

Report to Representatives Committee
Pacific Yearly Meeting
March 4-6, 2015

PYM Discipline Committee is deeply engaged in the process of revising our Faith and Practice. Joined by our yearly meeting clerk, Diego Navarro, we moved into a discernment process involving the reorganization of our book's contents. Who reads Faith and Practice and for what reason? Often our '*discipline*' is an introduction to the Society for new attenders. For this introduction we feel led to provide a narrative of a seeker's experience. Seasoned members refer to sections for Spiritual insight. Meetings depend upon its guidance regarding process. We have recorded our long history. And, we need to address the wider organizations of quarterly and yearly meeting.

Your discipline committee is led to begin with a narrative description of the core of our Faith: We are called to gather in silence as a community. Whether we grow up as a child in a meeting or walk into a meeting as an adult seeker, those of us who stay usually experience a transformation—an experience of conviction. Children raised in meeting and newcomers alike must apply for membership. A visiting committee then is charged with discerning if a person is ready.

At an interest group on membership at Walker Creek this past year your Discipline Committee heard unity among those present that membership is still recognized to be of vital importance. Membership serves our organization as a membrane serves a living organism—it protects the integrity or wholeness of the Society of Friends. We find that we can use much of the writing from our current volume in creating a narrative about the personal transformation of living in the Light.

If the Light and Life of the Society of Friends is found mainly in the Monthly Meeting, it seems only fitting that we describe the community within which personal transformation occurs. Because meetings vary one to another, there is a challenge to describe its essence what is a Monthly Meeting—perhaps it is like trying to describe the essence of an apple. Beyond varieties we must also consider individual variations. Yet, when Friends travel we often report a shared experience in the Quaker Meetings we visit. This essence or 'apple-ness' found in Monthly Meetings allows us to feel at home.

Our Committee is also led to address the Testimonies. We are admonished by George Fox to "let our lives speak." When we are so led our lives become Testimonies of how the Light has moved through us. Yet this is a life lived in community—we submit our truth to collective discernment. Prophetic ministry is tested in community and there is tension: "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country, and in his own house." **Mathew 13:57** This is Jesus' response when challenged with the age-old question 'with what authority do you speak?' We may find we may be called to live a life where for

forty years we speak our truth, never to see the transformation called for in our ministry. Such was the Truth spoken by John Woolman. Remembering our keynote speaker of last year I now seek to listen in tongues. But our challenge on the Discipline Committee is to find words that can bridge differences in understanding.

Your Discipline Committee is making progress in the revision: we are creating an outline. We have found unity to

- Begin with describing the Core of our faith within a narrative;
- Eliminate redundancies—through reorganization;
- Fix obvious mistakes or changes;
- Our committee is rediscovering the Light and Life in considering revisions and we seek to share with yearly meeting the discovery process;
- We ask to establish a F&P Revision link on our PYM website.
- Discipline Committee will use the link to post committee approved drafts and to collect feedback;
- We will post all reviews of F&P submitted by Monthly Meetings where we find good work is being done.

We will be scheduling an interest group called the “God Question.” We are asking Carl Magruder and Robin DuRant to facilitate the group to find unity among Theist and non-Theist Friends. We can and do find unity within PYM. How do we build bridges of understanding in addressing this question?

- If we are to meet during the Summer after PYM but before the end of yearly meeting’s fiscal year, then we will need a supplement to our current budget. Cost of travel depends upon where our member reside.
- We also seek to clarify by working with the PYM Clerk and the Ministry and Oversight Committee the charge to the Discipline Committee: Are we now a Revision Committee with a membership that runs with the duration of the project? With each change in membership we must ‘re-knit’ our community before we can proceed.

Respectfully Submitted, Chuck Orr, co-clerk,

Liz Baker, co-clerk, Robin DuRant, Carl Magruder, Bob Runyon, Carolyn Stephenson, Jan Tappan, Historian Archivist.