! ("even though some of us can't dance"). We watched Cody, Keith and Sebastian freaking out at the dance.

And now we are Going Home!

-Created and approved by the Middle school program.

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APPENDIX

Appreciation of others:

Getting to know Josh.

Appreciation of counselors

“I like all the counselors!”

Nate is not afraid to be who he is; he is patient with people; drum and moose song; he is funny and knows a lot about birds

Meeting Hannah

Cody is very, very amusing; his ukulele and his songs; always has a smile and looks on the bright side of things; his personality

Learning my uncle DJ could REALLY dance (compared to adults who can only fake it)

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ATTACHMENT 3. JYM EPISTLE

To our worldwide friends
An epistle on our week
In haiku format

Worship Sharing:

Together we sat
Reflecting on our queries
We shared our stories

JYM Plenary:

We hosted a talk
On influential Quakers
In fishbowl format

Business Meeting:

We made decisions
Coming to a consensus
Our values stayed strong

AVP:

Sharing a safe space
Allowed us to dig deeper
Finding peace inside

Community Games:

Our friend Julian
Taught us to trust each other
Sensing without sight

Support Groups:

We broke into groups
Eased JYM transition
Bonded with laughter

Service Project:

Cleaned garden and pond
Bonded with middle school group
We served Walker creek

Sharing Creative Expression:

Casting away fear
We performed for each other
So many talents

Dance:

We hosted a dance
Quakers boogied to music
Clad in pajamas

Now this is the end
Very glad to see old friends
Glad to make new ones

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ATTACHMENT 4. Pacific Yearly Meeting, Young Adult Friends Epistle, Annual Session, 14-19 July 2014

Take my hands I give them over

Make my heart an open door

Make my life a house of Spirit

Make me an instrument

Nothing more

This year at Annual Session the Young Adult Friend (YAF) community found meaning and deep work in many things. We cared for the younger members of our community from 5 months to 11 years in the children's program; participated in plenaries; worship sharing; and Bible study; enjoyed play and deep reflection with JYM; found spiritual communion and unity through song; shared in deep fellowship with older members of our PYM community; and continued to carry forward a message which is stirring our Pacific Yearly Meeting community: We are ONE.

Attending Annual Session gives us an opportunity to dig deeper into our faith as Quakers. In attending Plenaries, Worship Sharing, YAF check-ins and workshops, working with the children and even during meal times, we find ourselves pushed at Annual Session. Pushed to live into the gap between our outward and inward lives, pushed to surrender to Truth and listen more actively to Spirit in our lives as well as in doing our Quaker business. PYM YAF offers us a grounding Quaker community where we are free and challenged to be our complete and whole selves - to live what we each believe.

We welcomed many YAFs this year. We were delighted to welcome first timers as well as old timers; parents; college freshman; and everything in between. We are especially grateful for the opportunity to lead a plenary session. During the singing in worship God's presence brought us to tears. We wish to have this often and regularly returned to the song, Instrument by Carin Anderson as a way of opening our meetings together and bringing us back to a centered place of Spirit and Christ.

As we move forward we strive to steward this blessed community throughout the year. To do this work we have created a new structure in which to hold our ongoing work. Our new committee, the Committee of Institutional Memory (CIM), will hold an ongoing record of how the Spirit is moving amongst us. We are excited for this work.

We offer our hands, open our hearts, and devote our lives to being instruments of the Light. Now is the time. We are ready. Be prepared.

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ATTACHMENT 5. Primary School Epistle

Friends, Agnita, Dawn, Linus, Ezra, Lily, Zachary, Alan, Emily, Rob, Tess and Robin, gathered together making new friendships, telling stories, worship sharing in the river with a concern for snail house building, we learned about George Fox. We played GaGa Ball with the big kids. We read stories, swam, discussed reptiles, life and death and mice and the meaning of it all. Our young Friends defined the light with this beautiful phrase: It gives you warmth and shows you where to go. Fun was had by all.

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ATTACHMENT 6. Preschool Epistle

In 2014 at Pacific Yearly Meeting those of us under 6 years of age played and learned a lot together.

Our favorite experience was everything. We explored Ooblak (anti-Newtonian fluid), pounding its hardness and slowly pushing into its liquid gooeyness, like a moving slug wall.

We talked about what happens in our Meetings for worship and how quiet we can be, and how sometimes the silence deepens. We listened in silence to ourselves and to others. We decided to sit down when we got really angry or sad and have a moment of silence before we tried to talk and listen. Sometimes we waited until we could see our belly buttons breathing in and out. Then we knew we were calm enough to become good Friends again.

We each came to be friends with the goats, which we named: Scratchy, Stripe and Love.

We liked the way the birdseed felt under our toes and playing yucky and yummy as we learned to share.

The mama deer and her fawn and the birds said our bird feeders were good by eating everything up.

