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.
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 processed 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)
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.
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 Navaarro, Santa Cruz (2014)

Recording Clerks (two-year terms)
2015  Leslie Zondervan-Droz, Hum (2013)
2016  Stephen McNeil, Sr Cr (2014)

Registrars (two-year terms)
2015  Joyce Samati, Strawberry Creek (2012)
2016  Sarah Tyrrell, Berkeley (2012)

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

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 Hankins, 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)
2016 Jeff Kroebaer, San Jose (2013)
2017 Jennifer Carr, Las Vegas (2014)
2017 Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Vis (2014)
Ex Officio: Treasurer, Presiding Clerk
(This committee appoints its own officers.)

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 Lorenzo, Davis (2014)
2017 Steve Leeds, SF (2011) co-clerk
2017 ————
Ex Officio: Youth Program Coordinator
** JYM Committee recommends vacancies not be filled this year.

Latin American Concerns Committee
(5-9 members), 3-year terms

Peace and Social Order Committee
(9 members, 3-year terms)
2015 Sandy Yes, Hon (2014)
2015 Emily Leo, Monterey (2010)
2015 Alvaro Alvarado, Sac (2011)
2016 Jeff Kroebraer, 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 Mancusos, OG (2014) clerk
Ex Officio: clerks CPQM & SCQM P&SO,
1 PYM FCNL rep., & PYM FCL rep.

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 ————
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Secretariat Committee
(3 members, 3-year terms)
2015  Tom Yamaguchi, Str Cr (2012)
2016  Raph Levi, 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)
2016  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, Berkeley (2013) co-clerk
2015  Muriel Strand, Sacramento (2011) co-clerk
2016  Paty Constantin, 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  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  Clifford Lester, OG (2010)
2017  David Barrows, SD (2014)
2017  Graciela Matinez, Vis (2014)
Evangelical Friends Church Southwest  
(1 observer; 3-year term) 
2016  Emelyn Buskirk, Live Oak (2013)

Friends Peace Team Project Board of Directors  
(1 member, 3-year term) 
2015  Gay Howard, Central Coast (2009)

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

Friends Committee on Legislation of 
California (FCLCA)  
(1 representative, appointed by PYM 
Peace & Social Order Committee) 
2015  

FWCC Section of the Americas  
(3 representatives, 3-year terms) 
2015  Ruth Ross, Orange Grove (2009)

Friends’ Committee on National Legislation 
(FCNL)  
(6 representatives, 3-year terms) 
2015  Hubert Morel Seytoux, PA (2008) 
2015  Mark Runyan, Chico (2012) 
2016  Amy Southwick, Apple Seed (2010) 
2017  Carolyn Stephenson, Hon (2013)

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
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)
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
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.
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.
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.
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
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