We walked all the way to the turtle pond and saw the birds and a snake and a caterpillar and a butterfly and turkey vultures.

We ran really fast and helped Martin get even stronger.

We made tents out of blankets and pillows and chairs.

Our classroom and our PYM friends became our home together away from home. We discovered that we really do love everybody.

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ATTACHMENT 7. Epistle, 68th Annual Session, Pacific Yearly Meeting

July 19, 2014
To Friends everywhere:

Youth and prophecy
Quakers of all ages join
Spirits united

Quakers from California, Nevada, Hawaii, Mexico City, and Guatemala gathered at Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County this week, from July 14th to the 19th, to celebrate the 68th annual session of Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The theme of this year's gathering, "Youth and Prophecy; Awakening to a New Creation," sought to reflect the growing centrality of youth concerns in our Yearly Meeting in recent years.

There is an evident sense of joy upon our return to Walker Creek Ranch. We have enjoyed Worship and fellowship in this valley surrounded by the golden summer hills of California, the home of foxes, deer, quails, wild turkeys and horned owls. The Miwok people cared for this valley not long ago, and we are honored to be able to meet here. The wind whips through this valley, shaking the tent in which we meet. For some of us in this community, these landscapes are a part of who we are.

Our happiness at being here and at being with one another have allowed us to lay aside many of our burdens during this time. Our Yearly Meeting in recent years has struggled with difficult Business sessions, division, and unresolved conflict. Like many Quaker groups, we are also coping with a lack of diversity at our gatherings, the concerns of an aging population, the segregation of age groups among us, declining participation in Meetings, and declining attendance at the annual session. Intergenerational planning before this gathering resulted in changes to this year's schedule, and those changes reflects several of these concerns. Nonetheless, many of us arrived at this annual session with fundamental questions. Why should going to Yearly Meeting be stressful? Where is the spirit that should be at the center of all that we do?

We have felt the spirit with us this year, and many Friends have felt a renewed sense of community emerging among us. At Walker Creek Ranch we have made time for Worship and Business, eating and singing, laboring and playing with one another. Simple, direct and challenging Worship Sharing queries drew us together in small, gathered groups. We worked together with important proposals this year, in community. We decided to embark on a new revision of our Faith and Practice for the first time in many years. We listened carefully to one another regarding Minutes of Concern, and our Yearly Meeting's ability to speak to issues of peace and social justice with a unified voice. Two youth-led plenary sessions led our Meeting to collective deep moments.

Our Yearly Meeting's seeking has been helped along by the extraordinary passion and commitment of our young people. This year, our youth bid us welcome to the revival of this blessed community. They told us that they were engaged in an experiment of radical trust, and

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they invited us to join them as they sought the living spirit...with us. In their own call to this year's gathering, they advised us plainly that living up to the fierce Light within us requires nothing less than our own striving for divine perfection. These words and the spirit behind them have handily cut through our preoccupations over long-held conflicts and carefully wordsmithed minutes.

This year's keynote speaker, Jonathan Vogel-Borne, began our gathering with a passionate testimony that stayed with us during our time together. He provided us with ways to imagine our situation, and he presented us with some tools to help us seek transformation. Jonathan attended Pacific Yearly Meeting during his youth, and went on to work as Secretary of New England Yearly Meeting. He shared warm childhood memories of growing up at PYM, and spoke of his own spiritual opening and call to ministry. He began that call by asking himself the question, "Am I living my life so fully that I would be willing to die at any moment?"

Jonathan offered us the verse from which the calling to this year's session is drawn:

' I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young ones will see visions, your old ones will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17)

and he said to us that "those days are still here." By speaking of the earnestness of youth and his search for "some age-appropriate earnestness," he pointed the way for all of us to embrace the fire and spirit towards which our very own young Friends have invited us.

Jonathan reminded us that a prophetic message can not be contained, and comes like a fire. We have felt in many ways the effect of these flowing currents of energy, and the fruits of having more time for Worship, fellowship, and being present with one another. In our way, we have begun to accept the invitation extended to us by the group Friends referred to as "Young Adult Friends" or "Junior Friends." We now seem jubilant, rather than ambivalent, about seeking new ways to facilitate programs for young Quakers in California and beyond. We are aware of more contact between the generations, rather than just more "intergenerational" activities. Listening sessions before big issues are presented at plenary seem to have created an appropriate container for clarifying discussion and centering community, both easing pressure on our strained business agendas and allowing for more worship-centered Meetings for Business.

As we celebrated the lives of our members who have passed on since we last gathered, a young Friend shared the story of an older friend and mentor making her feel more, because he had complete faith in her. He told her he was not worried about the future of our Yearly Meeting, because he had complete faith in the youth. We share this willingness to trust, and we share this faith in our Yearly Meeting.

In peace,

Steve Smith, Presiding clerk
Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends