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  - Pacific Yearly Meeting
  - Seventh Month 14-19, 2017
  - Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma, California

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Opening Plenary

Seventh Month 14, 2017

Worship

Clerk’s Welcome
Clerk Diego Navarro welcomed us to the 71st session of our yearly meeting gatherings. He reminded us of the experimental nature of our gathering, and the tradition of experimenting in our Society. Obedience and faithfulness opens us to the Spirit, and our religion moves us to experiment in submitting to the light within ourselves and in each other in our work together. Our theme, awakening to the presence, reminds us of an inner sense, experiences of promptings and nudges, that awaken us to a softer self, a more open self. We may feel this in our body, as we walk or rest, or share time with one another. Diego offered the prayer that Spirit may come to us, soften our hearts, open our eyes to see and serve one another, as we share this week together. Help us to be the gathered people.

Diego introduced our keynote speaker, Zachary Moon, who grew up in our meeting and has now returned to share his experience with us. He also reminded us that the turbulent times we live in today in some ways echo those that gave rise to our movement.

Walker Creek Ranch Welcome
Patrick welcomed us to Walker Creek Ranch. The Ranch operates an outdoor school program and our presence supports in part that work. Patrick explained some of the procedures and resources at the Ranch and encouraged us to work with the staff to assure that our needs are met. He gave wishes for us to have a wonderful time together here.

Coast Miwok Welcome
Sally Kingsland, M&O Co-clerk, expressed her gladness that there is an increasing sense among us of the importance of acknowledging and honoring the first peoples’ connection to the land we now gather on.

Sally introduced Sky Road Webb, a descendent of the Coast Miwok, a teacher of traditional ways, who offered us greeting and expressed gladness that we are here. Friends from our community came forward to join Sky Road in offering a Miwok song to us, a song celebrating our life.

Roll Call
Diego introduced a new way of engaging in roll call, that offered a more celebratory experience, and Sharon Gates, Assistant to the Clerk, read the list of our meetings and worship groups. All offered enthusiastic welcome to one another. [Attendance list Attachment A]

Visitors
Visitors introduced themselves and were welcomed:
Tracy Hjelt Sullivan from Friends General Conference; Tono Lopez, Casa de los Amigos; Cathy Walling and Scott Bell, both from Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, Alaska Friends Conference; Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Brylie Oxley, Finland Yearly Meeting.

Invitation to visit Children’s Program, JYM, and YAF’s
Clerk Diego brought our attention to the programs for youth and children in our yearly meeting, appreciating the importance of this work. He introduced the clerks of the program committees, the teachers who will work with children and youth, and invited all children and youth to stand and be celebrated, each group in turn. Alyssa Nelson, our youth programs coordinator, who works with all these groups, was recognized and appreciated as well.

Community Expectations
Kylin Navarro-Burger, Co-clerk of M&O, brought to us the community expectations that we share with one another in our gathering this week. She invited us to reflect on the question: What would make me feel welcome at Annual Session? We then shared with a neighbor or two, our responses to this question. Some Friends then shared with the full group out of their individual conversations. Much heartfelt experience of being welcomed and welcoming came forth, representing the diversity and mutual care among us. Kylin concluded the session by reading the text of the community expectations document. [Community Expectations Document Attachment B]

M&O Briefing
Kylin Navarro-Burger and Sally Kingsland, Co-clerks of Ministry and Oversight, introduced the members of their committee and reviewed the charge to that committee. They introduced some specific efforts of care and support their committee and related working groups have undertaken this year. They welcome the contributions and involvement of others in their work and invite interested Friends to approach their committee. They look forward to being of service to our community during this coming week.

Arrangements
Laura Kohl and Sara Tyrell, Co-Arrangement Clerks, made announcements regarding use of facilities and resources here during our coming week together.

Secretariat
George Mills and Martha Carey, members of the Secretariat Committee, described the responsibilities of that committee, and how Friends might get information to them for publication in the Daily Miracle. They note the website is undergoing some changes but will increasingly serve our community in useful ways.

Upon hearing the minutes read, one Friend noted that we had entered into the practice of bilingual presentation in a number of our reports and sharings. The general response indicated the view that this was an important step toward inclusiveness that should be noted in our minutes.

Minutes were approved

Announcements were read by the Assistant to the Clerk.
Plenary II - Keynote Address by Zachary Moon

Seventh Month 15, 2017

Diego welcomed us to the second intergenerational plenary and reminded us of the theme at this annual meeting: “Awakening to the Presence.” There is something always there, but our minds get caught up in the trance we are living in and we can’t seem to wake up to that Presence. For many, this awakening happens in nature, for others it is in interactions with others, or from serving others. We are thankful to Zachary Moon, the Keynote Speaker.

Diego explained how the invitation to Zach fits the theme this year. Five or six years ago Zach had an opening that revealed to him that the Society of Friends, from beginning, had lived in a tumultuous society where we stood up for right things. Sometimes, however, it took a while to figure out what the right things were. And the further away from suffering that we go as Quakers, from interacting with people serving those who are suffering, from bringing food to the hungry and homeless, witnessing suffering, the further we move away from the power of spirit.

When Diego thought about those who witness the suffering, those who serve the suffering, he thought about Zach. Zach has been serving those who have been in harms way and who have been suffering. For that reason Diego believed that Zach would help us understand the process of awakening to the Presence.

Zach grew up in our yearly meeting and couldn’t imagine he would go off in a direction so different from many of us, but something awakened in him.

Jim Summers spoke about his experience with Zach during a difficult plenary when Jim was recording clerk at a time when there was an impasse. Zach and another member of JYM came with a message that opened a window and allowed a decision. Zach was the messenger, and messengers don’t always get to choose the message. Sometimes a message is given to you. Sometimes it is the same with work. Jim expressed his thankfulness for Zach--Zach attended seminary and trained as a chaplain and served an internship at a Veterans Administration hospital. Zach saw that he needed more experience and so joined the navy.

Zach spoke to us about reflecting upon the theme, awakening to the Presence. He recalled a cat named Francis with whom he lived. Francis would invite him to help, but often at inconvenient times. And, if Zach took too long to respond to those invitations, Francis would assist in his awakening, gently kneading upon Zach’s eyeballs.

Zach told us he has known the power of God in the deepest recesses of his soul, in the eyes of a brother or sister in trouble. The power that is greater than his own desire, ideas, imagination, his own will or own agenda. As with Francis, he doesn’t always see God around, but it’s hard to forget that God is always there.

As Zach was awakened, perhaps at odd hours, he had questions such as, why me? Don’t other people live in this house? Why are you so relentless in bothering me? Why now? Couldn’t it wait until morning, until coffee, when I’m better prepared to be of service to you?

He analogized God’s call to him, which left him feeling inconvenienced and annoyed, unprepared and tired, and unsuitable for the invitation. Awakening to the Presence can be uncomfortable, unexpected,
and even out of control. Eventually Zach came to love Francis and even their late night encounter and Francis’ gentle caresses and gratitude, “Thank you friend for waking to serve my needs.”

Zach grew up surrounded by goodhearted Friends who lived simply and were deeply committed to peace. He grew up listening to stories about Quakers who, from the beginning, resisted institutional church powers and who found new life in simple religious practices, resisted war, and supported abolitionists. And as he grew, he knew for sure that Quakers were on the right side of history and were often unpopular. In the end, though, he knew Quakers were going to come out looking good.

He now finds himself wondering if the ways we tell ourselves our stories are helping or hindering us in seeing what our role is today. Because stories are told by survivors, sometimes things are cleaned up, the messiness of how contested the issues have been, minimized. Our pacifist roots are more complicated than we acknowledge. Those we celebrate today were often not respected in their own meetings at the time. They were witnessing not only in the world, but in their own communities. A central feature of our faith is discernment, together, which requires courageous openings and clear minds open to the living Presence and ready to be surprised.

Our expectations shape our experiences even before they’ve begun. Zach has expected from his community, a safe place to be vulnerable, to explore questions and be mentored and inspired, to be in a familiar place and to know and be known, to replenish inner energies and open his heart and mind to new things. Zach grew up as a good Quaker kid, he knew what was expected and was zealously committed to it, turning the other cheek, attending all the conferences, serving on committees, and attending peace demonstrations. Once out of college Zach went to work in community organizing. Over time he asked himself, could God be calling him to serve in the ministry in the military? To be a compassionate presence in the lives of those that have been trained to kill?

This surprise came not as a relief, but was unexpected and uncomfortable with every part of who he was. It was unwelcome to him and his Quaker communities. He went through many lonely days during the years it took for him to stop believing that the message was delivered to the wrong mailbox before he was able, with help, to discern this call as it merged with a thousand little moments of awakening.

He was helped by those he trusted and loved as well as strangers in this chaotic and unfamiliar process. During the process, which strained his relationship with what he knew of himself and his Quaker community, he was surprised by a Quaker community 800 miles to the north, one different from his own – the evangelical Northwest Yearly Meeting, that was ready to test the call with him in the process of discernment.

To the extent that our commitment limits our ability to move out in the world and love those with whom we disagree, we must be willing to integrate. Zach shared the story from Acts of the Apostles in which Cornelius, who keeps order for the Roman Empire, is stuck in a lonely place between two worlds. After an angel visits him Cornelius seeks out Peter, one of Jesus’ original disciples. At the same time Peter, feeling hungry, falls asleep and has a vision of a picnic cloth descending. However, as his mouth waters, the cloth unfolds and reveals the wrong foods, foods that are religiously unacceptable to him. As he rejects the bounty God gives him, a simple and clear message comes: “What God can make clean you must not call unclean.” Just as Peter awakens, puzzled, he finds Cornelius at his door asking for him. This military representative of the government signals threat, but Peter, realizing the substance of God’s invitation in his vision, invites Cornelius into his home.
Peter resisted the visionary picnic because he knew it all, already had it all figured out, just as Zach did, hungry but stuck in his certainty. Before Zach joined the military he knew a lot of Peters but didn’t believe Cornelius was possible or imagine that God could desire that Zach know and be in relationship with people stuck in the middle.

There are Cornelius’s in Pacific Yearly Meeting, parents of children whose lives have been shaped by military service. Acknowledging that presence has everything to do with our peace, we need to allow God to nourish us, to feed our hunger and longing, to allow our hearts to be open to the possibility that God is offering something. We need to open our door to a stranger, ones so strange that we are sure they must be an enemy, and find the words coming from our mouths,” Here I am, I’m the one called Peter.” Will it feel like a nudge, an inkling, when it comes, what is it? What is clawing at your eyeballs?
Plenary III

Seventh Month 15, 2017

Epistle
Betty deValcourt, Epistle Clerk, read from the epistle received from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, its 197th session.

Clerk’s Remarks
Our Clerk Diego Navarro introduced the Friends at the clerk’s table. He reflected on the transition from our normal day to day lives to our time at Yearly Meeting. Two or three days is often needed to make this transition, to be here in an open and receptive way. In our meetings for worship on the occasion of business, we need to practice our Quaker disciplines, to open ourselves to the Presence. At each of our sessions this week, we will be reminded by former clerks of our yearly meeting, of our practices as we move into our business session.

Diego described the context of our meetings for worship on the occasion of business within this Yearly Meeting’s theme Awakening to the Presence. The act of awakening to the presence is entry into a mystery, with heart and mind prepared, though not made up, for responding to matters before us. We hold each other in love, expressed in certain practices, such as addressing the Clerk, allowing the Spirit rather than our separate wills, to bring our words forward. Stating name and meeting is good order; noting “that Friend speaks my mind” may be a part of our ministry. We try to keep low, to be used by the Spirit, to select what is being spoken through us, not what we ourselves want to have said for personal reasons. Be willing to stop when what you have been given comes to an end, even if the stop is in mid sentence. The Clerk will call Friends not necessarily in order, so be patient with the process of our session.

Diego described a new practice in regard to our discussion items. A first reading will come early, to explain the issue before us, but without active consideration at that time by the community. There is then opportunity following the session, for Friends to meet with the committee at its open committee meeting if there are concerns or questions. When the matter is brought again to a later session for discernment, the consideration will benefit from the seasoning, and perhaps adjustment, that has taken place in the intervening time.

Treasurer’s Report
Roy Allen, Treasurer, brought us the Treasurer’s report. He brought to us first an information item: clerks, representatives, and officers are entitled to a travel reimbursement and a form is provided for recording such claims. Additionally, he noted that we had decided to move our finances from Wells Fargo Bank to a credit union, and that that process is complete.

Roy reviewed his printed report, available on the web site. He noted a few items. Year to date figures reflect two changes: a cut in donations to Quaker organizations, and a ten dollar increase in assessments. Whether this has made significant improvement in our financial state will not be clear until further information is gathered later in the year. He noted that the Discipline/Faith and Practice Revision Committee line reflects significant reduction in travel expenses because of the use of video conferences, and Roy recommends other committees explore this and learn from Discipline Committee’s experience. This would produce important savings. On the balance sheet, he noted some tentative figures [transfer
from general reserves, and reserves itself] that will be watched as we move toward the end of the fiscal
year. [Treasurer’s Report Attachment C]

Finance Committee: Budget and augmentations
David Barrows, Finance Clerk, presented the Finance Committee Report. He brought to our attention a
subsidy for attenders that was approved at Rep Comm 2017 for a one year trial, and the committee
recommends that it be brought to Rep Comm 2018 for review.

David brought a series of requests for budget augmentations with supporting explanations:
  • FCNL & Wm Penn House Travel (#6227) increase $900 to total of $3400.
  • JYM (#5227) increase $1500 to $2500.
  • JYM session budget (#6225) increase $500 to $6000.
  • Unity with Nature Committee has requested that a reserve account be established for conference
travel to Quaker Earthcare Witness (#5286). Finance Committee recommends this be approved
with a cap of $500.

David then informed us that, upon recommendation of Treasurer, Finance Committee has elected to
pursue obtaining certification of our non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.). When
PYM was incorporated by the State of California as a non-profit corporation, we did not obtain the letter
from the I.R.S. The I.R.S. letter is not absolutely necessary -- PYM is a non-profit corporation with or
without the I.R.S. letter. However, we do get asked about our I.R.S. letter. There will be a one-time
charge of $650 which is included in the proposed budget for the Finance Committee. Monthly meetings
would each receive such an I.R.S. letter if we complete this process.

Finally, David presented for the first time the budget for the coming year. It is available on the web site
and will be brought again to a later plenary. [Finance Committee Report Attachment D]

Visitors
Shan Cretin, General Secretary of AFSC; Stephen Donohoe from FCNL.

Nominating Committee
Stephen Matchett, Nominating Committee Clerk, presented the Nominating Committee report with
instructions on how to fully understand its listings. He read the names of those Friends to be considered
for approval at these sessions, with associated information.

M&O items: Abuse Prevention Policy, Yearly Meeting restructuring, M&O name change, FGC
Affiliation
Sally Kingsland and Kylin Navarro-Burger, Co-clerks of Ministry and Oversight, brought to us a number
of items for our consideration. They noted that the State of the Meeting reports are available in several
locations, and a state of the society exercise will occur later in the week. Friends are asked to read these
reports in advance for that consideration. They brought an additional four items.

First, they propose that their committee change its name from Ministry and Oversight to Ministry and
Care, in light of the negative associations that the term “Oversight” and “overseer” has for some Friends.

Second, the Abuse Prevention Policy has been finalized and circulated widely. Legal review still is
needed. They will propose we approve the document as circulated with the Ministry and Oversight
Committee report with the addition of one small wording change, “pending legal review and with some small changes allowed.”

Third, a restructuring of our Yearly Meeting is being proposed, reflected in some changes in our committee sizes and functions, with the laying down of a few, and incorporation of some into others. This proposal has been considered by the committees involved and their feedback has been incorporated into the proposal. The committees that responded are in support of this restructuring plan. It is recommended for approval with the addition of one small wording change.

Fourth, the committee presents the topic of possible affiliation with FGC. There will be occasion for discussion of this during the week. The committee has sensed a shift in the community’s feeling about this, and this has been affirmed in the feedback the committee has received recently. This consideration is ongoing and monthly meetings are asked to review this matter and offer their responses to the committee by the end of this calendar year.

Minutes were approved with changes.

Announcements were made by the Assistant to the Clerk.
Plenary IV

Seventh Month 16, 2017

Plenary session IV opened with worship.

Epistle

Minute of travel
The clerk read a Minute of travel for Scott Bell, from his monthly meeting, Chena Ridge in Alaska, to serve as convener of those eldering at yearly meeting.

The clerk reminded us to read the M&O revised restructure document as well as the minutes and proposals to make the discernment process easier.

Advice from a former Presiding Clerk
Former Presiding Clerk Jim Anderson reminded us of the process we use in discernment. We can’t be the hands of God unless we place ourselves in God’s hands, as we heard in the epistle from New England Yearly Meeting.

Jim reminded us of the tradition of advices in our society. We’ve already heard words from our Presiding Clerk about participating in our meeting for business as a meeting for worship.

He reminded us to come with heart and mind prepared, but not made up. We come with an agenda that reflects the business of the gathering, but we come without an agenda, we come open to the spirit working within us.

He reflecting on the advice of “keeping low”, by resisting the self-generated sense we have something to say, and by releasing to the community the words we speak.

Jim offered for reflection, the thought that our intellects, our reasoning, and so on, are not themselves the source of awakening to the presence. Yet we come to address business through our human abilities to think, to understand, to analyze. Thus we can become the hands of God through our human abilities to address the matters before us with whatever talents we’ve been given by God.

Committee reports
Shane Lightner, Ministry and Oversight Committee, advised us of the time constraints for the committee reports and that there will be no decisions made in this plenary; instead it is an opportunity to get information that will lead us in decisions made later in the week.

1. Stephen Donahoe presented the report from Friends’ Committee on National Legislation. One of the main activities the committee is working on is engaging people around the country. The committee is also working to stop the rollback and cutting of Medicaid and believes it is making progress in swaying senators. Stephen reminded us that California is critical in this effort. Another big focus of the Committee is stopping the increase to Pentagon spending; increases would come from other programs that help people and our California senators are critical also in this effort. Such an increase
would also represent a shift in our focus toward militarism. The committee is also working on strengthening and growing our advocacy community. Also very important in our community is the committee’s work on immigration, especially the DACA program. Stephen invited us to the committee’s annual meeting in November. He also thanked us for supporting the committee financially through its Capital Campaign, which focuses on growing the engagement of young people in its work. [Friends Committee on National Legislation Report Attachment E]

2. Stephen Myers presented the report from Friends Committee on Legislation of California. Stephen told us that the Committee has been working on lobbying and influencing the state legislature for 65 years and appreciates the support of our Yearly Meeting. Stephen told us there is a new sense of urgency and our contributions have enabled the committee to be part of this conversation. FCLCA has taken action on 65 bills this year, which can be seen on the FCLCA website, including in the areas of criminal and economic justice and on the environment, especially in the area of access to clean water. On the state level it has been happy to have been able to echo some of the efforts of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, including in the area of immigration. This has been one of the best years ever in the area of grassroots involvement. The committee is working toward the goal of becoming financially sustainable. [Friends Committee on Legislation of California Report Attachment F]

3. Anthony Manousos presented the report from the Peace & Social Order Committee. Anthony distributed the Peace & Social Order report and invited everyone involved in the committee and who are giving workshops sponsored by the committee this week to stand before us to be recognized.

Anthony reminded us that each month there is a Peace & Social Order Committee conference call open to anyone interested in peace and justice. To take part in these calls, contact Anthony.

Anthony’s call for all of those involved in peace and social justice in their communities, including being arrested, to stand up and be recognized, engaged virtually all present. [Peace and Social Order Report Attachment G]

4. Donna Smith presented the Report from the Latin American Concerns Committee. Donna talked to us about the “Books for Peace” project and a plan to help teachers with literacy. Since the committee was founded it has been involved with three programs. Patricia Portillo then explained the Committee’s new program, providing scholarships for undocumented students to attend Sacramento State University, that began in 2010. Last year the program provided assistance to 12 of the 16 applicants. [Latin American Concerns Committee Report Attachment H]

5. Marco Antonio Lopéz Galicia, Executive Director of Casa de los Amigos, and Patty Constantino presented the report from Casa de los Amigos. Antonio read a letter including a quote from Rufus Jones. He thanked us for our interest and support of their efforts to continue service, hospitality, peacebuilding, community, the protection of the environment, and living a spirituality inspired by Quakerism. With these efforts they can provide a place of welcome and hope to the guests who visit and for the migrants and refugees that they support. They are actively recruiting visitors-in-residence as the work has become more complex and as it has become more expensive to operate in Mexico. [Casa de los Amigos Report Attachment I]

6. Catya De Neerguard presented the report from the Unity with Nature Committee and described the function of the committee.
Catya expressed appreciation of the earthcare modeled at this gathering and the use of public transportation which has satisfied the recommendations of the FWCC sustainability minute. The committee needs assistance updating the list of monthly meeting liaisons.

There is now an open application period for UwN’s Mini Grants – applications can be submitted at any time and all grants go through a Monthly Meeting of PYM. The grants are intended for Meeting projects or for traveling or educational ministry that furthers sustainability and earth care.

Some monthly meetings have approved minutes focused on earthcare, including one approved by the Santa Cruz Monthly Meeting regarding the effect the proposed border wall would have on wildlife. Prototypes of border walls are being built in San Diego using money taken from other areas. Two meetings also approved two minutes on the Standing Rock protest. [Unity with Nature Committee Report Attachment J]

7. Catya De Neerguard also presented the report from Quaker Earthcare Witness. Catya described the work of QEW. The website for this organization is a rich resource for networking. Two minutes were brought to QEW for its consideration. The first one minuted QEW’s resolve to do two concrete things for sustainability each year. The second minute was brought by sustainability, faith and action working group embracing diverse spiritual language at QEW. QEW did not approve that minute.

8. Heather Levien, our observer to the Friends General Conference Central Committee reported. FGC’s work involves much more than just the Gathering each year. The committee addressed the troubling events that occurred at the 2016 Gathering and is taking action to address the related root issues. The organization has been experiencing financial challenges in the past that required some reorganization but, after receiving sufficient contributions, has approved $60,000 to be spent for an assessment of the structural racism within the organization

9. Bertha Pena presented the report from the Youth Programs Coordinating Committee. The committee will be presenting several interest groups this week. All are encouraged to read the reports. [Youth Programs Coordinating Committee Report Attachment K]

10. The AFSC representatives’ report was not presented but is available on the website. [American Friends Service Committee Report Attachment L]

Minutes were approved.
Meeting for Memorials

Seventh Month 16, 2017

The Meeting for Memorials plenary session opened with silent worship.

Readers: Patty Constantino and Marco Antonio Lopez, of Mexico City Meeting:
We do well to remember that being led by the Spirit depends not so much on God, who is always there to lead us, as upon our willingness to be led. We need to be willing to be led into the dark as well as through green pastures and by still waters. We do not need to be afraid of the dark, because God is there.


Michael Anderson, Grass Valley,
Sheldon (Shelly) Blank, Santa Monica,
Dennis Coffey, San Jose,
Chuck Atlee, Central Coast,
William (Bill) Brow, Davis,
Richard Dale, San Jose

Reader: Atticus Carr, of Reno Meeting
Each person speaking
out of the loss
adds a color, an edge,
a piece to be found.

Those who stay silent
bring a shimmer,
a shining wholeness,
to the completed time.

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

John Pixley (August 21, 1994)

Eleanor Engstrand, Santa Cruz,
Tom Huff, Honolulu,
David Grabill, Redwood Forest,
Elizabeth Jones, Santa Cruz,
Ricki Ann Jones, Reno

Reader: Charlie Shaw, Santa Monica Meeting
I do dimly perceive that whilst everything around me is ever-changing, ever-dying, there is underlying all that change a Living Power that is changeless, that holds all together, that creates, dissolves, and re-
That informing Power or Spirit is God. And since nothing else I see merely through the sense can or will persist, God alone it is.

Gandhi

I find my words turning into a prayer. Dear God of all time and all creatures, help me to live fully within this cycle of infinity that is your gift to me. Make me less fearful of the measure of time and more fully alive in the time that simply is. Help me to live time, not just to use it; to breathe it in and return it in acts of love and presence.

Avis Crowe, “Reflections on Time.”


Musical accompaniment by Robert Allen, Berkeley Meeting
Plenary V

Seventh Month 17, 2017

Epistle Reading
Reading Clerk Betty deValcourt read sections from the epistle from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting’s 53rd session, July 2016.

Minute of travel
Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro read a travelling minute for Cathy Walling from Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, Alaska Friends Conference, who served as elder for our member and Youth Programs Coordinator Alyssa Nelson in her travel to Australia and in our session this year.

Advice from a former Presiding Clerk
Marilee Eusebio, a previous Presiding Clerk of our yearly meeting, offered us words of advice regarding our meeting for worship on the occasion of business. Today is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Meeting for worship is the opportunity for us to be aware of the divine and the mundane both. We can seek to be aware of the presence of the divine, always there, in our worship together. Can we be curious? Can we look at our neighbor through their eyes? We are one and when we are gentle toward another we are gentle toward ourselves. So we can be in worship and business.

Ministry and Oversight Report
Kylin Navarro-Burger and Sally Kingsland, Co clerks of Ministry and Oversight Committee, presented their committee report. Their written report is posted and Friends are encouraged to read it. Part of their work is a review of evaluations from past annual sessions, and these sometimes lead to changes in their work. They have taken on much work this year, including preparation of the four proposals already brought to these sessions. Restructuring of our yearly meeting has been an important area of discernment for them, and they have participated in a series of conversations with quarterly and yearly meeting clerks on matters of common concern. Support for our Presiding Clerk is another aspect of their work. They also oversee the attendance assistance fund and reported on the use of these funds. The Attendance Assistance Fund funded 34 families totaling 57 individuals. Donations Friends made from the registration page added an additional $1400 to the $9000 fund. All of these funds were well-used. [Ministry and Oversight Report Attachment M]

Nominating Committee update
Stephen Matchett, Clerk of Nominating Committee, gave an update on his previous report. He read the names of some resignations and additional nominations. These changes are included in the revised report and will be reflected in the final nominating report to be brought to a later session. He also reported on some nominations made by associated organizations, groups or committees, for information purposes.

Naming Committee update
Bertha Pena, Convener of the Naming Committee, with Cathy Walling accompanying her in support, brought names to us for service on Nominating Committee: Graciella Martinez, Visalia Meeting, for one year, Julie Harlow, Davis Meeting, for three years, Sue Torrey, Central Coast Meeting, as Clerk. Bertha listed the names of the Naming Committee so Friends can contact them if they have questions or concerns.

Minutes Approved.
Budget Consideration and Augmentations
David Barrows, Clerk of Finance Committee brought to us proposals from that committee for action.

AS Minute 2017-01 We approve the review of the travel subsidy policy’s being brought to Representative Committee 2018 for discussion, review, and action.

He brought augmentations and a budget proposal for our consideration and action. Friends raised some reservations about the process of our budget preparation, particularly in relation to the JYM budget requests. The Clerk proposed we consider the budget for approval with the exception of the JYM line and the assessment line, leaving them for consideration at a later plenary.

AS Minute 2017-02 We approve the budget for FY 2017-18, with the exception of the line items for JYM and the assessment to monthly meetings.

We considered augmentations to our present budget:

AS Minute 2017-03 We approve the following augmentations to our present budget
  • FCNL & Wm Penn House Travel (#6227) increase $900 to total of $3400.
  • JYM Committee budget (#5227) increase $1500 to $2500.
  • JYM session budget (#6225) increase $500 to $6000.

AS Minute 2017-04 We approve the creation of a reserve account for conference travel budget of Quaker Earthcare Witness, with a cap of $500.

[Budget Attachment N]

Minutes Approved

Ministry and Oversight
Kylin Navarro-Burger and Sally Kingsland, Co clerks of Ministry and Oversight Committee, thanked those who attended their open committee meeting. They feel in unity in proposing that their name should be changed but are not yet clear on what the new name should be. They believe we should remove the word “oversight” from their name. They ask for further input to aid them as they discern what new name they would propose for their committee. M&O will meet with individuals in their open time today to consider bringing a minute to a later plenary at these sessions.

In regard to the Abuse Prevention Policy consideration, they have removed the section within this minute regarding legal review, and plan to add a right relationships section related to this policy in the future.

AS Minute 2017-05 We approve the Abuse Prevention Policy proposed to us by the committee, with the knowledge that the committee will be seeking legal review of this policy at some point.

[Abuse Prevention Policy Attachment O]
In regard to the Yearly Meeting Restructuring proposal, we heard a current proposal for restructuring our yearly meeting. Their previously presented proposal is now slightly changed: JYM Committee will be reduced from 9 to 8 members, rather than from 9 to 6.

**AS Minute 2017-06** We approve the Restructuring and Rightsizing of PYM document presented to us by M&O.

[Restructuring and Rightsizing Document Attachment P]

*Minutes Approved.*

**Faith and Practice Revision Committee**

Laura Magnani and Carl Magruder, Committee members, brought us a proposal regarding their committee needs, and commented on their submitted report.

They noted that their Faith and Practice Revision committee submitted its report to this annual session and hopes that you will read it and that representatives will take it back to their meetings for seasoning prior to Representative Committee in 2018. Ideally, this seasoning should occur between now and the end of 2017 so that the Faith and Practice Revision Committee can receive your input.

The report contains one error which they would like to correct now. It says that the committee is requesting two additional members of the committee, with specific expertise in technology as we attempt to live into a new technological process for revising F&P.

Instead they bring us today a one sentence minute asking for one additional member, to be appointed this week. They will be working with Nominating Committee to identify a qualified person. They do not anticipate enlarging the committee beyond this size for the work they are attempting. They know that in the previous revision process, too many Friends were syphoned away from other PYM assignments. The current committee consists of six members, plus the archivist who serves *ex officio*. They proposed approving the following request at a future plenary:

The Faith and Practice Revision Committee requests the addition of one member with strong cyber and computer skills to help us design a viable way forward into electronic revision of Faith and Practice.

*Minutes Approved.*

Announcements were read.
Plenary VI

Seventh Month 17, 2017

Epistle Reading
Betty deValcourt, Reading Clerk, read from the epistle from Ireland Yearly Meeting, April, 2016.

Visitors
Sonya Tuma, regional director for the western region of AFSC, introduced herself.

Advice from a former Presiding Clerk
Steve Smith, former Presiding Clerk of our yearly meeting, shared thoughts on our business meeting practice and the role of clerks. He expressed appreciation for the thoughts of Diego and the other two clerks who have spoken. He brought the book by Elizabeth Boardman, Where do I stand, to our attention as a useful resource on clerking. Steve called attention to the gospel of John, sections from which we draw our name as Friends [John 15;12-15]. He read also New Testament advice on loving one another and keeping peace in their communities. He reminded us of the exceptional seriousness with which the words counseling peace have been carried by our tradition. The higher purpose of peace is embodied in our process; our Faith and Practice reminds us that decisions are not victories for one side, but for all. Silent worship, both opening and closing, connects us to the spirit that binds us in unity. Cultivating a loving community takes precedence over getting things done. Firmness and clarity are, at the same time, matters to which we are called.

Clerk’s comments
Clerk Diego reminded us of some matters of process: Sharon Gates, Assistant to the Clerk, communicates information to our clerks, and clerks are reminded to check their email. Any who desire to speak in Spanish in our gatherings, know that we will provide a translator. JYM Friends are here in this intergenerational plenary, and Diego welcomed them. Shane Lightner, M&O member, will assist the clerk at this plenary in keeping time for presenters.

Last Summer’s Travel Minute Endorsements
We heard excerpts of the signings recorded on the travel minutes we sent with three of our member ministers in their travel last year, words of appreciation and gratitude for their work. These travellers spoke to us of their experiences.

Jim Summers travelled to carry the story of the peace ship, the Golden Rule, that sailed originally in 1958 to oppose nuclear testing. His journey was a painful and strenuous test of witness against war. Yet there were moments of peace and wonder as well.

Alyssa Nelson and Thistle West, accompanied by Cathy Walling, carried news of the work of our youth programs, to Friends in Australia. They offered many presentations and workshops greatly appreciated by Australian Friends. Thistle spoke of her leap of faith into this work, responding to Alyssa’s invitation. There was not sufficient discernment in helping Thistle in her decision to go, and she felt upon arrival this was not a journey she should have undertaken. It was a painful and frightening experience, though Australian Friends offered tender care. Her own ministry centered on gender issues, and she felt unprepared to manage the stories and questions that came to her. She still feels inadequate to the ministry she feels she carries, and senses that our PYM community lacks the support systems needed for the ministry many are called to carry. She appealed with passionate concern to our community to create these supports, to enable us to live out God’s will in our time. God is stirring in all
of our hearts. We must gather and test our leadings with one another. We must bring this heart of ministry into the center of our lives.

AFSC: Centennial Celebration
Shan Cretin, General Secretary of AFSC, spoke to us. In 1917, just after the US had entered WWI, young Quakers came together with a vision. Believing Friends could reach across the great divide of difference, they created a program where young people were trained and went to France to aid others. They began what has become AFSC. AFSC celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. This 100 years has included war, oppression, and misguided choices, and we work still to remedy the circumstances of injustice and violence that is the aftermath. The colonial occupations and the tensions that have carried forward into the new countries created, bring stress and challenges in the work of peace and justice. Our current trying times are nothing new. AFSC seeks to find its place, to partner with other organizations, in the face of the world’s needs. AFSC has undertaken two projects in recent time: one is an effort to build a society that manifests wholeness and is filled with resilient communities, able to respond to challenge and misfortune. The associated document, Shared Security, was put together jointly with FCNL and has received enthusiastic response from others, in particular in Britain. This effort to change the narrative of war as the regrettable but necessary instrument of protection, has made its mark. It has offered a powerful vision of how resilient, peaceful, and secure societies could be created. A second effort addresses the need to provide programs for youth that train and educate youth into situations of agency and leadership. AFSC, though large for a Quaker organization, is by global measure a small organization and must choose carefully where to place its resources. AFSC needs support from the Quaker community, and at the same time can provide resources that Quaker meetings need. Shan invites us to explore AFSC to join in this larger effort, and draw from AFSC’s resources and guidance for our own local education and action. Current issues like Korea, Israel-Palestine, sanctuary, and immigration are focus areas for AFSC and their materials can support the active witness of Friends everywhere.

Sonya Tuma, West Regional Director of AFSC, then spoke to us outlining the locations of offices in the west. Eleven offices dot the western region, from Colorado to the Pacific. Much immigration work is done by these offices, as well as work with youth, and with food security. She spoke to us of their sustainer donor program, whereby monthly donations support the AFSC work. She also told us of the new General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny, who will begin her work in September, and informed us that new programs are underway in AFSC work.

FCNL Advocacy Teams
Stephen Donohoe FCNL and Carolyn Levering, Santa Cruz Meeting, told us of efforts to create advocacy teams in the face of current political conditions. A strategy developed recently has given rise to local advocacy groups whose task is to meet with congresspersons to move them on critical issues. This has been a remarkably successful program. Over a thousand people, in 60 teams, are now engaged in this work with legislators. Carolyn spoke of her experiences working with her local advocacy team. Thirty people responded to her initial call for interested persons, and the project has been active and successful in its work. A once-a-month conference call connects advocacy teams across the country. She herself has felt enriched by this experience, and travels to other meetings to speak about starting such a team. Good training is available and the experience is satisfying and, by Carolyn’s testimony, even fun. Finally, we were told this program is crucially important on a number of issues, in particular the military budget. This work makes a difference, as represented by the rising pressure for an audit of the pentagon budget, an issue initiated by advocacy group work. Friends were invited to contact Carolyn and Stephen to learn more how to become involved in advocacy.
Anthony Manousos, [Santa Monica], Emelyn Buskirk, [Live Oak], FWCC reps, with Patricia Portillo, [Sacramento], as translator and Carl Magruder, [Humboldt], brought us a report. They spoke of the new program of travelling ministry, drawing on Friends from all branches, who are available for visiting meetings. Visitation is an important part of FWCC’s work. Understanding, appreciation of difference, and connection, are fruits of this work. Friends who might serve as travelling ministers can learn of this opportunity on the FWCC website. Anthony spoke of the rising concern regarding the protection and restoration of the planet that is apparent in FWCC. He challenged us to respond to this pressing need, and to contact him for further information on this issue. Carl spoke of his own experience at the recent FWCC gathering, where he was a principal speaker. He brought to us some elements of his message delivered there. Shalom was the central image of his vision, the connection of eco-justice and earth justice. Our political, economic, and environmental condition is dire, but what we might see as a terminal illness is the prospect of awakening to a deep transformation, an opportunity to come into shalom. We are wading in deep waters trying to get home. [Friends World Committee for Consultation Report Attachment Q]

Announcements were given.
Plenary VII

Seventh Month 18, 2017

Epistle reading
Lisa Hubbell, member of our epistle committee, read a draft of our epistle. This draft is posted for Friends, and the committee welcomes comments throughout this day that may contribute to the creation of its final version.

Agenda review
Clerk Diego Navarro reviewed the agenda for the morning and introduced the Friends at the clerk’s table. He observed that our world is in a tumultuous state and our society has traditionally sought to be in touch with the deeper place that enables us to respond to the condition of our world. He asked us how we nurture and support both our rising ministers who are called to respond, and our meetings generally who seek to deepen their life in the spirit.

State of the Society exercise
Members of our Ministry and Oversight Committee led us in an exercise exploring the state of our society. Julie Harlow reminded us of our tradition of having Ministry and Oversight present a state of the society report to us; she told us that we were about to engage in a new way of composing such a report. The full gathered meeting, which includes youth of our yearly meeting, was then asked to form groups of ten or so and given a brainstorming task. We then heard each group present its completions to the proposed sentence: “As a Yearly Meeting, we are . . . .”

The responses were rich and diverse, and included:

In need of better Quaker process
Loss of members
Care for individuals in our community

    A loving spiritual community
    Respond to demands of world—public voice of love in action
    Stretching

Close knit and close at YM

    Spiritual and active
    Welcoming

Facing challenges: distance and economy
Joyful fellowship
Challenge to respond to turbulent times

    Lack diversity
    Support of leadings
    Striving to be deeply connected

Challenged politics and finance
Coming from spirit and service
Focused on spirit and youth

   Needing to make ourselves more inclusive
   Needing discipline

Worshipful greeting, growing, bonding
Challenge lack of diversity
Rediscovering light and life

   Simplifying, supportive,

Stronger than we know
Worship is a strength
Searching for identity and corporate leadings
Transforming through our challenges

   Spiritually strong, restructuring, inclusive

Accepting, honest, questioning, loving and kind

   Seeking how to be truth to spirit, facing global reality
   Adapting form to meet needs
   Moving toward inclusivity

We were invited to consider what these descriptions of our present state say to us about what we hope to be. We then heard from speakers about some present activities in their monthly meetings

Innovations in our monthly meetings
Friends from three monthly meetings shared with us practices in their monthly meetings that they have found to nurture the awakening of the presence among them, offer promise of what our society could become.

Kathy Runyan from Santa Cruz Meeting spoke of a difficulty her meeting recently faced with secular “ministry” and lack of depth in their worship. They tried various forms of spiritual education on First Days, and then experimented with extended worship, where some Friends arrived 1 ½ hours early to begin a longer period of worship. Six to twelve Friends began at this early arrival, and the meeting found that not only were these Friends deepened in their worship, but Friends arriving later found a depth in the worship that seemed to lead to deeper ministry and silence. They began to practice extended worship twice a month, with good effects.

Eric Sabelman of Palo Alto Meeting described his meeting’s restructuring process. They found they had 40 members serving on 16 committees, and this stretch was not healthy for the meeting. They gathered ideas for directions of change they could take and reduced their committees from 16 to 6. Working groups were formed under these committees to address projects. They still have about the same number of Friends doing the work, but there is less meeting time and more flexibility. They have other innovations that enable this system to work well also.
Betty de Valcourt from Santa Cruz Meeting spoke of her meeting’s use of the “Jubilee Year” practice to look at their meeting structure. The meeting felt rudderless and lacking in support for leadings. They found outside resources for reviewing their condition. They came to see that supporting leadings of Members and attenders was a central element of their capacity for work in the world. They began to educate themselves on the nature of a leading. They invited speakers in to help them. They spoke among themselves, finding in one another the beginnings of leadings. Betty shared the example of a recent workshop she gave, with topics of: preparing the ground for a leading, clarifying the relationship between a concern and a leading; creating the conditions for a leading; having conversation with the still small voice, highlighting Quaker structured activities to ground our practice; and living out our leading. The beloved community must embrace this leading.

We entered worship, with these sharings before us, and many spoke out of the silence. Friends sensed the richness of these offerings and the need for seasoning to bring forth useful next steps. Our work in preparing the ground for action involves becoming aware of possible unintended consequences. Preparing may include repairing. Our condensation exercise requires complex ideas to be placed in small phrases. Fear of change is greatest before the beginning of change. Perhaps an unintended consequence of our streamlining our meetings is fewer opportunities for “in between” people to find a place and care. Efficiency has its hazards. Our work is diverse and shared and our harvest is love, the experience of love pouring out into the community. Song was offered in quiet and haunting peace. What did we not hear? Our shrinking membership, our preoccupation with internal matters, our lack of learning from other organizations, our awkward engagement with newcomers—are these matters to concern us?

Our clerk brought our session of worship sharing to a close. We seek to become an inclusive, regenerative, rejuvenating community providing practices of guidance, clearness, discernment, accountability and obedience to God and Spirit. How can we practice a Quakerism that is restorative and redemptive?

We heard announcements.
Plenary VIII

Seventh Month 18, 2017

The plenary meeting began with silent worship.

Epistle Reading
The reading clerk Betty deValcourt read an epistle from the 336th Philadelphia Yearly Meeting annual session.

There were no new visitors. The presiding clerk introduced those at the facing table.

Former Clerk’s advice
Former clerk Eric Moon reminded us of our process for discerning in our meetings. He celebrated this innovation of inviting former presiding clerks to speak, saying that before we had “SPICE” there were two other testimonies, and that the mother of all of those was the Quaker meeting for worship and the Quaker meeting for business, and these gave birth to “SPICE.”

Echoing the large “Array” in Soccoro, New Mexico, Eric used volunteers holding large salad bowls as though they were satellite dishes arranged around a virtual train track, to create his own “Array.” Eric told us that listening is the quintessential Quaker skill, or tool. If there was a verb for Quakers, it would be “to listen,” because this is fundamental to Quaker culture. It has sometimes been said, “We can’t bring this to our business meeting because we are so far apart.” But, being far apart does not make it more difficult to listen. Listeners need big ears. When we say “yes” to the nominating committee slate we are saying we trust these Friends to listen. The nominating committee has “big ears,” and if we can’t bring ourselves to trust it, we are saying, “I’d rather rely on my own very small ability to listen.” He noted that we now have Keynote Speakers; perhaps we need keynote “listeners” as well.

Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Clerks Discernment Committee
Sara Rose House Lightner [Orange Grove Monthly Meeting and Presiding Clerk of Southern California Quarterly Meeting] presented the report from a coordination committee created by our PYM Presiding Clerk and comprised of Quarterly Meeting/Yearly Meeting Clerks & M&O Clerks. The group met three times via conference call and worshiped together. Finding overlap in their concerns they identified several challenges that make their work difficult. Emerging from discernment were queries centered around the problem of a lack of resources. Everyone expressed their love for the different bodies. With time, they may have a more substantive proposal for us next year. [Discernment of Quarterly and Yearly Meeting Clerks and M&O clerks Report Attachment R]

Nominating Committee
Stephen Matchett, Nominating Committee Clerk, presented an updated report from the Nominating Committee. The report was distributed and updates the prior report by identifying two resignations, one nomination withdrawal, and some new nominations. These will be brought for final approval at the last plenary session on Wednesday. The restructuring proposal changes some of the details but he believes this can be taken care of by the committees later.

Ministry and Oversight Committee
Kylin Navarro-Burger and Sally Kingsland, M&O Co-clerks, presented a request from the Ministry & Oversight Committee. They announced that, after hearing further ministry regarding the proposed change in name of the committee, and discussions during open committee time, the committee is
bringing a request to change the name of the committee. The committee does sense a unity in the body that Friends do want to drop the word “oversight” from the name and asked for approval of that. It also senses that Friends would like it to take on a provisional name that will be reconsidered at the annual gathering next year.

They proposed a minute to approve removing the words “and Oversight” from the name of the Ministry and Oversight Committee. The committee also proposed approval of the provisional name for the committee of “Ministry & Stewardship Committee.” The committee believes the word Stewardship carries some of the connotation of supervision without the historical baggage of the former word. They therefore proposed that we approve provisionally changing the name of the Ministry and Oversight Committee to “Ministry and Stewardship Committee,” and review this change at the next annual session.

Friends were concerned, as a point of good order, that we not change the name until we have unity on the replacement, and the Presiding Clerk asked that we put this aside and move to other matters that must be approved now and then come back to it for a fuller discussion.

Faith and Practice Revision Committee
Laura Magnani, Committee member, presented a proposed minute from the Faith & Practice Revision Committee, which was approved.

**AS Minute 2017-07** We approve the addition of one member to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, who would have strong cyber and computer skills to help the committee design a viable way forward into electronic revision of Faith and Practice.

Nominating Committee
Stephen Matchett, Nominating Committee Clerk, presented the nomination of the additional person for the Faith & Practice Revision, and also for the co-clerks of that committee, to be considered for approval with the nominating slate tomorrow.

Budget
David Barrows, Finance Committee Clerk, presented budget matters for approval. After discernment, the JYM committee budget was approved, and the increase in assessment by $2 was approved, making the total assessment for members in California and Nevada $113; Guatemala and Hawaii $51; and Mexico $32, per year.

The clerk spoke about concerns, including his, about raising the assessment every year but believes the restructuring of committees and changing the travel expense procedures will make such increases unnecessary in the future.

**AS Minute 2017-08** We approve adjustments to our FY 2017-18 budget as follows: the JYM budget line is approved, the increase in our assessment of $2 was approved making the total assessment for members in California and Nevada $113, Guatemala and Hawaii $51, and Mexico $32 per year.

Statistical Report
Sharon Gates, Assistant to the Clerk, presented the Statistical Report, which was accepted. Membership has decreased by 26. There are a total of 36 monthly meetings. Sixty-five percent of membership is in CPQM. [Statistical Report Attachment S]

Earthlight Bookstore
Eric Sabelman presented a report for Earthlight Bookstore, which operates as a “pop-up” bookstore, appearing where people are gathered. As resources permit, the bookstore will continue to appear where it is needed and plans in the future to “pop up” as “circuit riders” take it to local monthly meetings. To be sustainable, it needs human resources and invites those wishing to learn commercial bookselling to become “circuit riders.”

Naming Committee
Bertha Pena and Sue Scott, Naming Committee members, presented the report from the Naming Committee. The committee presented the names of Rebecca Percy, Graciela Martinez, Julie Harlow, with Sue Torrey as clerk. These names will be presented for a second time tomorrow.

Ministry and Oversight
The Ministry & Oversight Committee returned for further discussion of their proposed minutes regarding a committee name change.

There was concern that a provisional name could create confusion in the future after it is replaced. Other Friends took exception to the word “Stewardship” and suggested “Counsel.” The clerk reminded us that the committee has brought the proposed minute, and that the decision is now in our hands. It appears we have a name that some do not feel comfortable with and that adopting a provisional name could create confusion in the future. However we do not yet have a name that we can adopt in unity. We can adopt a provisional name that we can accept, or we continue with “Ministry & Oversight.” The Presiding Clerk asked if a minute could be approved adopting a provisional name of “Ministry and Counsel Committee.” No unity was reached in this matter.

Naming Committee
The Naming Committee members reappeared to bring an additional name proposed for Nominating Committee. Peggy Craik’s name was omitted from the proposed Nominating Committee, and will come forward for a second reading tomorrow.

The minutes were approved.
Closing Plenary

Seventh Month 19, 2017

The plenary began with silent worship.

Advice from a former Presiding Clerk
Former Presiding Clerk, Margaret Mossman, was asked to share her thoughts on Quaker process for meeting for business. Margaret asked us, “Why do we practice meeting for worship for business the way we do?” She told us that she was ready to just say, “Ditto” to the prior Presiding Clerks’ comments, until Eric Moon--how to follow him and his salad bowls?

There is a spirit among, within, beyond us, she said. Just as we begin to find a name for Ministry & Oversight that resonates with all of us, we begin to find a spirit within us. We gather in worship to join in a spirit without a label. This requires a process that is respectful, loving and inclusive, accepting that each of us has a unique portion of the Light. The process is most profound when it is not easy, when our rough edges are rubbed smoother by Quaker process-- not by compromise but by a better understanding of the truth beyond our own vision. This is a lofty vision, but messy in its implementation. Gaining personal desires is not important, but that the outcome works to achieve the goal is. When we struggle we meet ourselves at the deepest and most authentic part of our being. Once on the other side we are stronger and more ready to meet the next challenge, which is likely to be more difficult. When I rise to speak, is it God, or is it me? Can I trust those who have done the background work? Can I hear what another person is bringing to the discernment process, the pain another is feeling? Am I part of building unity, or am I just chipping away at the base? Let us love one another, and be kind, then we will come closer to what we are called to be.

Preschool Epistle
The preschoolers presented and read their epistle, which included their desire to return next year. [Epistles from all age groups (including Preschool) are in Attachment T]

Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle
The Junior Yearly Meeting presented its epistle, read by Gabriella Alvarado [Sacramento]. The epistle emphasized their activities in the context of the themes of the session and their use of Quaker process. They expressed gratitude for the environment at Walker Creek Ranch and their desire to return next year. They also read Quaker quotations that spoke to their condition this week, including this, overheard during the dance, “Can someone please play, “Walk in the Light?” [Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle in Attachment T]

Pacific Yearly Meeting Epistle
The PYM epistle was presented by George Gastil from San Diego Monthly Meeting, Terrell Keeler from Live Oak Monthly Meeting, and Lisa Hubbell from San Francisco Mennonites, and was read by Lisa. The epistle was accepted. [Pacific Yearly Meeting Epistle in Attachment T]

Middle School Epistle
The Middle School group presented a colorful banner with their name for themselves: the first letters of each of their names. Their epistle was read in parts by each member of the group and emphasized their growth in learning to cooperate in peaceful understanding. They all hope to come back next year. They also presented a banner listing their goals and expectations for their group signed by handprint and name. [Middle School Epistle in Attachment T]
Registrar’s Report
Heather Levien, Registrar, presented the Registrar’s report. She thanked Laura Kohl, our Arrangements Clerk who helps with emergencies and who took over when Heather needed her. Of the approximately 287 attending, 56 were new attenders. The online registration system was piloted after much exploration and they hope to have the few bugs worked out for next year. Paypal was used by about 20% of the attenders. Many others assisted this year in the registration process and the Registrar thanked each of these. [Registrar’s Report Attachment U]

Elementary Children’s Epistle
The elementary group presented their epistle, a part of which was read by each member. They wrote about their many activities and experiences on the property, at the pond, with livestock and wild animals, doing crafts, at the dance, eating deserts, at the meeting for memorials, and with each other. They had a black kingsnake as their classroom pet. They learned how to sit quietly and be present with God. [Elementary Children’s Epistle in Attachment T]

Nominating Committee
Steven Matchett, Nominating Committee Clerk, presented the Nominating Committee Report for approval. He reported some withdrawals and additions updating the report presented yesterday. He will update the report on the website. Some additional nominations will be approved using an interim process. The committee is still seeking a person for the M&O Committee.

The names presented for a second time and listed on the full report were approved.

AS Minute 2017-09. We approve the names brought to us by Nominating Committee, for service in positions and terms listed in the final Nominating Committee Report.

[Nominating Committee final report Attachment V]

Naming Committee
Bertha Pena presented the updated report of the Naming committee, proposing names for our Nominating Committee.

AS Minute 2017-10. We approve the following Friends to serve on our Nominating Committee: Sue Torrey, Central Coast (2018) as clerk and new members Peggy Craik, Conejo Valley WG (2020), Julie Harlow, Davis (2020) and Rebekah Percy, La Jolla (2020).

A member of the M&O committee spoke about concerns with the session’s failure to come to unity around a change in the name of the committee and about the personal freedom to refer to the committee by a name that is comfortable.

Junior Yearly Meeting Officers
JYM presented its slate of officers for the year.

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Committee
(adult committee)
2018 Kate Connell, Santa Barbara (2012)
2018 Muriel Strand, Sacramento (2015), clerk
2019 Dan Strickland, Orange Grove (2013)
2019 Suzanne Doss, Orange Grove (2013)
2019 Keith Runyan, Santa Cruz (2017)
2020 Sarah Armstrong Jones, Big Island (2017)
2020 Larissa Keeler, Strawberry Creek (2017)
2020 Don McCormick, Grass Valley (2017)
Ex Officio: Youth Programs Coordinator

**JYM Co-Clerks**

(appointed by JYM teens)
2018 Charlie Shaw, Santa Monica
2018 Ari Standish, Berkeley
2018 Elinor Steffy, Sacramento

**JYM Ministry and Oversight Committee**

(appointed by JYM teens)
2018 Gaby Alvarado, Sacramento, co-clerk
2018 Gracie Martínez, Visalia
2018 Rose Nadis, Santa Barbara, co-clerk
2018 Callum Standish, Berkeley

In closing, the Presiding Clerk shared his thoughts about the proposed name change for M&O committee. This is an issue made complex by the history of our Yearly Meeting, which is different from that of the east coast. Our movement toward alternative names was driven partly by individualism, a sense that individuals don’t want someone overseeing and telling them what to do. Changing the name becomes complex also through a lack of understanding of the committee’s purpose, as described in its job description. In preparation for the discussion in the future, he asked that we please review that description of the committee’s function. The issue is not really the word “oversight,” but the word “overseer” and if that word is changed in F&P where it appears, the issue with that specific word would be removed.

Another perspective is that the name change is a symptom of the deeper issue we have around racism and the need to feel safe in our space. These are some of the reasons why, in the short time we had, we were not able to arrive at unity on this complex issue. Diego will sit with the M&O Committee to see if this issue will be treated differently on the agenda next year.

This is a special place for the native peoples here and is becoming a special place for us as well. We are well exercised to carry back to our quarterly and monthly meetings what we have learned. We are learning to practice together and learn what it means to live our personal faith in community. Next year’s theme is “Radical vulnerability.”

Diego Navarro, Presiding Clerk
Jim Anderson, Recording Clerk
Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Recording Clerk
## Attachment A: Roll of Attending Meetings and Worship Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Order</th>
<th>Present?</th>
<th>Meeting or Worship Group</th>
<th>Under the Care of</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Guatemala MM</td>
<td>Guatemala MM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oaxaca WG</td>
<td>Mexico City</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Mexico City MM</td>
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<td>Big Island MM</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maui WG</td>
<td>Honolulu</td>
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</table>
Attachment B: Community Expectations Document

Community Expectations – Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session 2017

Our Annual Session is a gathering of the Beloved Community where Friends labor and rejoice together in discerning the will of Spirit. For us to go deep into worship and community, we must create a safe and healthy container. Please use these reminders to make Annual Session a joyful occasion for all.

We ask that all Friends will uphold the following expectations.

- We come to Annual Session with a loving attitude ready to be with one another in compassion, even when we are in disagreement.
- When there is conflict, we practice entering worship to seek God’s will. We listen deeply to others and speak our truth as plainly as we are able.
- We remember basic courtesy, and we speak with love. Peace is the way!
- We communicate our own personal boundaries and respect those of others.
- We ensure that children and parents are supported so that young people are safe, supervised and appropriately engaged as an integral part of our community.
- We remember that Annual Session is a Do-It-Yourself event and run by volunteers – members of our very own community. We seek the appropriate person to talk to and we are prepared to help with the solution to issues we bring forward for resolution.
- We are aware of our own and others’ needs and are willing to ask for and/or give help to others while also respecting everyone’s desire for independence.
- Consenting adults keep any sexual intimacy only within pre-existing committed relationships in order to focus on being in community for our time together at Annual Session. We expect that minors will not engage in sexual relations during Annual Session.
- We abstain from using alcohol and recreational or illegal drugs during Annual Session.

Thank you for helping make Annual Session a safe, healthy and fun occasion for the whole community!

If you would like to discuss any of these expectations please see a member of the Ministry and Oversight Committee. M&O members are also available to support anyone at Annual Session through mediation, worship and/or deep listening.
## General Account Budget vs. Actual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2015-2016 (ending 9/30/2016)</th>
<th>FY 2016-2017</th>
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<td>Budget</td>
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### General Account Budget vs. Actual

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<td>5275 — APSC (2)</td>
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<td>5277 — FCNL (2) &amp; William Pern House (1)</td>
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<td>6279 — FWCC, Section of the Americas R2743 (2)</td>
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<td>6140 — Insurance</td>
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<td>6190 — Administration &amp; Travel</td>
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<td>SUBTOTAL PROGRAMS</td>
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<td>(15,052)</td>
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Expense accounts with a bold face R27xx following the account name have associated reserve funds (see Balance Sheet). Transfers from these special reserves are negative (enclosed in parentheses) in the Transfers column. A positive transfer means that funds remaining in the expense account at the end of the year were transferred to the associated reserve; a negative number indicates transfers from the reserve to cover over-budget expense. In Conference Travel account names, (n) is the number of representative or delegate trips funded, effective with FY 2016-2017.

**Comments on Account Lines Highlighted Above**

5279, 5280, 5281, 5287

For less-than-annual events, we budget a portion of anticipated expenses annually.
### General Account Balance Sheet

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<th>9/30/2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1701 — General Acct checking (WF--&gt;Redwood Credit Union)</td>
<td>8,121</td>
<td>13,478</td>
<td>51,557</td>
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<tr>
<td>1704.6 — Invested Capital (Pax World)</td>
<td>23,012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1704.01 — Invested Capital (Friends Fiduciary)</td>
<td>76,026</td>
<td>85,516</td>
<td>88,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1704.7 — Vogel Endowment (Friends Fiduciary)</td>
<td>432,229</td>
<td>472,074</td>
<td>477,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1706 — Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>2,055</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1705-1710 — Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>2,068</td>
<td>2,068</td>
<td>2,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1720 — Inventory of Faith &amp; Practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750 — FGC Meeting House Fund Note</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>554,110</td>
<td>583,341</td>
<td>629,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2400 — Payroll Withholdings</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,033</td>
<td>1,068</td>
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<tr>
<td>2500 — Payroll Taxes Payable</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>2701 — Accounts Payable</td>
<td>2,395</td>
<td>2,395</td>
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<tr>
<td>2704 — Credit Cards</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>1,028</td>
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<tr>
<td>2712 — Student Conscience Fund</td>
<td>17,843</td>
<td>17,843</td>
<td>17,843</td>
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<tr>
<td>2713 — Clerk’s Travel &amp; Discretion (5202) Reserve</td>
<td>1,761</td>
<td>1,761</td>
<td>1,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2714 — Committee Supplemental (5237) Reserve</td>
<td>1,071</td>
<td>1,026</td>
<td>1,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2721.1 — Pre-Publishing Reserve (F&amp;P)</td>
<td>4,318</td>
<td>4,318</td>
<td>9,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2722 — Equipment Purchase (5207) Reserve</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>1,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>2723 — Account Audit (5210) Reserve</td>
<td>3,590</td>
<td>3,590</td>
<td>3,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2732 — PYM Traveling Friend Fund (M&amp;O)</td>
<td>3,450</td>
<td>2,321</td>
<td>2,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2733 — Fund for Concerns (M&amp;O)</td>
<td>4,237</td>
<td>4,742</td>
<td>5,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2734 — Sharing Fund (M&amp;O)</td>
<td>1,981</td>
<td>2,116</td>
<td>2,236</td>
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<tr>
<td>2735 — FGC Scholarship</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>828</td>
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<tr>
<td>2736 — Unity with Nature Project Fund</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>1,679</td>
<td>2,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2742 — Young Friends Travel (5288) Reserve</td>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>1,874</td>
<td>1,874</td>
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<tr>
<td>2743 — FWCC, Sect of Amer Travel (5279) Reserve</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2744 — FGC Travel (5278) Reserve</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2745 — FUM Travel (5280) Reserve</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2746 — Gen. Reunion Fr. Mex. Travel (5281) Reserve</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2747 — FWCC World Plenary Travel (5287) Reserve</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2748 — Western Friend Board Travel (5271) Reserve</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2749 — Latin Amer. Concerns Outreach (5212) Reserve</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>478</td>
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<tr>
<td>2780 — Youth Program Coordinator Reserve</td>
<td>5,383</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>883</td>
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<tr>
<td>2781 — Bob Vogel Endowment</td>
<td>432,229</td>
<td>472,074</td>
<td>477,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2782 — Vogel Youth Work Reserve</td>
<td>9,565</td>
<td>13,049</td>
<td>7,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3900 — Uncommitted Reserves</td>
<td>55,690</td>
<td>44,340</td>
<td>86,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td>554,110</td>
<td>583,341</td>
<td>629,344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Note:
The Yearly Meeting’s principal income (the support contributed by member monthly meetings) tends to occur earlier in the fiscal year than much of the expense. For that reason, the Uncommitted Reserves (aka the General Reserve) total is typically higher mid-year than it will be at the end of the fiscal year, after all expenses have been paid, and all transfers to and from Restricted Reserve accounts have been completed.
## 2016 Annual Session Budget vs. Actual; 2017 Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2016 Actual</th>
<th>2017 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6110 — Miscellaneous Contributions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6111 — Fees from Attendees</td>
<td>112,000</td>
<td>107,475</td>
<td>112,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6112 — Fees from Session Accts.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,050</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>6113 — Fees from PYM General Funds</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>10,837</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6114 — Interest on PYM Sessions Accts</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6116 — Contributions to Annual easion</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,063</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6116a — Carbon Offset donations received</td>
<td>436</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6239 — Carbon Offset donations pd to UWN Project Fund</td>
<td>(436)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income:</strong></td>
<td><strong>134,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>132,444</strong></td>
<td><strong>134,000</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2016 Actual</th>
<th>2017 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6220 — Registrar's Expenses</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6221 — Secretariat's Expenses</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6222 — Arrangement Clerk Expenses</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6223 — Children's Program</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>10,686</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6224 — Cost of Facilities</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>90,534</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6225 — Junior Yearly Meeting</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,067</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6226 — Young Friends</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>6227 — Breakage and Equipment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6228 — PYM Clerk's Invited Guests</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>6229 — Insurance</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6232 — Bank fees</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6234 — Fee for registration services</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>6235 — Contingency Expenses</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>111,635</strong></td>
<td><strong>127,250</strong></td>
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**EXCESS (DEFICIT):**

```
<table>
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<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>20,609</td>
<td>6,760</td>
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### Session Balance Sheets

#### Assets

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<th>Account</th>
<th>9/30/14</th>
<th>9/30/15</th>
<th>9/30/16</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1001 — Session Checking Account</td>
<td>24,052</td>
<td>44,467</td>
<td>65,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100 — Accounts Receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200 — Loan Receivable from General Acct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500 — Deposits on Future Sessions</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,052</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,467</strong></td>
<td><strong>65,276</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities and Reserve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6450 — Accounts Payable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6451 — Loan Payable to General Acct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6455 — PYM Session Reserve</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,052</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,467</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Reserve</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,052</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,467</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attachment D: Finance Committee Report

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Finance Committee
Report to Annual Session, July 2017

• At Representative Committee Meeting Finance Committee recommended and Rep Com approved a one-year trial of a subsidy for attenders traveling over 200 miles by car-pool, train, or bus to attend the annual gathering ($25 for those traveling 200 to 400 miles from their home meeting and $50 for those traveling over 400 miles).
• Subsidies would apply to people who declare their intent to travel to Annual Session by carpool, bus, or train, and
• Register for the full five days of Annual Session.
• Registrars would accept a declaration of intent so that the rebate of $25 or $50 per person would be applied at the time of registration, with the amount owed not to go below zero.
• It is expected that this can be accomplished without raising fees for attendance or assessments. The intent is to reduce out of pocket expenses and not to provide a cash refund for those with other fee reductions.
• Rep Com approved trying this for one year with evaluation and adjustments, if needed, for future years. Finance Committee recommends that this review of the subsidy policy be brought to Rep Com 2018 for discussion, review, and decisions.

Finance Committee recommends approval of the following budget augmentations:
• FCNL & Wm Penn House Travel (#6227) increase $900 to total of $3400.
• JYM (#5227) increase $1500 to $2500.
• JYM session budget (#6225) increase $500 to $6000.

• Unity with Nature Committee has requested that a reserve account be established for conference travel to Quaker Earthcare Witness (#5286). Finance Committee recommends this be approved with a cap of $500.

• Upon recommendation of Treasurer, Finance Committee has elected to pursue obtaining certification of our non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.). When PYM was incorporated by the State of California as a non-profit corporation, we did not obtain the letter from the IRS. The I.R.S. letter is not absolutely necessary -- PYM is a non-profit corporation with or without the IRS letter. However, we do get asked about our IRS letter. There will be a one-time charge of $650 which is included in the proposed budget for the Finance Committee.


[Approved Budget at Attachment N]
2017 Report to Yearly Meetings

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends, God's spirit has led Friends to take action in the world. As Friends, our faith and experience convince us to work for the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable world we seek. FCNL has been bringing the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital for nearly 75 years.

The 2016 election manifested the deep political and social divisions in our country, revealing stark differences in voters' hopes for the future. Amidst these seismic political shifts, FCNL's grounding as a Quaker lobby and our presence on Capitol Hill as a nonpartisan voice for peace and justice are needed now more than ever. Friends remain the bedrock of FCNL's strong network, standing together in a nearly 370-year-old faith-based movement living its faith through action.

Spirit-led Action

At FCNL's Annual Meeting in November, which convened just two days after the election, we gathered to worship, lobby and conduct the organization's business. FCNL's General Committee approved legislative priorities to guide our community's advocacy in the 115th Congress. These legislative priorities, available online at fcnl.org/priorities, were the result of widening circles of discernment that included input from hundreds of Quaker meetings and churches across the country, discernment by FCNL's Policy Committee, and consideration by the General Committee. We also renewed our commitment as a community to use the persistent, powerful, and prophetic voice that sustains our work.

There is no question that the divisions in the American electorate — so evident in the presidential campaign — make our lobbying tougher than ever, and we are under no illusions about the challenges ahead. The threats are real. But our relationships on Capitol Hill with both Republicans and Democrats, and the relationships that the FCNL network have established, will take on new significance. Those voices will become even more critical in the months ahead. We encourage all Friends to join us in advocacy. Find out how: fcnl.org/advocacy.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to be truth-tellers in the halls of power. We will uphold and move forward the priorities that our governing General Committee set for us when they met in November. We will recognize and affirm the many ways that people may be called to act for change — while remaining focused on our mission to work within our democratic system to influence national legislation.
The World We Seek: Now Is the Time

Capital Campaign

As FCNL nears 75 years of faithful witness, we are building a sustainable future through a five-year, $15 million capital campaign that is strengthening the foundation of FCNL’s lobbying and educational programs. The success of the campaign, however, rests in far more than meeting a specific financial goal. The most important impact of the campaign is the degree to which it is empowering FCNL to fulfill its mission and engage as many people as possible in our work. By the time the campaign ends on June 30, 2017, FCNL will have hosted 35 campaign events in 23 states and the District of Columbia. We have been fortunate to have a broad base of support in this campaign from our national community of supporters — individuals, meetings, and churches — who are helping to ensure the future of Quaker advocacy.

Love Thy Neighbor (No Exceptions)

As our country struggles with deep divisions, it becomes even more urgent to highlight the value we place in one another. We invite Friends to help shift the narrative and spread a message of love by joining the #Love Thy Neighbor campaign: fcnl.org/lovethyneighbor.

We are grateful to the 25 Yearly Meetings that have appointed members to serve on FCNL’s General Committee. Thank you for sharing the nurturing gifts of these wise and committed Friends. With their guidance, we seek to remain open to where God’s spirit leads us. Please hold us in the Light this year as we continue to work for the world we seek.

Eric Ginsburg
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Clerk, FCNL General Committee
March 2017

FCNL’s Executive Committee and Education Fund Board

Eric Ginsburg, Clerk, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Bridget Moix, Assistant Clerk, Baltimore Yearly Meeting
David A. Bantz, Recording Clerk, Alaska Friends Conference
Karen Treber, FCNL Treasurer, Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Becky Steele, Education Fund Treasurer, New England Yearly Meeting
Diane Randall, Executive Secretary, New England Yearly Meeting
Mary Lou Hatcher, At-large member FCNL, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Mark Kharas, At-large member Education Fund, New England Yearly Meeting
Constance Brooks, Finance Committee Clerk, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Scott Duncan, Development Committee Clerk, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Megan Fair, Field Committee Clerk, Wilmington Yearly Meeting
Pam Ferguson, Annual Meeting Planning Committee Clerk, Winchester Friends Church (IN)
Beth Henricks, Capital Campaign Committee Clerk, Western Yearly Meeting
A.T. Miller, Personnel Committee Clerk, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Karen Putney, Nominating Committee Clerk, Southeastern Yearly Meeting
Kelly Schoolmeester, Policy Committee Clerk, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting
Our Impact - March 2017

Many U.S. programs and policies that advance peace and justice are under threat today. FCNL leads work to protect the gains of the past decades, mitigate the most damaging proposals under consideration, and promote civil dialogue across political differences.

Strengthening and Growing our Advocacy Community
Thousands of new advocates are turning to FCNL for action and skills. We’re using our decades of experience in relationship-focused advocacy to train and empower people looking to influence and change U.S. policies. This work is bringing concerns for peace and justice to an increasing number of congressional offices. Our Advocacy Teams are thriving in more than 40 communities across the country, and we continue to launch new groups to build durable connections with members of Congress and persuade them to support key legislation. Last year, the number of FCNL community members lobbying in person grew by 50 percent. In combination with our Washington, DC lobby days and online resources and trainings to help people be effective advocates, we expect to exceed this growth in 2017.

Immigration: Welcoming the Stranger
As the Trump administration emphasizes enforcement and militarized borders, FCNL is building bipartisan support in Congress for compassionate immigration policies. FCNL staff chair the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, leading lobbying among the faith community to ensure offices hear these voices strongly. We are working closely with Republican and Democratic senators, including Senators Lindsay Graham (SC) and Richard Durbin (IL), to advance the bipartisan BRIDGE Act to protect young immigrants. The 18 young adults in our Advocacy Corps are organizing in their respective communities and building the groundwork necessary to effect real and lasting policy change. In addition to bringing more than 180 people in to lobby in their local congressional offices, members of the Advocacy Corps are working to shape the media discourse, cultivating a local network of constituent advocates, and developing issue expertise to lend additional credibility to their advocacy moving forward.

Peacebuilding: Promoting U.S. Leadership for Peace
The Trump administration’s aggressive foreign policy stances and efforts to increase military spending threaten decades-long efforts on forward-looking prevention of deadly violence. FCNL is working to counteract this trend, and we’re partnering with lawmakers like Senator Ben Cardin (MD) to advance peacebuilding initiatives. Administration and congressional decision-makers are reading the report of the bipartisan Experts Committee on Preventing Mass Violence, which we convened last year. The report recommends concrete steps to continue and expand U.S. leadership on preventing mass atrocities. Meanwhile, Republican and Democratic senators are working with us to ask hard questions of the administration and introduce legislation to support U.S. genocide and atrocities prevention efforts.
Religious Freedom: Opposing a Muslim Ban
While President Trump’s January executive order effectively banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries has brought public attention to religious freedom issues, FCNL has been working steadily for nearly two years to raise concerns in Congress about this type of discrimination. We worked closely with Representative Don Beyer (VA) in 2016 and this year to introduce legislation prohibiting the U.S. from denying admission based on religious beliefs. Our professional lobbyists and a coalition of more than 100 organizations are building strong relationships and cultivating congressional leaders in efforts to make religious discrimination untenable as a policy of the U.S. government.

Economic Justice: Meeting Human Needs
Congressional decisions in 2017 could lay the groundwork to transform the government’s role in ensuring access to basic necessities for everyone in the U.S. Our lobbying is focused on stopping the policy changes that are steps along this path. As an organization and through our leadership in faith coalitions, we are part of a national mobilization to emphasize the detrimental effects of repealing the Affordable Care Act without a comparable replacement. At the moment that health care and funding for programs such as Medicaid and SNAP (food stamps) will be before Congress, our Spring Lobby Weekend is bringing more than 400 college students in March 2017 to Washington to lobby on these issues.

Pentagon Spending: Opposing Massive Increases
The Pentagon already consumes nearly $600 billion in government spending, a sum that is equal to what the next seven countries combined spend on their military forces. Now, President Trump is asking Congress for one of the largest increases in Pentagon spending in our country’s history. In Washington, FCNL lobbyists are leaders in focusing attention on Pentagon spending in congressional offices, working directly with staff and through key coalitions. Our Advocacy Teams across the country are meeting with members of Congress to raise the moral choices that we are making as a nation when we increase Pentagon spending at the expense of programs that keep people from falling into poverty and promote peace and diplomacy around the world.

Climate Change: Creating Space for Common Ground
Our moral call for action on climate change has opened a political space in Washington for lawmakers to acknowledge the danger of inaction and discuss positive solutions. In the 114th session of Congress, 17 Republicans cosponsored a resolution that FCNL developed with former Representative Chris Gibson (NY) calling on Congress to act on climate change. We are building support for similar legislation in 2017. Senators and representatives are increasingly interested in joining the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, which brings members together across party lines to discuss ways to move forward on this issue.
Attachment F: Friends Committee on Legislation of California Report

Report from Friends Committee on Legislation of California
June 29, 2017
Dear Friends,
The national political climate has lent a new sense of urgency to California’s legislative session, and thanks to your financial support and activism, FCLCA is able to respond, bringing your “voice of conscience” to the Capitol. All bills that are moving forward are now in the second house and it is one of the busiest times of the year.

FCLCA has taken action on 65 bills this year – writing letters in support or opposition, testifying in committee hearings, making lobby visits and organizing grassroots efforts with emails, phone calls and in-district visits. You can see a list of these bills by going to www.fclca.org, and clicking on “Action Center.”

They include:
• **31 bills on criminal justice reform.** Our co-sponsored bill, Senate Bill 180, to repeal sentencing enhancements for prior drug convictions, passed the Senate on May 15 with a vote of 22-13! The bill’s author, Sen. Holly Mitchell, has spoken of the urgent need to “begin undoing the damage of the failed War on Drugs.” SB 180 has also passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee and now moves to the Assembly Floor, where it faces a tough vote.

  FCLCA activists sent in over 1,230 messages to their legislators via petitions and the FCLCA Action Alert system. FCLCA volunteers also attended in-person, in-district meetings with the legislators' staff – which had a huge impact on those legislators!

• **13 bills on economic justice,** including important bills on expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and on expanding parental leave. In support of EITC expansion -- a key way to address California’s high poverty rate -- your FCLCA lobbyist testified in committee and FCLCA Action Network members generated 516 messages to legislators in 36 hours.

• **9 bills on one of this session’s most important issues: protecting immigrants and religious minorities.** With your support, FCLCA has been very active in lobbying for Senate Bill 54, to make California a “sanctuary state.” The great news is that SB 54 has already passed the Senate and the Assembly Public Safety Committee. It still faces a difficult hurdle in passing the Assembly. Along with interfaith partners like the California Catholic Conference, California Church Impact and the National Council of Jewish Women, and through a wide coalition of community organizations, FCLCA has organized petitions, visits and lobbying here at the Capitol in support of this important bill. FCLCA activists are visiting and calling their legislators in their districts in an attempt to move Assembly members from “on the fence” to a YES vote. FCLCA was a key organizer of a meeting between Governor Brown’s staff and 25 representatives of statewide religious denominations and faith-based advocacy groups.

• **11 environmental justice bills,** including SB 623, to create a fund for safe and affordable drinking water for all Californians (did you know that over one million residents of our state face issues with unsafe drinking water?) and AB 885, which mandates that schools take measures to ensure lead-free water is available for children to drink.

Your contributions as volunteers, activists and donors are making this year one of our most active ever in terms of grassroots involvement. FCLCA supporters have organized or attended more than a dozen in-district visits with legislators – thank you!
Because knowledge is power, the FCL Education Fund, too, is helping build the movement for a more just and compassionate California by providing detailed information on the legislative process and how to effectively weigh in through our guidebook, *Bring Your Voice: FCLCA’s Guide to Grassroots Lobbying and the California Legislature*. We've been sharing it with community organizations working on the bills we support and we're hearing back from them that they find it "extremely helpful." It’s available free online: [http://www.fclca.org/images/stories/pdfs/bringyourvoicefinal.pdf](http://www.fclca.org/images/stories/pdfs/bringyourvoicefinal.pdf)

**Opportunities for You to Lobby**

**Green California Advocacy Day; Wednesday, August 30 in Sacramento, Location TBA.** Focus: Key environmental issues. Contact us for information.

**In-district visits:** If you are interested in doing an in-district visit, contact Kevan Insko, our Director of Program and Organizational Development, at kevan@fclca.org with your address and she’ll let you know if your legislator is uncommitted on one of our key bills, particularly Senate Bill 180 and Senate Bill 54.

**Actions you can take as individuals:**

Go to [http://cqrcengage.com/fclca/home](http://cqrcengage.com/fclca/home)

- Take action on any Action Alerts listed there
- Sign up to receive future Action Alerts

Join FCLCA as a contributing member at [www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org). Your contributions support an FCLCA lobbyist at the Capitol and a program of grassroots lobbying to bring a voice of conscience when laws are made. Your support makes all the difference. Checks can be made out to FCLCA and directed to:

Friends Committee on Legislation of California
1225 8th Street, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 443-3734 [www.fclca.org](http://www.fclca.org)

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Stephen Myers  
FCLCA Clerk  
FCLCA Representative to PYM
Attachment G: Peace and Social Order Committee Report

Report of Peace and Social Order Committee
to Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session 2017

By Anthony Manousos, Co-clerk of the PYM Peace and Social Order Committee (PSO), with help from Stephen McNeil, Co-clerk

Since the election, there’s been an upsurge of activism among Friends as well as among other segments of the American population. We’ve been aroused to action by the threats posed by the current administration to the environment, immigrants, Muslims, people of color, the poor and life itself, with the EPA budget being slashed and the drumbeats of war becoming increasingly loud and insistent. The words of William Penn seem especially relevant: “True godliness does not turn [us] out of the world, but enables [us] to live better in it and excites [our] endeavors to mend it.” Our divided and broken country desperately needs mending. Our Quaker message and approach are urgently needed.

Each month there is a PSO Committee conference call open to anyone interested in peace and justice. To take part in these calls, contact me at interfaithquaker@aol.com. Please let me know if your Meeting has approved minutes of concern and/or how its members are engaged in peace and social activism. We need to hear from and support each other.

A major task of PSO has been to present minutes of concern to annual session, but there is currently no unity on how to do so. In 2015 PSO worked on this issue for over a year with the YM clerk and presented detailed procedures based on best practices for seasoning and presenting minutes of concern, which were posted to the PYM website: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ProcedureForPresentingMinutesOfConcern.pdf.

M & O feels that current practices for presenting minutes of concern have not resulted in significant action or reflected changed lives, and has recommending ways to insure more accountability. PSO, Friends in Unity with Nature (FUN), and the Latin America Concerns Committee (LACC) are reviewing M & O’s proposal so we can come up with a set of procedures we can all be in unity with.

For the second year in a row, PSO has no new minutes of concern to present. Minutes of concerns approved by our YM in the past that seem most alive today relate to immigration and the environment. Meetings and individuals have taken many actions around these concerns, which will be reported by LACC and FUN.

As clerk of PSO for SCQM as well as PYM, I am pleased to report that SCQM and Orange Grove Meeting co-sponsored an all-day workshop on immigration rights with Pedro Rios, director of the AFSC’s U.S./Mexico Border Program. A native San Diegan, Pedro has worked on immigrant rights and border issues for over 20 years. On May 20, around 25 Friends from San Diego, Orange County, Santa Monica, Orange Grove and other MMs took part in this workshop, along with half a dozen non-Quakers. In this excellent interactive workshop we learned ways to become effective immigrant rights advocates and allies.

A new concern that has surfaced among Friends has been income inequality. An ardent advocate for social and economic justice, Philadelphia Quaker George Lakey has lifted up this concern and been on a book tour of northern and southern California, promoting Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got it Right, and How We Can, Too. Santa Monica Meeting approved a minute on income inequality and is sponsoring an all-day workshop with George Lakey in June. This workshop will focus on how to address income inequality, a core challenge to American democracy in this era of plutocracy. We’ll learn how Quakers are addressing this issue and what we can do to create a social democracy in America similar to those in Scandinavia.

Involvement in faith-based based lobbying has escalated since the election. Friends Committee on National Legislation and FCL-CA have been increasingly active. FCNL Advocacy Teams have been formed in the
Santa Monica area, Pasadena, and Orange County as well as in Northern California. Thanks in part to the efforts of Joelly Mejia, a young Advocacy Corps staff person, non-Quakers as well as Quakers are being trained on how to be effective advocates and lobbyists. Delegations have gone to the offices of Senators Feinstein and Harris as well as Congress members Judy Chu, Adam Schiff, and others. You can read about these visits on my blog at laquaker.org. Joelly Mejia is also coming to Yearly Meeting annual session to lead an interest group focusing on faith-based lobbying.

Other interest groups sponsored by PSO:

How Can Friends Navigate and Counter Islamophobic Rhetoric? Due to the increase in Islamophobic rhetoric and proposed policies that equate Islam as a world religion with terrorism, we will explore the production of phobias in our country in order to counter these imperial imaginary constructs. Productions of evil rely on cultivating fear in civil society, therefore, learning how to delink these social imaginaries is key to countering the fears and injustices of our time. Led by Shannon Frediani.

Waging Peace in the Trump Era. What are some of the Spirit-led and most effective ways to respond to Trump’s militarism and jingoism? We will look at George Lakey’s "Ten Steps for Stopping Trump." Led by Anthony Manousos and David Hartsough, who will also share his thoughts and experiences traveling to Russia in the past year, his seventh trip there since 1961. David is the author of Waging Peace: Global Adventures of a Lifelong Activist.

Quakers needed: Our country needs Friends in public office. National politics gets the Headlines, but local government decisions affect us the most. There are about 400 locally elected officials for every state and federal elected official: school boards and water boards; city councils and mayors; county supervisors; sheriffs and district attorneys; fire districts, hospital districts, and numerous special districts. This interest group will encourage Quakers to do it themselves and, equally important, to identify, encourage, and support well qualified candidates who share our Quaker values. Led by Janet Gastil. [FCNL and FCL-CA may participate in this interest group.]

Friends Helping Communities. David Brietzmann, San Francisco Meeting, and Linnea Hanson, Chico Meeting, plan to continue their work on supporting social work that Friends Meetings and Worship Groups are undertaking in Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM). Our goal is to link those that are working on similar kinds of social work to be able to learn from each other. We also would like the social work that Friends Meetings are doing to be known by others in Pacific Yearly Meeting so that their experiences can be shared with other meetings that may want to start a similar work.

George Fox and Prophetic Witness. In a special Sunday night session of Transformative Friends we’ll look at key passages in Fox’s journal dealing with “civil disobedience,” “speaking truth to power,” and other aspects of prophetic witness. Led by Anthony Manousos, author/editor of Transformative Quakers 2015: True Stories of Quakers Who Made a Difference in the World; Howard and Anna Brinton: Reinventors of Quakerism in the 20th Century (2013); Quakers and the Interfaith Movement (2013), EarthLight: Spiritual Wisdom for an Ecological Age, Compassionate Listening and Other Writings by Gene Hoffman (2003), A Western Quaker Reader (2000) as well as other books, pamphlets and articles.

As co-clerk of PSO, I am eager to find out what your Meeting is doing to promote justice and peace and would be happy to pay a visit, so please invite me. This is a time when Friends who care about justice and peace need to work together. Most of all, we need to be faithful to the Spirit that stirs in our hearts, calling us to do utmost to mend this broken world.

Statements about Leadings from State of the Meeting Reports in So Cal:
**Inland Valley:** Historically, our Meeting has had a leading in supporting people from Central America who have been driven from their homes by poverty or violence. More recently, we have become concerned about the plight of refugees from other parts of the world. We have restarted our Peace and Social Order Committee which is meeting on a regular basis. There are many ideas and questions to explore.

Many in our community have felt led to work with other faith groups. Our nation’s troubled times have motivated these efforts. Meeting with others of different faiths has made it easier to see that of God in others. We are reminded that we have much more in common with other faiths than differences.

**La Jolla Meeting:** The actions of individual Friends bring Quaker values into the work of many other groups. Some Friends pursue their leadings with the help of a newly organized Leadings committee, a successor to our Peace and Social Order Committee. Several independent concerns were united this year into corporate action through an Asylees, Immigrants, Refugees (AIR) Committee, assisting Meeting families sheltering people in their homes.

**Orange County** – Our meeting tends to quietly support individual members and attenders who have strong leadings; in a sense, the interconnectedness of our community is our strongest leading. We share a deep appreciation for the Meeting’s absolute commitment to the equality of all people and yearn for a Quakerly corporate response to the frightening changes we see taking place.

We want to make ourselves known to those who might yearn for what we offer, and also we wonder how to do outreach and be consistent with our commitment not to proselytize.

**Santa Monica** – We are relatively effective in a variety of individual leadings, but struggle with identifying and acting upon our corporate leadings. Many Friends noted that our work about Economic Inequality, including the related blog and the approved Minute, represent a real possibility and opportunity for a corporate leading. We continue to search for who we are as Quakers in the world around us. What is our core? What are we doing together? A Friend spoke of “the past five years as ones of self-discovery, coming to know our identity as a community and faith organization. This will support us as we are drawn into the world and begin to experience an expanding sense of community.”

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**Minute on Income Inequality from Santa Monica Friends Meeting**

**16-12-04:** Santa Monica Meeting approves the following Minute on Income Inequality, Economic Inequality and Social Justice, noting our desire to share it widely, and acknowledging the discernment involved in preparing it:

Friends (Quakers) believe that there is a divine spark in everyone, and on that basis we believe in the equality of all people. That belief leads us to create community among ourselves, foster community in the broader society and promote equal justice and equal opportunity.

We find that the laws, tax structure, and regulations of our society now disproportionately favor and reward the few, while disproportionately impoverishing the many. Wealthy special interests have used their resources and access to influence politics, the courts and regulatory agencies to redistribute wealth to enrich themselves at the expense of the middle class and the poor, who now experience declining wealth, declining earning power and declining levels of education. Our society now experiences rising poverty, homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction and environmental degradation. These factors in combination result in the weakening of our democratic institutions and our social fabric. We also find that this inequity is reversible, with correction of the tax codes, regulations, laws, and political reform.

We call on Friends to teach themselves and others about the truth of economic inequality. We call on Friends, people of other faiths and people of good will to recognize the need to change our tax code, our regulations, and our electoral processes to restore our social safety net and our educational systems to create a more just, healthier and more sustainable society based on principles of equality and respect for our fellow human beings. We call on Friends, people of other faiths and people of good will to work to reduce income inequality in our society by supporting actions that redistribute the fruits of our economy more broadly and equitably in order to build a stronger, more just, more rewarding and more stable society.
Economic inequality is at the root of many of social ills we now see. We seek to reduce income and wealth disparity, while recognizing that success in doing so will not cure all social ills. Our goal is to reduce economic stress in our society to the point that people of modest means may lead happy, productive lives and realize their God-given potential. We seek to restore the social fabric and respect for the inherent dignity of all.

Our goal reflects our Quaker testimonies on simplicity, equality, peace, community and integrity.
LATIN AMERICAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE
REPORT TO PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSION 2017

[Note: in the interests of space, photos have been deleted from this version of the report. For the full report with photos, see these two links:

In 1997, PYM Annual Session established a standing Latin America Concerns Committee to gather and disseminate information to Pacific and other Yearly Meetings regarding Friends groups and service projects in Latin America with special attention to Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City, El Salvador Project and Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program. The intention is to support rather than replace spirit-led projects already supported by Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and individual Friends.

LACC has met three times since last annual session. This Annual Session we are assisting Dr. Marco Antonio López Galicia, Executive Director of Casa de los Amigos, in attending. He will be presenting an Interest Group to inform PYM about the many programs at the Casa and report on last years 60th Anniversary celebration. During an Affinity Group time, he will offer an Interest Group titled “Light: A discussion of thanatology, Quakerism/Faith and Practice, and Yoga”. His specialty is the study of final affairs/death and yoga. His talk will include his experience of Light in Quakerism.

In response to Child Refugee immigration issues in 2014, LACC formed a subcommittee. LACC has discerned to lay down the separate subcommittee and fold that work into the committee as a whole.

SUBMITTED BY Donna Smith, Clerk

The following are reports of the work of Casa, El Salvador Project and Guatemala Friends Scholarship:

Casa de los Amigos Activities Report, fiscal year 2016
It has been almost a year since we started a new phase in Casa de los Amigos, with the arrival of the new director, Marco Antonio López, “Toño” for friends, who was chosen for his background to direct the Casa with the approval of the Asamblea.

We now have a three year plan in place that has given us direction and a horizon towards which we are moving. It has given us goals to direct our efforts to continue service, hospitality, peacebuilding, community, the protection of the environment, and living a spirituality inspired by Quakerism. With these efforts we can provide a place of welcome and hope to the guests who visit us and for the migrants and refugees that we support. The year’s work has included active listening sessions with everyone involved in the Casa, transparency about resources and information, as well as reference to Quaker principles of Integrity, Community, Unity with Nature, Equality, Simplicity, and Peace. Through it all we have been working with the guidelines of the Asamblea of the Casa, which has the authority to guide the direction of the Casa.

Thank you very much to our Quaker and other friends who supported us this year. The Casa is possible thanks to their support. It is the work of good intentions and of Quaker inspiration, as we defend human rights and build a world of understanding and peace. Below is a summary of this year’s accomplishments.

1. **Hospitality Program.**

   This year we had a change in Hospitality Coordination. Lis Reséndiz is now the Hospitality Coordinator, after years of involvement with the Casa, and has been doing strong, good work, promoting hospitality and an atmosphere of being at home. We are reviewing our hospitality model and will have changes for 2017 that will permit us to bring better service to our guests. We received diverse groups: from Haverford, a Quaker university doing a migration field study, to human rights groups such as “la Caravana de Madres” that are looking for their disappeared migrant children. Among other relevant collaborations, some of the activities were:
   - Housing 9 groups doing learning tours; about 60 students came to live with us during their tour.
   - Support to 24 organizations for their meetings in the Casa facilities.
   - Strengthening of our hosting process.
   - Our breakfast, which is open to the public for 35 pesos, was able to support more than 60 migrants and refugees that have had breakfast for free every day.
   - We hosted 1897 guests and had 2620 visits from persons who participated to the House activities.
   - Thanks to the San Diego Friends Meeting we could repair our historic building, by investing about $ 500,000 Mexican pesos.
   - We celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Casa during 5 days in October, 2016. Approximately 300 persons visited us for this occasion.

2. **Volunteer Program.**

   This program is one of the most important for the Casa, a chance to receive those who want to have an experience of service. In 2016 our model expanded to a formative experience based on the testimonies of Quakerism, with the idea that a transformative experience can make them agents of change in their communities and places of work. During learning tours with Redlands and Haverford Universities, students from the United States could learn about the realities of migration, refugees and economic justice of the country. We continue with the formative experiences of the volunteer team. This year we had a total of 24 volunteers; 11 full time (foreigners and Mexicans), 4 external volunteers, 3 doing their social service requirement, 1 for internship and 4 during the summer. Of our achievements we’d like to highlight:
• Participation in the Casa de los Amigos spring picnic, with participation of about 70 persons.
• Creation of the Volunteer’s Care model based on the Quakers values.
• 5 community-building activities with volunteers (birthdays, meals and a team integration activity). 17 persons of the staff participated in the activities.
• 4 work projects generated by volunteers: a project to strengthen Tochan, a migrant shelter with which we are associated; a project to investigate installing a green roof for the Casa; a project concerning spirituality in the Casa; a project to improve our reception space and techniques; and an environmental program.

3. Human Mobility Program.

This year, the program experienced great changes in concept and operation. Conceived at first as the “Peace Programs”, concentrating on migration, economic justice and the environment, now it relates to the distinct types of the worldwide flow of people: the migration phenomenon, the asylum applicants and refugees, as well as the people requiring humanitarian support. It has been re-named “Human Mobility” in order to recognize the global analysis of what International Law designates as the “migration flows and mixed movements”.

In 2016, thanks to the support and the donations of our Quaker friends around the world, from our sympathizers and donors, Casa de los Amigos turned itself into the best place to receive people seeking for asylum and refugees. We built a new model called “healing-caring hosting”. We believe that in 2017 we will be able to achieve even better results that will benefit migrant people and refugees.

During this year we consolidated our association with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Mennonite Central Committee, Qüaker Hilfe and the Internacional Organization for Migration of the United Nations. Results included:
• Support for the Monseñor Romero Committee, which is the direct administrator of the “Tochán” shelter.
• Support for three “local integration” activities, such as intercultural walksat Casa Refugiados, benefitting 40 caring-hosting guests.
• Participation in an International meeting in Guatemala with the Mennonite Central Committee, in order to generate a program of action for 2016.
• Caring-hosting of 60 migrants, refugees and asylum solicitants, from nationalities such as: Haiti, Cameroon, Togo, Venezuela, Iraq, Iran, Jamaica, Congo, Nigeria, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan and Russia, including women, families, children, transsexual persons, extra- continentals and people without Spanish language skills.
• Participation in 4 networks of impact; a. network of the Mennonite Central Committee Members; b. network of migrant and refugee shelters of Mexico City; c. Pacific Yearly Meeting and the Latin-American Affairs Committee, to generate a “good practices” exchange with our Quaker friends from the United States (where at annual sessions we made a presentation) and d. Impact Network about Migration in Mexico City, in conjunction with iipsoculta and the American Friends Service Committee.
• Dispensing 50 packets of basic food supplies for economic migrants who arrive at our door.
• Meetings with associates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

This year, Economic Justice turned into its own program. We had challenges in the program implementation since it was delegated to coordinators and volunteers that alternated for its implementation. Nevertheless, during the year we pursued the following activities, with these results:

- Strengthening of the “point of sale” in the Casa, with participation of cooperatives. We collaborate with: Pankizaske, Flor de Mazahua, Las Patronas, and Cimarronez. During the year approximately 500 products were promoted with the guests of the Casa.
- Five presentations of “cinemoneda” about themes related to economic justice, environment consciousness and migration. About 80 persons attended these presentations during the year.
- Involvement with the “Red Tlaloc” and “Feria Multitruke Mixihuca”, which practice an alternative economy model (solidarity economic exchange) between consumers and producers, using an alternative money called mixihuca.
- Integrating a new associate for the solidarity point of sales, IIPSOCULTA, with products coming from villages of Puebla and Guerrero.
- Hosting the multitruke Mixihuca fair in Casa de los Amigos during the 60th Anniversary of the Casa, engaging approximately 100 persons among associates and Casa visitors.
- Participation in the activities of the “Eco-Systemic Dialogs” in the Modern Art Museum, in December 2016. We shared about the work of the Casa in front of 70 persons approximately. Knowledge about auto-sustainability models was exchanged with other organizations.

5. Environment.

This year we created the Environment Program, where we are proposing actions that are practical as well as pedagogical, recognizing the crisis of environmental pollution and our ecological footprint. In 2017 our priority will be to base our work on the United Nations Guide for Sustainable Development, 2030. The year included these activities:

- Turning kitchen waste into compost, care of the plants and green spaces, and maintenance of the water captation system and of the solar hot water heater.
- Petition to a friendly enterprise in order to obtain solar energy cells in 2017.
- Green Roof Project, which will be presented to Quaker meetings in the United States in 2017.


Quaker social action is the fruit of the faith and practice of the Friends. This relationship reveals the meaning of the actions of Casa de los Amigos, to give a context that transcends the routine character of the actions undertaken by the members of the community. This is one of the fundamental goals of this program, as well as promoting in the community social action and the universal values that sustain it. The program of Peace and Spirituality is one of the pillars of our work. These are this year’s results:

- Celebration of International Quaker Day, the 2nd of October. 18 persons participated during the diverse activities, including refugees’ hosts. The day was ended with a shared meal.
- Three meetings of conflict resolution listening space.
- Attendance of the Director of Casa de los Amigos at the Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in South California.
- Participation in the 60th anniversary of the Casa.
- During the days 19 and 20 of November we took part in the XLI General Reunion de los Amigos in México, an event of about 70 persons. This involved the coordination of hospitality to house
and care for the event participants. The Casa team was represented at the event, including helping to write the epistle.

We share the status of projects to be developed for Casa de los Amigos:

1. **Casa de los Amigos: El Libro.** The book project was not presented in the time agreed upon by exdirector Nicolas Wright. It does not seem clear whether this is a project of the Casa or a personal project. He was asked to submit a formal end date and to submit a financial statement of donations collected, to be presented at the 2017 Asamblea meeting.

2. **60th Anniversary:** the 60th anniversary of the Casa was celebrated during the days 19, 20, 21, 22 y 23 of October 2016. A lot of friends accompanied us, we calculate that we had the visit of approximately **300 persons** in total during the 5 days. The logo of the 60th anniversary was designed and we recommend using it in 2017, 2018 and 2019 in order to make visible lifetime of Casa de los Amigos. We also received as a donation by SCQM EUA a commemoration video of the 60th anniversary:

3. **San Miguel de Allende house:** The repairs of the San Miguel de Allende house, given by Marylu Mattson, were started. Approximately $40,000 Mexican pesos were invested in 2016 for repairs, with a similar investment in 2017. The Casa expenses for 2017 are calculated in $350,000 pesos, among legal work on the title, payment of services, benefits and property. The proposal of making this project sustainable rests with the Asamblea, which will decide its use.

4. **Proposed productive project for the point of sale at Casa de los Amigos number 134:** The project of an international meeting and promotion of peace and Quakerism will be presented in 2017 offering food, coffee, services, gallery, sale of books, sale of economic justice products and serve as a forum for the community.

5. **Educational project proposal "Quaker University of Mexico":** It is proposed to create the educational project of higher level studies so that with prior processing and authorization of the Registry of Official Educational Validity (RVOE), the Law Degree with a humanistic approach can be taught, based on Quaker values, without affecting the activities already established in the House.

6. **Change of Statutes of the House:** The changes and modifications to the Statutes of the House have been managed, in which the Quaker inspiration, the human rights defense component and the educational component were incorporated in the social object.

7. **Positioning the House as a historic building.** This quarter we began the work to position the House as historical place of the city. We will take advantage of the recognition of artistic place by INBA, and a series of tourist tours are being programmed to the House. As part of possible actions, a promotional video that appeared on national television, you can consult the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy1q0dFSs7I

2. Participation at 3 high level reunions from members of ACNUR where Casa de los Amigos distinguished itself by presenting impact results in the way that the asylum seeker are managed in the Casa.
a. **Website and Social Network.**

En 2016 we re-started our Facebook page with 4338 followers. We updated the Spanish webpage of the Casa. The update of the English page is pending. Likewise the communication medium of “Lo que pasa en la Casa” (“What happens in the Casa”) was re-started, resolving problems with the host server (wa subscription of 60USD per month). At the end of December 2016 we reached 5000 followers of the Casa on Facebook, the social network where we follow up the daily activities of the Casa.

b. **Lo Que Pasa en la Casa (What happens in the Casa).**

The document “Lo que pasa en la Casa” was published, being sent to the Constant Contact contacts (attached). During 2016 we sent 2 documents about what happens in the Casa received by 4900 contacts. We now have about 4900 contacts backed up. We also sent during December the information about the activities of this term to the friends and donors of the Casa. (annexes)

All of the information of this report has been provided by the staff of Casa de los Amigos in their respective working themes and if necessary it was completed by the Executive Director. This report corresponds to the period from 1st of January 2016 to 31st of December 2016.

Mexico City, 20th of February 2017.

Dr. Marco Antonio López Galicia.
Executive Director

**EL SALVADOR PROJECT**

**Director’s Report: Robert Broz**

I approach this report joyfully, eager to share news of several wonderful developments – a new component of our University student loan program, a service learning trip to El Salvador July 23-August 2, the addition of several promising students to our loan recipient group thanks to your generosity in 2016, impressive progress by the students we assist, and even a surprise donation from a young man we supported years ago! As always, I’ll give you my perspective “from the ground” on events in El Salvador. I hope you’ll enjoy reading my report, just as I enjoy my part in an on-going conversation with you, my kindred spirits.

**Expanded programs, thanks to your generosity!**

I confess that I often dread the months of January and February, when my days fill with project work that includes meeting with loan applicants and their families (sometimes visiting their homes) to be well informed as I face difficult selection decisions. I also meet with and approve students from four projects who
apply to stay in our coed student house, financed in cooperation with several groups. Managing the student house usually requires renovation of furnishings, painting, other minor house repairs, and computer maintenance, all of which are my responsibilities. After selecting the limited number of applicants we can support, we hold a meeting to orient both new and continuing students about project policies. Some of this work is emotional and stressful, especially in years when budget restrictions require us to reduce spending. This year was different! Two things happened that launched the year with joy for me and others, making me feel truly blessed about what I do.

In mid-January, the El Salvador Projects Treasurer reported that for the first time in many years donations had exceeded our expectations. Normally I fear that the budget I proposed in November will have to be reduced at our January meeting, but for the first time in over six years your generosity enabled us to cover that budget without tapping the small reserve we have had to nibble down in the recent past. Without prompting, two Committee members suggested that we increase the 2017 budget to support new students we would otherwise have had to turn away. At my request, a modest fund was approved to support the science lab in the school in El Baríó, which has not been fully equipped or well used since its construction several years ago. For some time, I have dreamed about strengthening high school academics in El Baríó by improving the conditions of the school. Now, I believe, we can take steps to do just that!

Why did donations increase in 2016? Some of you may have given more than usual to honor the memory of my mother, Carmen Broz, who died in 2015. Some may have decided to give now, knowing the need, rather than to leave funds in a bequest for a future donation. Some may have felt a yearning for positive action after reacting with shock and disbelief to the 2016 elections. Whatever the explanations, by enabling us to support more students you’ve filled the year ahead with promise and made my work more rewarding and less stressful. Thank you!

A welcome voice from the past, and an unexpected gift
There was yet more news ahead, to lift my heart and soul. Soon after our January committee meeting I received a Facebook message that seemed much like the suspicious messages that are all too common, bringing risk of identity theft and other scams. It was from a man whose name I did not recognize at first, claiming to be a Salvadoran living in Louisiana. He asked for my phone number, saying “Mister Broz, I need to talk to you.” Politely, I asked how he knew me, and how I might be able to help

him. He replied that he was Chamba, a student we had allowed to stay in the student house 2007-2009, although he was not supported by any of the sponsoring groups. He was working full-time and studying on his own at night to become an electrician, he was from a village in the Suchitoto area, and he knew students in the house. I recalled that after finishing his two-year technical degree, the strain of a full study schedule and reduced employment hours prevented him from continuing on his dream of becoming an electrical engineer at the National University, so he left for the U.S. hoping for financial betterment. To my surprise, he had contacted me to offer help, not to ask for it! Chamba told me he was grateful for the time we allowed him to live in the student house, that he follows the projects through our Facebook page, he is doing well as an electrician in Louisiana, and solo quiero apoyar un poco (“I just want to help with a small donation”). The next day I received $1000 through a Western Union electronic transfer! That very week we invested the money in eight new mattresses and some much-needed computer upgrades at our student house. I thought this would be the most appropriate use of his donation, as our house now has 22 students from 4 different programs plus one or two like Chamba who are not in any of the programs but need a good place to stay while studying in San Salvador.

Perhaps you can imagine how I am still glowing from this unexpected support from a Salvadoran immigrant who benefited in a small way from our work years ago. When we received Chamba’s donation, I was working on the final selection of our 2017 university students, repairs to the student house, and many other project-related responsibilities. Now, weeks later, I continue to feel the energy of seeing how our work can change people’s lives in such a direct way. It has helped me stay inspired.

Experience with community service for every student we support
I have openly shared the heartening news of our increased budget and Chamba’s unexpected gift with the communities here in El Salvador, our loan recipients, other students living in the student house, and groups involved in programs similar to our own. I have seen smiles from those I hope will be Chambas of the future, those who will continue our work by helping others when and where possible. This boost to my spirit has made it easier to implement some changes for the students we support, improvements I decided to pursue after my visit to the PROGRESA program in Guatemala last year (a Quaker-founded program that is much like our own, but older).

Our student meeting on February 5th began with a brief presentation by each of the 17 students. I announced our increased budget that enabled us to approve the seven new students, explained our selection process, and described how Chamba’s unexpected support led to my upbeat mood. In this first student meeting, we detail the requirements for each student and our obligation as a program to provide their financial support, with access to the student house and academic assistance if needed. This year I also asked them to reply as honestly as they could to a couple of questions: “Would you accept a required 40 hours of social work as part of the annual requirements of our program? And if so, do you have a project that you would like to do?” All 17 students agreed that it would be a good requirement, and several had ideas for projects. One student asked if the work could help to pay off the no-interest student loan we provide. A fourth-year medical student expressed a need to do the project between semesters, due to the time required for rounds at the hospital. Hoping for this kind of positive response, I had printed a summary with dates and deadlines, a consultation period, and basic information required to have a project approved and evaluated. I had set a financial value for the 40 hours, to be deducted from the student’s loan balance, and I had proposed a monetary prize for the best project (to be evaluated by the 17 students, and by me as Director).

The first deadline for consultation and project approval was March 31st. I was not sure what to expect, but in early March I started receiving proposals. Some were so complete that they needed no added information. Others needed some minor adjustments. By March 31st all 17 projects had been submitted and approved. They range from implementing recycling in a village to
teaching how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. (Yes, this is the 4\textsuperscript{th}-year medical student’s project!) Students plan to work with youth groups on environmental issues, tutor both within and outside of local schools, and help in a recent adult literacy program supported by our city hall and the Ministry of Education. After initially doubting my ability to start this facet of our program, and worrying that it might be opposed by our students—who are already required to do hundreds of hours of social and professional practical work supervised by their universities—I am now hopeful that these small projects can make positive changes within the communities of Suchitoto, as well as add to the personal and professional development of our loan recipients. Here is a photo of student Laura Monge, whose project tutoring 1\textsuperscript{st}-3\textsuperscript{rd} graders in the village of Copapayo started in April. I hope to share updates and more photos in our next newsletter, so that you can see firsthand how our students carry out their ideas in their communities.

\textbf{A community celebrates a student’s success}

Although my work is often stressful, it is always rewarding. Still, in some years I get an emotional overload, and the start of 2017 has been exceptional in many ways. Despite some personal problems—minor health issues, strained family finances with two of my children now studying at the university level and a declining economy—I continue to feel blessed, knowing that what I do with your support makes a real difference, and this in a world where so much seems to be failing. On April 1, feeling like a proud father, I attended the graduation of Mirna Yamil, one of my favorite students over the past years and almost like a daughter to me. Mirna asked me in March if I would accompany her at her graduation. Knowing this is a privilege for which each student receives only two tickets, I made sure she would not prefer to have her sister or an uncle join her mother at the event. I knew that Mirna’s father had passed away when she was just 12, but I expected her tickets to go to her mother and the older sister with whom she stayed while studying in San Salvador. Mirna assured me that she wanted me to attend her graduation. I was proud to meet her teachers and see fellow students watching her from afar as she received her diploma. It is not unusual for me to be invited to graduation parties, usually held in the villages the students come from, but over the years I think I have been to only three graduations at the universities. I think Mirna felt just as proud,
introducing me to her peers and coworkers as the person who made her studies possible and the one who was always there when she needed help.

After the graduation in San Salvador we went back to Mirna’s family home in one of the most remote villages of Suchitoto, one of the 82 that I had never visited. The community of El Chuagüiton (which I believe the name means place with lots of puddles) is situated between two small rivers without bridges that can isolate the village during the rainy season. After knowing Mirna and her mother for eight years, I finally met the rest of the family – uncles, aunts, sisters, nephews, nieces, and cousins. I think they make up most of the village of about 40 families! Before we departed Mirna thanked everyone involved with her studies, giving a prepared speech and not forgetting anyone, including her brother who left for the U.S. three years ago and sent her money to finish her studies, and yes, Roberto Broz and Palo Alto Friends Meeting, as well as personal thanks to her sponsor from Grass Valley, California. Mirna graduated with a degree in Business Administration, and since January has been working in a program that lasts one year with the Ministry of Hacienda (the local equivalent of the IRS). There is a chance that she may be hired after the year is over, but even if she is not the experience will make it much easier for her to find work in the future. Mirna did her thesis on work practices and workers’ rights here with the municipality of Suchitoto. I hope you enjoy the photo as much as I enjoyed being part of Mirna’s graduation!

This year’s graduating class at the National University of El Salvador (UES) was dedicated to commemoration of Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was assassinated on March 24, 1980, a date historians consider the start of the 12-year civil conflict in El Salvador. This quotation from one of his masses spoke clearly to my Quaker upbringing: “Let us form in the heart of the youth the sublime idea of loving, of preparing to serve, of giving to others.”
Service learning trip, July 23-August 2, 2017

I want you to know that we are planning our seventh service-learning trip to El Salvador (July 23- August 2). A big change this year is that our U.S. coordinator, Nate Secrest, is a past trip participant whose experience includes three of our trips and a total of five visits to El Salvador. As I write this report, we have 12 confirmed participants and will most likely close registration on June 1st (our normal deadline, and most likely after you receive this newsletter). I am happy to announce that a scholarship grant of $1,000 was awarded for the trip by the Youth Fund of Pacific Yearly Meeting. Even so, two participants may still need help financing the trip. If you are interested in sponsoring a trip participant, please contact Nate at secrestnm@guilford.edu for more information. This will be a multigenerational trip with participants as young as 10, an exception we made for a family of four who will all be on the trip. (Normally, the minimum age is 13.) As in the past, we will work in the community of El Barrio; this year teaching English, learning Spanish, and working on the installation of water in the high school science lab as well as some needed road repairs. We will also visit the agricultural coop of Santa Anita, where we hope to start the construction of a small building to house a local police outpost and move them away from the daycare center they currently use.

As I am sure you are aware, crimes due to gang activity increased to the worst levels in El Salvador’s history in recent years, and in 2015 this tiny country was named by the U.S. State Department the most violent country in the world where there is no active war. This announcement led to a decrease in tourism, as well as visits by delegations and solidarity groups like our own, causing economic problems throughout the region. I do want to let you know that we have always done everything in our means to reduce risks to participants in our delegations, by using private transportation and working with the communities where we have been engaged since the early 1990s. Fortunately, participants on our trips have never experienced any violence, with our only problems being some health issues common to most developing countries. Moreover, in the past year violence has declined in El Salvador. Expect follow up reports on the trip from Quaker youth at quarterly and yearly meetings in California, as well as reports and photos from Nate and me in our November newsletter and on our webpage.

(photo)
Photo of Moseñor Quote at Graduation in UES
El Salvador bans mining, protects community health

I am glad that recent events permit me to close my report on a positive note. Many of you have probably heard that little El Salvador made international news just a short while ago by becoming the first country in the world to pass a law banning all metals mining. This remarkable development came after almost a decade-long law suit by Pacific Rim Mining, which El Salvador won after revoking permits to the company to mine gold using modern methods and chemicals that would have contaminated the drinking water supplies of several communities in the department of Cabañas. Pacific Rim was asking for 250 million dollars for projected losses due to not being able to extract and sell the gold. The World Bank tribunal’s decision was based in part on evidence that Pacific Rim manipulated their work in El Salvador, even at one point registering in the U.S. to be able to use articles in CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement) to their benefit. From 2002-2009 Pacific Rim, working with allies suspected of receiving kickbacks to help get the project underway despite so much local resistance, had been accused of targeting leaders of unions and communal organizations protesting the mining in Cabañas. Although no concrete evidence could be found, it is assumed that they ordered the assassination of at least one activist. The World Bank ruled against Oceana Gold, the owner of Pacific Rim, and ordered them to pay 8 million dollars to the country to cover part of the legal fees spent defending their interests in this 7 1/2 year law suit. The slogan in El Salvador is “No to mining, yes to life.” Soon after the World Bank made the announcement last October, the National Assembly started working on the new law passed earlier this year to ban all mining in El Salvador, a country that has never had any substantial amounts of minerals suitable for mining.

Access to water as a basic human right

Another first may be right around the corner for El Salvador, and it’s all starting here in Suchitoto where my family and I live! Recently, with the President of Nestle saying that he does not feel that water rights should be controlled, and with reports out about the company’s 10 billion dollars in annual sales of bottled
water and that Nestle owns 70% of the bottled water companies in the world, the Suchitoto City Council is preparing to pass a local ordinance declaring access to water as a human right. On May 28, voters within the municipality will be asked to sign and check a simple ballot (yes or no) to start the process and ultimately pass the municipal ordinance. This is the first hopeful step toward eventual action by the national assembly to make a right to water national law. The process is difficult, requiring a new law to be presented and approved in one assembly’s term and then ratified in the following term. When I heard the idea from our Mayor, Pedrina Rivera, in early April, I told her that if Suchitoto and then El Salvador are successful in this process the news will be much bigger than the recent ban on mining and perhaps governments around the world will follow suit. If passed, the law will have many impacts. In El Salvador water is always scarce during the six-month dry season, causing many municipal water systems to ration water to the public while multinational corporations like Coca Cola and La Constancia SA (local beers, bottled water, and juices), both now owned by Anheuser-Busch, suck local aquifers dry to continue to produce their products and make large profits.

I end my report wishing to express how I try to let the Inner Light lead my life, in both good times and bad times, and thanking you all once again for your faithful support of the El Salvador Projects – for opening life opportunities for determined young people from poor villages in the Salvadoran countryside, and for smoothing their way and mine.

Peace to all, Robert Broz

GUATEMALA FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (PROGRESA)
Attachment I: Casa de los Amigos Report

Casa de los Amigos
A Quaker Center for Peace and International Understanding Presentation

“We wanted to show our faith in action and show it in a way that would both bring healing and at the same time take us out of self and selfish aims and carry us into the furnace where others were suffering.”

Rufus Jones (Service of love in War Time)

Petaluma, California, July 16, 2017.

Dear Friends, from Mexico I would like to greet you warmly bringing the community of Casa de los Amigos.

Thank you for opening this space and for your interest in the affairs of la Casa, this year has brought a lot of changes, the home team has expanded, we have received more visitors and guests and also more migrants and refugees.

The quote by Rufus Jones sums up our experience of the year, showing faith in action and showing it in a way that allows us to get closer to people who suffer, who have pain and needs for support, and thanks to Casa de los Amigos have a place of healing and recovery.

We have discovered the presence of light and spirituality in the daily coexistence with the community that meets in Casa de los Amigos. The people who are staying have been able to talk to migrants, refugees, students, human rights activists, researchers, children, women, the LGBT community, and many people who, regardless of their condition, gather there.

This meeting space allows us to build peace and international understanding, to reflect on our role in the world based on the inspiration and testimonies of Quakerism of simplicity, peace, equality, community, integrity and unity with nature, and has allowed us also share it to the Mexican community that visits la Casa, because now we believe in building more bridges of understanding between Mexico and the USA, and less walls that divide people.

The last year, la Casa received 24 human rights groups, 1897 guests, 2600 visitors who knew about Quakerism, celebrated our 60th anniversary and continued to give breakfast to those who need it for free.

This year, the number of migrants and refugees we attended increased, with 63 people from countries as diverse as Russia, Ukraine, Congo, Haiti, Cameroon, Togo, Venezuela, Honduras, Iraq and Iran among children, women and families. Our partners are: the United Nations, Mennonite Central Committee, and of course with our support of the Quaker community.

In 2017, we are working with 6 programs of peace; hospitality, human mobility, volunteerism, economic justice, environment, peace and spirituality.

In 2017 so far this year we have already served 94 people migrants and refugees, a sample of which the migration of people has increased strongly.

Thank you very much for the support provided by the Quaker Community of the Pacific Yearly Meeting. For example, LACC collaboration between programs, and thanks to the San Diego Monthly Meeting, la Casa building was able to be repaired.

We received in donation a property in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, where the Quaker Peace Center Lu Mattson is being created. We have projects for consolidation, such as the creation of the Quaker University of México.

We are campaigning for funds to support migrants and refugees. We need 1,000 friends to donate $2 a month to complete the care we provide.

Work has become more complex. The cost of living in Mexico has increased, insecurity and violence and problems such as selling drugs outside la Casa, but always the inspiration and discovering the presence of the light, of the spirit, has allowed us to continue to give part of that light.
We are now starting Quaker volunteers in residence, operated by la Casa, with the moral support of the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Mexico. We seek persons if they are interested in a service experience where they can share all their inner wealth. In this space we seek collaboration with the community of la Casa. Friends and Quakers are invited to a stay in Casa de los Amigos.

Thank you very much for your support, thanks to all the meetings that make up the Pacific Yearly Meeting, to all friends and friends who continue to support la Casa, thanks to your prayers, good wishes, financial support and light, in this place it is possible to continue to build peace, international understanding and that each person who enters la Casa, finds in his experience his inner light and the truth of his heart.

For more information contact: direccion@casadelosamigos.org; www.casadelosamigos.org

Gracias Amigos!

M. Antonio López
Director
Attachment J: Unity with Nature Committee Report

Unity with Nature Committee Report to Annual Session 2017

Outline

Announcements
1. Interesting in serving as PYM’s Representative [Rep] to Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW]?
2. Open application period for Unity with Nature Committee [UwN’s] Mini Grant Program
3. Share your and your Meeting’s Witness of earth care at the interest group “Friends Earthcare Consultation”.
4. UwN would welcome additional members – especially from Meetings not already represented on UwN. Please see the UwN’s “Charter and Goals” and “Job Description for Members” on the PYM website and or talk to a UwN member for more info. Please contact Nominating Committee, if you are willing to be appointed.

Report
1. General remarks about UwN this year
2. Communications issues
3. UwN’s responds to M&O’s two proposals: A. on restructuring and B. new protocols for minutes of concern
4. Budget struggles and the number of QEW Reps
5. What else is UwN doing at Annual Session?

Announcement Details
1. Are you interesting in serving as PYM’s Representative [Rep] to Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW], the North American network for Friends with earth care concerns? The job is to go to QEW’s twice yearly conferences and bring back earth care trends and leadings from the wider Quaker World to PYM, share PYM’s Earthcare Witness with the wider Quaker world, and represent PYM’s needs and interests to QEW. As of this writing, PYM fully funds basic travel expenses for one Rep, down from two in previous years. The Rep needs to go to all or most of PYM’s annual session [AS], write a report to AS, and sometimes do presentations at AS. The QEW Rep is an ex officio member of UwN. On the QEW end, QEW requests that Reps go to the twice yearly face meetings and join a committee and a working group.

Please contact Catya cadeneergaard@gmail.com ASAP for more information or to express willingness to be appointed.

2. There is now an open application period for UwN’s Mini Grants - meaning you can apply at any time. All grants go through a Monthly Meeting of PYM and are intended for Meeting projects or for traveling or educational ministry that further sustainability and earth care. There are up to $300 grants available for materials for projects such grey water catchment, solar panels, on-demand water heaters, and pollinator, edible, or native plantings on the meeting house grounds. There are up to $500 grants available for traveling earth care ministry. If interested, please download the “UwN Mini-Grant Info & Application 2017 June” from the PYM website. Please contact UwN committee, if you have any questions. Please let your Meetings know about these grant possibilities.

3. Share your meeting’s Witness of earth care and environmental concerns and your own progress on sustainability and on independence from and divestment from fossil fuel stock the by coming to the last morning’s interest group session, Wednesday 8 AM at Walker Creek entitled “Friends Earthcare Consultation”, sponsored by Unity with Nature Committee. As you know, we minuted ourselves at PYM
AS 2015 and came to Unity that, "We hold a deep concern for over-reliance and investment in fossil fuels. We ask monthly meetings and individuals to engage in discernment on how to reduce their dependence and investment in fossil fuels. Meetings and individuals are asked to share their efforts with the greater community." (Minute 2015-5)

Report from Unity with Nature Committee

1 - This year, Unity with Nature [UwN] had a more robust committee with six active members, out of seven named to the committee. With six people energizing one another, in addition to our conference calls, we were able to have an in-person retreat in Berkeley in early November to set up plans for the year. This face time is necessary so that Friends can get to know one another a bit and bring cohesion to the committee. So, inspired by the retreat, we were able to revamp and re-start our mini-grant program for sustainability projects and earth care traveling ministry (see details above). In addition, UwN sponsored an interest group [IG] at College Park Quarterly Winter Session on Standing Rock presented by Shelley Tanenbaum and friends. We are sponsoring an interest group, “Friends Earthcare Consultation” at here at AS 2017 (see details above).

We networked with Peace and Social Order Committee [P&SO] and several UwN folks went to a P&SO meetings. Fundraising for our special projects fund went well last year, so we have over $2000 for the mini-grant program and other special projects. Your many contributions to this fund are gratefully received. Thank you.

2 – Communications Issues – UwN still has difficulty communicating with Monthly Meetings [MMs]. Ministry and Oversight is now requesting that communications with MM clerks go through PYM and be posted on the website. There are concerns that this doesn’t really reach Friends in MMs interested in UwN and that people, even clerks, don’t click and click to read an unknown something.

UwN’s next major focus will be to improve two-way communications with and between MMs on earth care concerns, leadings, and witness. We had a ‘Liaison with UwN’ list with a number of MMs participating. Our next project is to update this list to better serve communications with MMs. There will be a list on the dining wall window at Walker Creek to put your updates. Please fill it in, if you know your Meeting’s current liaison with UwN. If you are interested in being an UwN liaison with your Meeting, please sign up.

We’d love to hear more from Monthly Meetings, especially about their projects related to care of the earth and their minutes of concern.

3 – UwN appreciates Ministry and Oversight’s work in producing two Proposals: A. on restructuring and B. new protocols for minutes of concern. We provided the following feedback, as requested.

A. On restructuring: UwN is in Unity that the QEW Reps are ex officio members of UwN, and as such, ask that they are added to the M&O Proposal for Restructuring.

Furthermore, we resolved that: "With even fewer named people, We need to streamline process of dropping people named to UwN who never show up.

DECISION Clerk of UwN will communicate with no shows by email asking them to join us and what is going on. If there is still no response, clerk will phone them saying we are dropping them. If we still
don’t hear from them, we will drop them and give notice to Nom Com that they are dropped and to please find a replacement.”

UwN wasn’t in Unity to reduce the number of members to five. The preponderance of UwN felt that it would be OK to reduce to five with at least one person strongly feeling that there should be at least six appointed members.

In our discussion of June 26, the following concerns were expressed:
“Smaller means less diversity of Monthly Meetings, less people to take up the slack if some people drop out, and less people to do the work of the mini-grant program, updating the liaison and MM clerks lists, communicating with monthly Meetings, and facilitating communication between monthly meetings on environmental and stewardship concerns. Much of this work, except this year's mini-grant program isn't being done.”

B- On Minutes of Concern
Responding to Ministry and Oversight's [M&O] request for review of its proposals, Unity with Nature [UwN] labored for the better parts of two conference calls discussing M&O's Proposed New Protocols for Minutes of Concern. UwN came to Unity around the following statement to share.

"Unity with Nature Committee appreciates that Ministry and Oversight's Proposed 'New Protocols for Minutes of Concern' is going in a good direction, but it would be better thought of as guidelines for concerns and inspirations rising from the MMs to the YM for consideration. The concepts of accountability and action in a continuing process are positive, as well as encouraging greater communication between the MMs and YM. We share some of the reservations of Peace and Social Order Committee. The proposal needs and is going through a process of refinement, hopefully to recognize a plurality of paths of Spirit.

Minutes of Concern can rise from to MM to YMs, but it is also valuable if YM generates and can share concerns with MMs. Issues may rise up which need a timely response. A concern with time sensitivity, for example about Standing Rock, calls for allowing Spirit a direct process. In that YMs are much larger, it is more valued as a Quaker voice in the outer world.

There is a need to respond in a timely fashion to shared statements from other Quaker organizations like FCNL, Quaker Peace Teams, QEW, or AFSC which sometimes ask us to use our Quaker voice and/or sign-on to a shared statement.

At times, from other YMs or world Friends come issues that no one of us sees in the same way or thinks of locally. We need to listen for what isn’t being said among us that we may want to say. We need to continue to be open.
Truth needs to be timely."

4 – Budget Issues and the Number of QEW Reps
In June, QEW established a new guideline asking each YM to send one or two Reps to sit on the ‘Steering Committee’. We continued to have budget struggles both to fund our Reps to QEW and with our committee line item budget which was much too low for both paying for our conference calls and paying travel expenses for our once a year in-person meeting. We had to ask for an augmentation for the committee’s budget at Representatives Committee in March which was thankfully approved. UwN has asked for $750 for the UwN Committee line item budget for FY 2017-2018 which we believe will
cover our bare bones necessary expenses. I hope this can be settled reasonably so that the next clerk doesn’t have the headaches I’ve had about our line item budget shortfalls.

The Ongoing Budget Issue with QEW Reps
Traditionally, two Representatives, appointed by UwN have been sent to the twice yearly QEW conferences/steering committee [SC] meetings. This year there were two Reps who went to both conferences and one Rep who went to the Spring one in Atlanta. We appointed an extra Rep this year (at that time allowed by QEW) – first Meagan Fisher of Chico Meeting who was unable to serve and then Andi MacLeod of La Jolla Meeting who went to Atlanta. We appointed the extra Rep in order to support new younger Friends to become involved in QEW and Earthcare leadership positions. The five trips were only partially funded by PYM.

The QEW Reps travel budget has dropped somewhat from what it was at its peak and now at $2200 would only cover about 2.75 people trips per year rather than 4 which translates into one Rep per conference. We were able to support five trips this year because one of the Reps, Rick Herbert, paid almost all of his own expenses to both SCs, because I received very generous support from the traveling ministry fund from my home meeting, Strawberry Creek, and because we were able to use, due to rare circumstances, PYM leftover funds from FY15-16.

The concatenation of this year’s fortunate circumstances won’t continue. At the time of this writing, we don’t yet know what Finance Committee will propose and plenary will approve. UwN has asked Finance Committee for $3300 for the QEW Reps travel budget to fully fund two Reps for the two conferences.
It is expected that Finance committee will again propose the $2200 budget for the QEW Reps travel. That means PYM will only be funding 1.37 Reps to QEW, which really means just sending one Rep. Just one QEW Rep would still serve PYM’s basic need in being represented to and receiving representations from QEW.

5 – What else is UwN doing at Annual Session? Besides sponsoring the interest group for Friends and Meetings to share their testimonies to earth care and sustainability (see announcement #3 above), UwN will hopefully have free literature from QEW at the exhibition/tableing room. Also, UwN is convening the early morning Worship outdoors in Nature in a new location – in front of Pine lodge and in back of Cypress lodge. We think the new quieter location will support a more centered down Worship.

I’m stepping down after serving four years -two as clerk and two as co-clerk of Unity with Nature. It has been a privilege to serve PYM and Unity with Nature and hopefully further support our earth care testimony’s ongoing unfoldment. May Nature heal us. May we restore Nature. May we live harmoniously with all Life on earth, our home.

In gratitude,

Catya de Neergaard
Outgoing clerk, Unity with Nature Committee
SUMMARY

This Summary gives an overview of what the PYM Youth Programs Coordinating Committee (YPCC) and the Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC) have focused on in 2016-2017, activities planned for Annual Session, some upcoming plans, and examples of what we have found engaging, exciting or challenging. For greater detail, we invite Friends to read the appendices below and the separate report about the 2016 Australia Yearly Meeting travels. The appendices at the end of this document include details about: our collaborative work with other PYM entities (for Annual Session and otherwise), state of the YPCC, links to other YPCC documents and communications, YPC committee and programs budgets, our stewardship of the Youth Programs Fund (interest from the Bob Vogel Endowment), and reflections from some of our co-sponsored projects/activities: the Spring Youth Service-Learning Camp at Quaker Oaks Farm, and the YAF Clerking Workshop.

Much of the YPC and YPCC’s work is in the background, improving systems and communication and troubleshooting problems; sometimes this invisibility seems to lead to Friends wondering what we do. The YP Coordinator and Coordinating Committee’s roles are predominately to act as resources for other volunteers, committees, officers, and the Yearly Meeting as a whole, as well as to organize some activities of our own. The YPCC is of course also charged with supervising, evaluating, and supporting the Coordinator; to that end the YPCC conducted a performance review this year for the Coordinator, we have some updates to make to the YPC and YPCC job descriptions, and in the next year or two it is time to do another full program review, as the last comprehensive program review was in 2013: https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2013/documents/ypc-evaluation-report-to-repcom-march-2013/ .

Since hiring the first coordinator in 2010, YPCC members have noticed much growth and improvement in PYM’s various youth and intergenerational programs, inclusion of young Friends, respect for youth voice, linkages among various groups throughout PYM, and the efficacy of PYM’s organizational systems, bringing about new spiritual connections and growth within our community. We have continued working with many groups within PYM (such as JYM, Children’s Program Committee, YAFs, M&O, Registrars, the clerking team, etc.), Quarterly Meetings, local meetings, and Quaker organizations, though we still cannot do it all at once!
Last year (2015-2016) for the first time, the YPC engaged deeply with PYM Children’s Program Committee. This initially grew out of a need to improve the communication and transition between the middle school program and Junior Yearly Meeting. We have seen that expansion of the YPC’s services to Children’s Program has led to better coordination and sharing of resources, such as a consolidated application form and coordinated process for youth worker applications (FRAPs and CP Teachers for Annual Session) and compliance with abuse prevention policy and procedures. We expect that the YPC will continue to be able to work with CP Committee into the future as part of the regular YPC job duties and that this might allow the CP Committee to proceed with some changes to the structures and job descriptions of their current committee and CP Coordinator. We support listing the YPC as ex officio to the CP Committee, as proposed in M&O’s “Restructure Proposal” being presented at Annual Session this year: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PYMRestructureProposalv5July_2017.pdf

We appreciate the work of M&O and the YPC to bring an improved draft Abuse Prevention Policy back for consideration for approval at this year’s Annual Session. According to the the YPC, both JYM and Children’s Program have been implementing the policy. https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/committee-newsletters-and-reports/ministry-and-oversight-committee/

In addition to our Annual Session-related work, the YPC Committee strives to create new opportunities outside of the Annual Session throughout the year. This past year, for example, we continued our partnership with the Wukchumni Tribe and Quaker Oaks Farm to host our 4th --and largest so far-- Spring Youth Service-Learning Camp, involving 35 campers and 15 staff from 5+ indigenous groups, 8 PYM meetings, and 3 Unitarian Universalists. Nineteen youth returned from the previous year, and these returning campers help to establish the culture of acceptance and respect that permeates the camp. The appendix to this report includes a section with highlights from Spring Camp.

We also provided financial and organizational support to the PYM Young Adult Friends (YAFs) to organize a clerking workshop, held at Sierra Friends Center (SFC) in May, which involved 14 participants and 2 facilitators from 9 monthly meetings and worship groups ranging in age from early 20s to 70s, including Friends who are committee clerks or presiding clerks as well as Friends new to clerking and/or new to our Society. An unexpected boon was that this event, being held at SFC, drew almost half its participants from nearby Reno and Carson City, thus involving Friends who are often geographically and socially isolated from the rest of PYM.

In June through August 2016, Alyssa, along with Friends Thistle West and Cathy Walling, travelled at the invitation of Australia Yearly Meeting (AYM), carrying concerns for youth and intergenerational community in the Religious Society of Friends and for right relationship with First Nations Peoples. A separate report from the three of them along with Sally Kingsland include details about their experiences traveling in the ministry with spiritual accompaniment and the evolution and fruits of the trip: “Reflections on Traveling in the Ministry to Australia Yearly Meeting in June-August 2016” (7/12/17): https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/annual-session-minutes-reports/2017-annual-session-reports-and-minutes/#Youth_Programs_Coordinating_Committee_YP_Coordinator

In Pacific YM, we are aware of growing concern and interest in right relationships with and justice for Native Americans and Indigenous / First Nations Peoples. We are actively engaged with this topic in partnership with Quaker Oaks Farm, and we have been invited into similar consultation now at Sierra Friends Center. In November 2016, the we supported 4 PYM Friends and 4 Wukchumni Yokuts
(including 4 teens and 4 adults) to participate in the “Quakers, First Nations, and American Indians from the 1650s to the 21st century” conference in Philadelphia. Jim Summers (former YPCC clerk) was one of the attendees, and he authored an article about the conference in *Western Friend*: “Native Voices and Quaker Choices” (March/April 2017) https://westernfriend.org/article/native-voices-and-quaker-choices

Alyssa, along with YPCC committee members, have worked with YAFs, JYM, and M&O to continue building a relationship with the Coast Miwok people on whose land we gather at what is now called Walker Creek Ranch; this year, YAFs and M&O have again asked Sky Road Webb to welcome us to the land, meet with Friends, and share about Coast Miwok culture. At Alyssa’s suggestion, JYM is doing their service-learning project with Sky Road at Kule Loklo, the recreated Coast Miwok interpretive cultural exhibit at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. http://www.ptreyes.org/activities/kule-loklo-coast-miwok-cultural-exhibit

We continue to be grateful to have the semi-annual interest income from the Bob Vogel Endowment as our “Youth Programs Fund” to support the activities of our committee, to fund projects, and to encourage involvement of more and more young Friends. We fund and co-sponsor events such as Spring Camp, the Clerking Workshop, and the YAF Pre-Annual Session Retreat. We provide organizational support for new programs, new outreach, new connections, and novel experiments such as seed funding for a new scholarship fund for the El Salvador Service-Learning Trip. And we continue to foster Friends’ participation in Quaker activities and spiritual development when other funding is not available, including intervisitation between Quarterly Meetings, a variety of spiritual development workshops, YPCC presence at events, eldering / spiritual accompaniment, and opportunities to put Quaker values toward social and environmental action in the world. A section in the appendix to this report gives greater detail.

As a reminder, applications for funding requests from the Youth Programs Fund / Bob Vogel Endowment are due to the YPCC on or before March 20th, June 20th, September 20th and December 20th (near the equinoxes and solstices). http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/

*Friends who would like to learn more or dive deeper: please read the appendices below and come to our Interest Group or one of the Open Committee Meetings held during Annual Session, or contact our Clerk, Bertha Peña. Please see the beginning of the appendix for a list of where and when you can find us throughout Annual Session.*

Submitted on behalf of the YPCC,
Bertha Peña, Clerk & Alyssa Nelson, Coordinator

| YPC Committee Members and Coordinator 2016-2017 |
| At-Large Three-Year Terms: |
| Jennifer Carr, Las Vegas WG / La Jolla (2017) |
| Stephen Myers, Sacramento (2017) |
| Steve Leeds, San Francisco (2017), YPC Supervisor |
| Barbara Babin, Redwood Forest (2018) |
| Melissa Lovett-Adair, Central Coast (2019) |
| Bertha Peña (2019), Clerk |

| One-Year “Youth” Terms: |
| Kylin Navarro, Berkeley |
| Rebekah Percy, La Jolla / Vancouver |
| Julian Garrett, Redwood Forest |
| [One slot empty] |
| Co-opted: Bitsy Carr, Las Vegas WG / La Jolla |

| Youth Programs Coordinator: Alyssa Nelson, Davis (2011-present) |
Highlighted YPCC & YPC Activities at Annual Session 2017


- Cathy Walling (Alaska Friends Conference) is again be eldering for Alyssa before and during Annual Session.
- **YAF Pre-Annual Session Retreat:** Wednesday-Friday, July 12-14 at Redwood Forest Meetinghouse. [https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/young-adult-friends/](https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/young-adult-friends/)
- Alyssa will be involved in the staff orientations for Children’s Program and JYM on Friday afternoon, as well as the respective parent/guardian/sponsor orientation meetings: CP at 3:15 and JYM at 4:00.
- **Sunday, Plenary IV:** 11:00am-12:30pm: Committee and Delegate Reports
- Our **Interest Group** is on Sunday at 6:45pm: Although our IG description is worded broadly, we have decided to focus mainly on the content of the Australia trip as well as how it fits into the bigger picture.
  - Original IG description: “What’s Happening in our Youth Programs?” Learn how to get support for a youth or intergenerational activity, including social and environmental justice actions that are grounded in Quaker ways. Provide input to our future directions together in service of a vibrant intergenerational PYM and Religious Society of Friends. Come hear updates about our sponsored activities, for example: last year’s visit to Australia Yearly Meeting, the Quaker Oaks Farm Spring Youth Service-Learning Camp.
that we co-sponsor with the Wukchumni Tribe and Quaker Oaks Farm, and participation in the “Quakers, First Nations, and American Indians” conference in Philadelphia.

- Alyssa Nelson and Cathy Walling will then participate in an Interest Group panel on “Spiritual Accompaniment: Experiences of Eldering and Being Eldered” organized by M&O, on Monday at 3:15.
- YPCC members will be available to chat during the Open Committee Meetings on Saturday and/or Monday at 4:45pm (we intend to announce which one in the Daily Miracle).
- Plenary sessions: members of YPCC will attend plenaries throughout the week
  - In the Monday evening all-ages Plenary V, we’ll hear Alyssa, Thistle, and Cathy’s travel minute endorsements from travelling in the ministry to Australia Yearly Meeting.
- YPCC Clerk and YPC will participate as usual in the Evaluation Meeting on Wednesday afternoon.
- Alyssa will be participating in and supporting various activities with JYM, Children’s Program, and Young Adult Friends throughout the week.
  - Of particular note this year: Alyssa will be helping JYM with its three “Mini-AVP” sessions in addition to its “Respectful Relationships” (sexuality education) workshop. This year, the AVP facilitators and Alyssa have worked to link the two activities thematically, focusing on “Power in Relationships.”

State of the YPCC

The YPC Committee continues to meet once a month via conference call to talk about pending matters, review proposals and requests for funding or other support, receive updates on events, and carry out subcommittee work. The Supervisor communicates more frequently with the Coordinator, usually by email and phone. We also had our annual face-to-face meeting during College Park Quarterly Meeting’s winter gathering, where we shared space with JYM Committee, which also came to CPQM to have a meeting and to participate with the CPQM teen program. We appreciate Berkeley Friends Meeting for hosting us during CPQM. We used this time to get acquainted, delegate to our subcommittees, decide how to face increased health insurance premium for the Coordinator, and finish a performance review of the Coordinator (Alyssa). We came out of the meeting strengthened as a committee and more clear about what we need to do next. We also express thanks for the work Steve Leeds has put into being Alyssa’s supervisor for the past few years and for Barbara Babin during the transition as Barbara prepares to take on the supervisor role next year.

As we’ve said in previous reports: Simply put, the YPCC and YPC’s work falls into two main categories: 1) committee work with support from the coordinator and 2) coordinator work with support from the committee. This work is organized around a Goals and Objectives document and subcommittee structure that the committee approved in June 2014 and which is posted on the PYM website:

The YPCC has had a Communications Subcommittee that has struggled and would be much more effective if it could collaborate with an empowered Communications Committee. YPCC has expressed its support to M&O for the proposal to create a standing Communications Committee and to have the YPC be ex officio to it. Alyssa has already been participating in the Electronic Communications Subcommittee of M&O and will be present for their interest group on Sunday evening and other

YPC and YPCC Collaboration with Other PYM entities

Annual Session-Related Activities

In addition to the highlighted activities above that the YPC and YPCC will be participating in, here is a summary list of types of work we do throughout the year to prepare for Annual Session:

- Continued support to various age-based programs of PYM (Junior Yearly Meeting/JYM teens and adult support committee, Children’s Program Committee, Young Adult Friends)
  - Supporting JYM, CPC, YAFs, and M&O with program planning and coordination of communication about joint activities and cooperative scheduling
  - JYM and CPC:
    - Supporting discernment around equity in compensation to adults who volunteer with Children’s Program and JYM, as well as improving visibility and appreciation of these volunteers. (Both programs comp the registration costs for their volunteers up to the cost of a shared dorm, and Children’s Program has had an additional stipend in recent years that they agreed to lay down this year.)
    - Financial assistance requests: Improving awareness of options and access to information
    - Supporting JYM’s discernment around sleeping arrangements and their decision to try out mixed-gender sleeping this year to better include trans* and non-binary gender participants
    - Supporting JYM and CPC outreach to potential volunteers (FRAPs and Teachers)
      - Improving Youth Worker Application Form again this year
      - Use of PYM website, email, Facebook for outreach
      - Use of GoogleDocs for collaboration and record-keeping
  - YAFs:
    - Pre-Retreat planning
    - Integrating with the rest of YM
    - YAF schedule, structure, and group identity
- Collaboration with M&O, Presiding Clerk, Assistant to Clerk, Registrars, Electronic Communications
  - Improving registration forms and processes for Annual Session, especially meeting the needs of younger Friends, families, and the various youth programs
  - Helping revise last year’s Community Expectations for all attendees
  - Helping revise PYM’s Child Abuse Prevention Policy
  - Serving on the Electronic Communications Subcommittee of M&O, particularly on the website working group
  - Presiding Clerk’s Team Calls: Logistics, Action, Youth, and YM-QM Collaboration
Program and Calendar Highlights

The updated Youth & Intergenerational Calendar on the PYM website continues to serve as a public portal for anyone interested in learning more about youth-related activities (http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/)

Upcoming:
- YAF Retreat before Annual Session, aka “pre-retreat”
- Golden Rule Action Camp (training in nonviolence and sailing with Friends and Veterans for Peace)
- Helping SCQM with outreach for Fall Fellowship to help more young Friends attend and hear guest Ben Pink Dandelion speak

In the works:
- Return of the “Becoming Adult Allies to Youth” workshops -- on hiatus this year and last year, with the exception of offering it 6 times in Australia. Meetings that would like to host it, please contact Alyssa.
- Gathering of Youth-serving committees of YM and QMs for better coordination
- Supporting a budding partnership between Sierra Friends Center and the Nisenan Tribe, based on the learnings we’ve had with the Wukchumni-Quaker Oaks Farm partnership

Recent:
- 4th Spring Youth Service-Learning Camp at Quaker Oaks Farm (Visalia, CA), April 10-14, 2017, https://quakeroaksfarm.org/blogevents/service-camp-registration
  - YPCC co-sponsors this with the Wukchumni Tribe and Quaker Oaks Farm
  - See dedicated section below for details
- YAF Clerking Workshop, May 26-28 at Sierra Friends Center with co-facilitators Diego Navarro and Barbara Babin
  - YPCC supported this event financially, logistically, and spiritually
  - See dedicated section below for details

Links to YPCC Documents & Communications
- Webpage: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/
- Calendar: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/
- Other past YPCC reports and epistles: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/category/yearly-meeting-docs/ypc/

Next year, working with the PYM website team, Alyssa hopes to create a more user-friendly YPC Committee page on the site, with lists and links to things like epistles and past reports. As it is now you have to scroll through the reverse-chronological list of posts that is automatically generated by Wordpress. Stay tuned.
As we do each Spring, we submitted our detailed annual budget request to Finance Committee. Here are some highlights, summarized (and in spots elaborated for clarification for the audience of this report) from the narrative portion of that budget request:

**Background:** Since the 2009 inception of having a YP Committee and Coordinator, many of the YPCC line items have changed somewhat with fine-tuning thanks to data gathered about our expense patterns, shifts in programmatic priorities, and the addition of the Bob Vogel Endowment. In past years’ budget proposals, we have done our best when requesting increases to find ways to reduce other lines to minimize net increases, regularly finishing the year under budget. Last year (2016), we reached a point where reducing such items became no longer possible without affecting program priorities. However, a combination of factors has allowed us to keep the [proposed] net increase for 2017-2018 to $868.

**COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment):** Is mandated by the original proposal for the YPC position, and there has been a small COLA each year except for 0% in 2016-2017, otherwise ranging from 1.26% to 2.3%. We base it on the amount calculated by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics via CalPERS on May 1st: “The 2017 annual CPI is 718.955 and the rate of inflation is 1.26%.” [https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/retirees/cost-of-living/cola](https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/retirees/cost-of-living/cola)

**Health Insurance:** To create the 2017-2018 budget proposal we used the 2017 monthly premium rate rather than guessing at what 2018 rates might be. With the volatility in politics and the health insurance market, we do not have adequate information to predict for 2018 at all. Also, we will be working with the YPC to see if there are alternate plans; when we tried to do so for 2017, we found the options for individual plans very limited by a number of factors, for example, what plans are offered in the marketplace and which of those are accepted by the YPC’s medical providers. (Note: PYM cannot offer the YPC a group plan because we would need to have 2 or more covered employees to do so. We looked at Friends Mutual Health Group, but at this time their premiums are even higher for lesser coverage than CoveredCA’s.) Health insurance costs make up a significant increase in budget and expenses over the years, with costs doubling since 2011 to $9,150 in 2016-2017.

**No raise:** Since 2011, the present Coordinator hasn’t received a raise. However, we have found ways to instead improve the various benefits (e.g., adding retirement, increasing paid time off, increasing office expenses/equipment monthly pre-tax reimbursement, adding a small per diem for travel), thereby creating only small budget increases or finding the funds within the existing budget.

**In lieu of raise this year, and fixing a past omission:** This year in lieu of a raise in wages (and for other practical reasons), we are looking into the possibility of leasing a car for the YPC. We have done preliminary research about the various costs involved in leasing and believe that this can be mostly accomplished within the existing travel budget. If costs exceed the capacity of the YPCC budget, for this first year we will use the Vogel endowment interest funds (aka Youth Programs Fund), which the YPCC administers and may use for non-salary-related items in the budget or for activities outside of the YPCC budget.
Leasing a car would also necessitate car insurance, about which we’ve talked with PYM’s current insurer, Guide One. *From the beginning of the YPC’s employment, insurance should have been procured and included in the budget to eliminate the personal liability of the YPC while traveling on behalf of PYM (i.e., while driving a rental car or personal car).* We are unclear whether such insurance could be added to the budget now, so we have left it out at this time with the intention of purchasing it as part of the above-mentioned spending plan for the overall car leasing expenses unless otherwise advised.

If we proceed with the car lease, we will draw up written agreements, per advice of a lawyer on our committee and unity of the YPC Committee.

**Stewarding the Bob Vogel Endowment / Youth Programs Fund**

*Applications are due to the YPCC on or before March 20th, June 20th, September 20th and December 20th (near the equinoxes and solstices). [http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/](http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/)*

We continue to be grateful to have the semi-annual interest income from the Bob Vogel Endowment as our “Youth Programs Fund” to support the activities of our committee, to fund projects, and to encourage involvement of more and more young Friends.

Although we usually fund Quaker-specific activities, YPCC will consider funding other social/environmental action, especially by young Friends who have some kind of anchoring support in place (e.g., support can range from being connected with a small group of 2+ Friends to having a formal support or anchor committee) and who are willing to report back to YPCC/PYM/their Meeting. We have asked to discuss with M&O how this relates to the Leadings Fund.

We continue to find good reason to utilize some of the fund to have our YPC Committee attend one event per year in conjunction with our face-to-face committee meeting; this has shown benefits both to our committee (by creating a greater shared understanding among us about the state of our Society, its needs and its strengths) and to the host events/organizations (so far SCQM and CPQM). We also see there might be benefit to us getting together solely for the purpose of committee work.

We thank Finance Committee and Treasurer for continuing to do a good job communicating with us about the endowment’s investment in Friends’ Fiduciary, and the Treasurer for disbursing funds in such a timely manner upon our request.

Information about the Fund is online: [http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/](http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/)

**Youth Programs Fund Income**

Detailed accounting is available from the PYM Treasurer. This section summarizes how we use the funds available to us in alignment with our goals and objectives.

- Total Income from Bob Vogel Endowment interest so far: **$57,046.21 total June 2014 - June 2017.**
○ Received twice a year (in June and December each year)
○ Range of interest income payments to Fund so far: $7,707.67 - $9,121.34

- Other income (donations): $129.00
- Current available (estimated taking into account earmarked amounts): approx. $10,000

Youth Programs Fund Expenditures: Projects and Activities Funded

We fund and co-sponsor events (approx. range $500-$3,000):
- YAF Clerking Workshop, May 2017
- YAF Pre-Annual Session Retreats
- YAF Couple Enrichment Workshop, April 2016

We provide organizational support for new programs, new outreach, new connections, and novel experiments or special events (approx. range $250-$2,000):
- Seed funding for a new scholarship fund for the El Salvador Service-Learning Trip, 2017
- Travelling Ministry of YPC and a YAF in Australia, June-August 2016
- Golden Rule Action Camp, upcoming
- Western Young Friends New Year’s Gathering - 40th Anniversary (used for participant registration and travel assistance, including a handicap-accessible van rental, and other general expenses), December 2014 & 2015
- Composting toilet to improve the camping area at Quaker Oaks Farm for youth and intergenerational gatherings (for materials; built in part during a campout with some young adult Friends and Wukchumni): February 2015
- AVP Basic Training hosted by PYM Young Adult Friends (for food, materials, meeting space, facilitators): March 2015
- YAF Leadership Trainings: May 2015
- “Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity” video streaming rights to be shared throughout PYM, by Racial Justice Subcommittee of PYM’s M&O, crackingthecodes.org : April 2015
- “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America’s Native Peoples.” Honorarium and travel costs to bring facilitator Paula Palmer to PYM Annual Session 2015 to conduct this workshop, hosted by Racial Justice Subcommittee of PYM’s M&O, boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship , July 2015
- Outreach materials and logo design for YPCC (by the YPCC with a YAF who has graphic design training)

We continue to foster Friends’ and our partners’ participation in Quaker activities and spiritual development when other funding is not available (approx. range $100-$5,600):
- Intervisitation between Quarterly Meetings
- Participation in a variety of spiritual development workshops and events, as leaders or participants (especially those who do not have access to other financial assistance, e.g., they are friends of Friends and/or unaffiliated with with a local Meeting, or other assistance does not exist)
○ Eldering Workshop, April 2016
○ YAF attendance at Mystics Retreat, February 2016
○ Quaker Earthcare Witness conference
○ YAF “Continuing Revolution” Conference on theme of Equality at Pendle Hill
○ Youth to attend PYM Annual Session
○ Wukchumni visitors to PYM Annual Session 2015: 2 Adults and 2 Children, travel and registration
○ YAFs to travel to IMYM Annual Session
○ Teen Intervisitation between CPQM and SCQM
○ Travel to camps
○ Travel to a service project
● YPCC presence at events
  ○ CPQM
  ○ SCQM
  ○ YAF Retreats
● Eldering / spiritual accompaniment
  ○ Travelling Ministry of YPC and a YAF in Australia with an elder, 2016
  ○ Eldering at PYM, 2016, 2017
● Opportunities to put Quaker values toward social and environmental action in the world
  ○ Women’s March on Washington, January 2017
  ○ FCNL Spring Youth Lobby Day, 2016
  ○ Delegates to the “Quakers, First Nations and American Indians” Conference in Philadelphia: 4 Quakers and 4 Wukchumni Yokuts (including 4 teens and 4 adults), November 2016
  ○ Service projects

### Spring Camp at Quaker Oaks Farm - Report

*This section is adapted from a report of the Quaker Oaks Farm Board of Directors. For more information, contact Melissa Lovett-Adair, YPCC member and Chair of Quaker Oaks Farm at <chair@quakeroaksfarm.org>.*


*(photo)*
Spring Service Learning Camp 2017 was amazing! The focus of camp this year was on this land, Pa’an, and the indigenous people of it (the Wukchumni Yokuts), the plants and especially the water.

*(photo)*
We learned about the living cultures, rich traditions and the history of Native Americans in California, including the ongoing impacts of genocide. We also learned ways to heal from intergenerational trauma and to be allies to one another. The skilled facilitation of Yaynicut Franco (Wukchumni) and Alyssa Nelson (YPC PYM) provided opportunities to learn experientially,
through activities that generated thinking and processing together. While addressing challenging topics we had fun, made friends, laughed and played together.

Steven and Mary Lee (Visalia) presented an engaging and meaningful service project creating a pollinator habitat on the farm. Each step of the process was completed by the youth from preparing the soil, planting, laying irrigation and mulch. Each camper took home a Quick Guide so they could create a similar habitat in their home garden. The entire week we talked about the importance of caring for the land, a central aspect of the Wukchumni and the Native American ethos. This hands-on project gave campers a concrete opportunity to invest their energy in caring for this land and their future.

With gratitude for the rain we braved the elements and followed the watershed up to Kaweah Lake and Terminus Dam where we learned about the history and construction of the dam. At the Visitor Center some of the Wukchumni youth saw photos of their ancestors in the museum display. It was moving to hear the elders pointing out relatives and telling stories of individuals and it brought home in a very tangible way that we are on ancestral Yokuts lands.

From there we traveled upstream to Hospital Rock in Sequoia National Park where we viewed the pictographs and some of the Wukchumni girls demonstrated acorn processing at the communal grinding rock used by their ancestors.

The QOF logo water bottles were used by all campers and eliminated the need for single use water bottles at camp. The impact of plastics in the environment and importance of clean safe water were explored. Water bottles will be available for purchase at PYM to raise funds for camp environmental projects.

Camp participants this year include 35 campers and 15 staff from 5+ indigenous groups, 8 PYM meetings, and 3 Unitarian Universalists. Nineteen youth were returning from the previous year. The returning campers help to establish the culture of acceptance and respect that permeates the camp.

Keeping camp accessible to all youth who wish to attend regardless of ability to pay is a central commitment of the project. Generous support from the Bob Vogel Endowment (YPC grant) and contributions from individual Friends (QOF fundraising) make this possible. A grant from the Strong Foundation paid for the service project.

### Funding for Spring Camp 2017

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<td>Strong grant</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Camper fees</td>
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Australia Trip Reflections

See the supplement to this report, “Reflections on Traveling in the Ministry to Australia Yearly Meeting in June-August 2016” (7/12/17): [https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/annual-session-minutes-reports/2017-annual-session-reports-and-minutes/#Youth_Programs_Coordinating_Committee_YP_Coordinator](https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/annual-session-minutes-reports/2017-annual-session-reports-and-minutes/#Youth_Programs_Coordinating_Committee_YP_Coordinator)

YAF Clerking Workshop, May 26-28, 2017 - Reflections

This past spring the YPCC sponsored a clerking workshop at Sierra Friends Center, located in the beautiful foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Northern California near Grass Valley and Nevada City. The YPCC supported the workshop financially, logistically, and spiritually. We covered the cost of rental, food, supplies, and facilitators using a combination of the YP Fund and participant contributions on a sliding scale. Alyssa Nelson, in her role as YPC, helped the YAF Clerks plan and execute the logistics. Many thanks to Diego Navarro (PYM Presiding Clerk) and Barbara Babin (a YPCC member
and former clerk of PYM’s M&O) for co-facilitating, to Sierra Friends Center for hosting, and to our YPCC committee members who lent their support in various ways.

Participants ranged in age from early 20s to 70s, including Friends who are committee clerks or presiding clerks as well as Friends new to clerking and/or new to our Society. The 14 participants and 2 facilitators came from 9 Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. About half came from Reno MM (PYM) and Carson City (independent). Two even came from North Pacific YM (Eugene MM).

Evaluation feedback strongly supports doing more such workshops annually, again at the Sierra Friends Center site, again on a holiday weekend (this time it was Memorial Day), and again on the topic of clerking as well as on a variety of other topics related to Quaker spiritual formation. There was a specific request for a workshop on eldering, as word has gotten around about last year’s eldering workshop at Ben Lomond Quaker Center and the positive impacts of loving eldering at PYM Annual Session. Suggested changes were mostly minor logistical ones or requests for information and improved communication that can easily be accommodated next time.

Comments from YPCC-affiliated Participants of the Clerking Workshop:
Although we would have loved more YAFs present, we are very happy to say that almost half of the attendees came from Reno/Carson City, who shared with us that they sometimes feel far from PYM activities and were glad this workshop was available and close to them. We are very grateful to Barbara and Diego for facilitating a very deep, reflective workshop that emphasized clerking as a spiritual practice, and to Sierra Friends Center for hosting it. As for how it is impacting me, I’m feeling more confident and am realizing that I’m probably at that time when I need to stop feeling like a ‘new’ Quaker, especially after someone at the workshop who has been a Quaker for something like 40 years said she learned a lot!
--Bertha Peña, YPCC Clerk & YAF--

The workshop was well-organized around group and pair activities, with time for discussion and questions, as well as individual reflection. Despite many attendees not knowing each other prior to the start of the weekend, everyone opened up pretty quickly, allowing Spirit to flow throughout our time together. I think we could all say we learned a lot from each other on the art of clerking.
--Rebekah Percy, YAF Co-Clerk--

The workshop helped me think about the variety of different types of clerking needs we have in our YM, QMs, and MMs. One realization I had thanks to the framework the facilitators provided is how challenging in particular the JYM Adult Committee Clerk and members’ roles are. The JYM Adult Committee work requires more than ‘just’ clerking a group of Friends in seeking unity, and at the same time that’s exactly what it is. It’s event planning, project management and logistics, chaperoning minors, being a resource person to parents/guardians, and more, and then on top of that mentoring JYM teen leaders in their own clerking, event planning, project management and logistics, and spiritual care of the wider JYM community. In the words of another Friend, it’s ‘meta-clerking.’ This is inspiring me to think about how to work with the JYM Adult Committee, Nominating Committee, M&O, and other elders to get more clear about these JYM Adult roles, the skills and support needed, and saner ways to go about the work that don’t lead to chronic burnout and that could actually be fun and spiritually fulfilling.
--Alyssa Nelson, YPC--

Sampling of the comments from other participants:
Something I’ll take home that’s important to me:
“The understanding that I need to deepen/clarify my own spiritual foundation to be a better clerk.”
“To bring the role of clerk to my daily life. Let the Spirit lead me.”
“Healing of my heart”

What surprised you?
“It was a mystical experience for me… I felt I was holding the hand of God.”
“I learned the difference between a clerk and chair, how to stay back, let the spirit guide the way instead of [to] resist or try to guide my way.”
“The many implied duties of the clerk.”
“How ‘deep’ and ‘spiritual’ the role of clerking can be!”
“How much fun it was! Laughter, joy, love!
“That it wasn’t all nuts and bolts but had a deeper exploration.”
“How quickly and fully the group of participants gathered.”
“I could do the same workshop again and still learn.”
“How I was able to just settle in to the space and the present moment.”

Other feedback:
“Nicely done. You guys had the wisdom and authority and experience to do this well.”
“Come to Oregon and Washington.”
“This was ideal, affordable cost, food, housing, and Spirit in abundance.”
“Exceptional content, method, leadership.”
“A fantastic location for me personally.”
“I would like more deep skills developing liturgy and practicing deepening the Spirit in the meeting.”
Want more in depth on “how to open to the Light - the way early Friends meant it!”

--end YPCC report--
Attachment L: American Friends Service Committee Report

Several reports on AFSC work are available on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website at: https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/annual-session-minutes-reports/2017-annual-session-reports-and-minutes/#American_Friends_Service_Committee
Attachment M: Ministry and Oversight Committee Report

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Ministry and Oversight Committee (M&O) Report to PYM Annual Session 2017

Introduction

Ministry and Oversight Committee (M&O) cares for the spiritual health of Pacific Yearly Meeting, supports the Presiding Clerk, and plays a significant role in holding the Annual Session, among other things. We meet three times a year in person and daily during Annual Session. We are made up of nine members plus the Presiding Clerk serving ex officio.

This report provides information on the work M&O has done this past year, as well as the items that the committee intends to take to Annual Session for discernment by the body.

Friends General Conference (FGC) Affiliation

For several years, Ministry & Oversight Committee has considered affiliation with Friends General Conference (FGC). After a lengthy discernment process, including listening to feedback from Friends from across the Yearly Meeting, M&O united in proposing that the Yearly Meeting approve the following minute at Annual Session 2017: Pacific Yearly Meeting will commence the process of seeking affiliation with Friends General Conference. The committee circulated the minute and information on
affiliation, including a PYM-FGC Frequently Asked Questions and Benefits of Affiliation document (found here: https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/annual-session-minutes-reports/2017-annual-session-reports-and-minutes/#Ministry_Oversight_Committee), with PYM committees and officers, and Monthly Meeting clerks.

Given the response and feedback we have received regarding this proposed minute, the M&O Committee is in active discernment as to whether we will bring the minute for approval this year or hold it over for another year. We have heard the feedback on the proposal to affiliate with FGC and continue to believe that affiliation is where Spirit is leading the Yearly Meeting. We may not have provided enough time for Monthly Meetings to address Friends’ enthusiasm, questions and concerns regarding affiliation. Most of the concerns we have heard were with M&O process, not with the actual question of affiliation. We recognise that it would be helpful to include with the proposal to affiliate a suggested budget for how to fund our relationship to FGC. We do not anticipate it changing significantly from what is currently spent at the Yearly Meeting level as we already send one observer to FGC Central Committee each year and would likely propose doing the same in the future.

**M&O Name Change**

M&O has reflected on the use of the word “oversight” in our committee’s name. Given the pain that the words “oversight” and “overseer” cause some current, and potential, Quakers, our committee has been in active discernment regarding a new name. The committee reached unity that our new name must remove the word “oversight” and also accurately describe the work of the committee.

Ministry and Care is a name that resonates with our committee. We believe the “Care” in Ministry and Care speaks to a quality of the heart and to a kind of action as in “caring” for others. Care can be organizational, emotional, spiritual, or physical. There are many ways to care.

We are sharing this new name proposal now should any Friends want to come and speak with us about it during Annual Session. The committee will discern over the course of the week whether it is time to bring a minute for approval to the body to change the committee’s name formally from “Ministry and Oversight” to “Ministry and Care,” or whether to hold this item over for another year.

**Eldering Structure and Interest Group**

Last year the Presiding Clerk requested assistance from a small group of Friends experienced in eldering to help create a spiritual ‘container’ for Annual Session as is practiced elsewhere among Friends. This consisted of both spiritual accompaniment of individuals with particular roles (such as keynote speakers) and Friends holding sessions by sitting in prayer before and during worship and plenaries. Following that limited experiment, which proved successful in provided grounding for the Yearly Meeting, M&O formed a Working Group to take on the responsibility of supporting the work of eldering at Annual Session 2017. The M&O working group has facilitated matching nine Yearly Meeting clerk and co-clerk sets with a Friend to accompany them for spiritual support. We intend that at least one person comes
early to each Meeting for Worship, including plenaries, to hold the space and center the gathering in prayer.

Having named Elders is something that was dropped from Quaker practice in most places because it became abusive in some situations. We are very consciously working to bring back the beneficial aspects of eldering without creating a permanent group of people who wield inappropriate or disproportionate power in the Yearly Meeting. Eldering as we are practicing it in Pacific Yearly Meeting involves having Friends who are willing to serve holding space (in prayer) and providing spiritual accompaniment. A critical part of doing this work of eldering is being able to debrief and seek peer support from others who are also taking on the role at Annual Session. As such, the people serving in eldering roles will meet daily for prayer, reflection, and mutual support.

Any Friends wishing to support this eldering effort are encouraged to do so either by coming early to plenaries to hold the space or getting in touch directly with the Working Group which is convened by Valerie Nuttman, a member of M&O. We also encourage all Friends to come to Annual Session personally and spiritually prepared, which may mean additional time in prayer or meditation for personal grounding as well as praying for the Yearly Meeting and our time together.

In addition to providing the eldering structure, M&O, through our Eldering Working Group, is offering an Interest Group on eldering at this Annual Session. We encourage Friends to join us to share your perspectives, and hear from others, on this important topic. We recommend Friends revisit Pacific Yearly Meeting M&O’s Faithfulness In Action document, particularly Appendix D on Eldering, which was released by Ministry and Oversight in 2009: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/MandLFaithfulnessInAction.pdf.

The Eldering Working Group will be meeting during open committee times and we encourage all Friends to come and be in contact.

Restructure Document

M&O has drafted a restructure and right-sizing proposal for the Yearly Meeting administration. The changes proposed reflect, to a large degree, the current operating structure, taking into account, for example, committees that exist in name but do not meet and are yet to be laid down. M&O shared this proposal with Nominating Committee in the first instance and then with other PYM committees and officers. We have received and incorporated feedback from these committees and will have the final draft posted to the PYM website shortly. We will seek approval of this restructure and right-sizing proposal at Annual Session.

Conflict and Welcoming

M&O has been addressing conflict at various levels within the Yearly Meeting and in different ways. We recognize that it is challenging and sometimes scary to engage with conflict, and still we have found it to
be enormously rewarding. The processes we have engaged in have felt very difficult at times but the results have been often surprising and amazingly healing. We see that it is key to name conflict, hear people and create safe processes. To support the process, bringing in Friends who have done non-violent communication or conflict resolution can be a huge help.

Working with conflict can help clear the air, bring efficiency where we better utilise the gifts in our midst, and open the door to more Spirit-led work. When our own personal, or Meeting, house is not in good order, it is unlikely that God will call us to much in the way of service. God is much better able to use our gifts in service when we have been obedient to our spiritual health and internal integrity.

In order to continue to foster and support right relationships with each other, M&O has once again provided a list of Community Expectations for our community, which are available on the PYM website at this link: https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/2017/documents/2017-as-docs/community-expectations-as2017/. We will be supporting a brief exercise at the first Annual Session plenary related to these Community Expectations.

We encourage Friends to be familiar with, and committed to, the Community Expectations document. We found respectful relationships to be more prevalent last year than in previous years at Annual Session - let’s keep that up!

Supporting Monthly Meetings not under the care of a Quarterly Meeting

M&O is charged with supporting Monthly Meetings that do not belong to a Quarterly Meeting. We have been limited in the extent to which we have been able to do this work and continue to strive to do more for these Monthly Meetings. We hope to reach more areas that need our support in the coming year.

Spiritual Deepening on Committees

M&O has been working to deepen our collective spiritual life this year in a number of ways. We have been working with the Pendle Hill Pamphlet #439 by Robert Griswold Marking the Quaker Path: Seven Key Words, Plus One this year. We encourage all committees to find ways to grow closer in Spirit as you work together in service of Friends. We find it greatly enriching to our work and group harmony. A few of the queries we have explored together are:

- How would you describe your own condition? Are you in a condition requiring change?
- What has been your experiences of divine reality? How has your life changed from these experiences?
- How can Friends seek to avoid a faith that is “notional” or “based in imagined or abstract thinking?”

Abuse Prevention Policy

After several years of work by the Youth Program Coordinator, and Children’s Program Committee, Junior Yearly Meeting Committee, Ministry & Oversight Committee and others, a final draft of the PYM
Abuse Prevention Policy has been produced. M&O will be facilitating the creation of a document at a later date that is related more broadly to respectful relationships in the Yearly Meeting.

This Abuse Prevention Policy document is explicitly for the prevention and reporting of abuse of minors at Pacific Yearly Meeting sponsored events. This policy defines abuse, describes the recruitment and screening (including reference and background checks) of applicants for youth worker positions, outlines the training of youth workers, and outlines the requirements for mandated reporting and related internal procedures.

M&O has circulated this policy with PYM’s committees and officers and is receiving helpful feedback. We are still looking for a lawyer to review the document who specializes in this particular area of law. We will be bringing a final revised policy for approval at annual session, pending further edits and approval by a lawyer. The current draft of the Abuse Prevention Policy can be found on the PYM website here: https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/annual-session-minutes-reports/2017-annual-session-reports-and-minutes/#Ministry_Oversight_Committee.

Coordinating with the Quarterly Meetings

The M&O Co-Clerks have met with the Quarterly Meeting clerks and the clerks of Quarterly Meeting M&O committees as part of an ongoing series of coordination calls established and led by the Presiding Clerk. We have found this to be a meaningful and enriching time together. The Yearly Meeting and Quarterly Meetings are struggling with and addressing similar issues and we look forward to the continued collaboration of our Friends community.

Minutes of Concern

M&O is continuing to labor with the clerks of a number of PYM action committees (Peace & Social Order, Latin American Concerns, Unity with Nature) and our own Racial Justice Subcommittee, to discern the practice of "Minutes of Concern" and how they impact Annual Session and the broader Yearly Meeting. We have spent considerable time in discernment at our M&O in-person meetings and held numerous teleconferences and one-on-one meetings with the relevant committees. We hope to continue this discernment work in the coming year.

Ministry & Oversight Subcommittees

Electronic Communications Subcommittee

The Electronic Communications Subcommittee (ECSC) has done a great deal of work this year. A status report from the subcommittee is appended to this document and covers current and recent activities of the ECSC.
Racial Justice Subcommittee

For the last two Annual Sessions, especially in the Affinity groups, we have heard from Friends that they would like to do some role-play to rehearse interrupting racial harassment. The Racial Justice Subcommittee’s Interest Group this 2017 Annual Session will center on that topic while using two resources from AFSC. It will utilize the "Do's and Don'ts of Bystander Intervention" and show the video Don't be a bystander posted on the AFSC website.

At the College Park Quarterly Meeting Fall gathering 2016 the subcommittee sponsored a panel of attenders at the 2016 White Privilege Conference (WPC) in an effort to share what three Friends had learned and also to publicize the WPC.

The subcommittee looks forward to promoting and sharing more racial justice resources, actions, and practices in this next year.

Monthly Meeting Representatives Support

This Sub-Committee has not been functioning this year. M&O is in active discernment as to a way forward.

M&O Supporting Annual Session

M&O has been working hard to support a smooth and spiritually enriching Annual Session based on ongoing discernment and feedback we received through the evaluations received last year. The M&O co-clerks created a summary of last year’s Annual Session evaluations to make it transparent to the community what we are hearing from you and to give an indication of how we are trying to change. See link: https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/annual-session-minutes-reports/2017-annual-session-reports-and-minutes/#Ministry_Oversight_Committee.

This year there will be more opportunities for service at Annual Session through a sign up for volunteer opportunities. We look forward to seeing Friends get on board to help enhance our supportive culture and find joy in assisting others. We will also ring a bell before sessions start to help Friends be in the big tent and settled so that plenaries can begin on time with Friends gathered in worship. We will also be inviting Friends to a short period of worship as grace during each meal.

Please send memorial minutes and the names of those who have passed from your Meeting in the past year to Sally and Kylin. All names will be included at the Meeting for Memorials on Sunday.

M&O administers the Attendance Assistance Fund, which offers financial assistance on a case-by-case basis to Friends wanting to attend Annual Session who may require additional financial help in order to do so. The $9,000 Attendance Assistance Fund is helping about 50 people to attend Annual Session this year.
As always, M&O members will be available to support Friends during Annual Session and we encourage you to find us should you need us. Our members are Janet Gastil, Julie Harlow, Bronwen Hillman, Sally Kingsland, Shayne Lightner, Joe Magruder, Kylin Navarro Burger, Valerie Nuttman, Jim Summers, and Diego Navarro (Presiding Clerk, *ex officio*).

Faithfully submitted,
Sally Kingsland and Kylin Navarro Burger (co-clerks)
sally.kingsland@gmail.com and kylin.navarro@gmail.com

Electronic Communications Subcommittee -- Status Report to Ministry & Oversight
June 26, 2017

This status report to Ministry & Oversight covers current and recent activities of the ECSC this year.

1. The ECSC had two primary areas of focus this year:
   1.1. 2017 Annual Session Registration project
   1.2. High priority website maintenance and updates

2. Activity on the two other workgroups (Directory & Collaboration Tools and Resources & Funding) slowed this year, principally due to capacity constraints. However, 2 draft proposals have been developed that we will look to share and discuss at Annual Session.

3. ECSC Workgroup Updates:
   3.1. Website Redesign:
   3.1.1. The Website Redesign working group focused over the past year on simplifying and reorganizing PYM’s main website, [www.pacificyearlymeeting.org](http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org), and keeping content up-to-date.
   3.1.2. Additional changes being considered to make the website more useful include:
   3.1.2.1. Simplifying and reorganizing the existing website to make it easier to “find stuff”.
   3.1.2.2. Clarifying website procedures and responsibilities (which PYM officers/committees are responsible for which aspects of the site).
   3.1.3. The workgroup supports creating a “Communications Committee” as proposed in the draft “restructuring or right-sizing of PYM” proposal from Ministry & Oversight. It would subsume the Secretariat Committee as well as this working group along with the ECSC.
   3.1.4. There is a need for a “Website Coordinator” or “IT Administrator” to manage technical issues (also mentioned in M&O draft; ECSC has a draft job description). Separating the technical work from site content management will make the task more manageable for 1 or more volunteers spending a limited amount of hours per month on support of the site.
   3.1.5. The workgroup is evaluating what target audiences we can reasonably support with the website and which audiences are best directed elsewhere.
3.1.6. A change to Google for our site search engine is being considered, to replace the much more limited and inaccurate search function currently in place.

3.1.7. We are considering the best approach to reinstitute role-based email addresses (e.g., clerk@pacificyearlymeeting.org rather than diego.navarro@xyz.com) for all PYM officers and committee clerks, to facilitate communication and generate a shared archive of committee communication (institutional memory). A proposal is in development in hopes that this could be implemented soon. This item is interdependent with the online directory capability under consideration.

3.1.8. The workgroup is considering opening a Google G-Suite for Nonprofits account for PYM to make use of collaborative tools. This would give us role-based email addresses and security features that would ease the administration of the site. To obtain a free account, an IRS letter is needed that confirms PYM’s 501(c)(3) status. We will follow-up with the Ministry & Oversight and Finance Committees on this matter.

3.1.9. We have briefly considered alternative platforms for our website. Based on our discernment of the platform and site needs, we expect to continue with WordPress, despite its limitations, less limiting than we previously thought, and there are key benefits, including ease of maintenance and a user-friendly tool for our volunteer site and web content managers who come and go.

3.1.10. There is much work to be done to bring and keep the site up to date and consistent -- the current content varies widely in depth, format and organization. We need to discern what value there is in improving past content and how best to organize responsibilities going forward to promote greater consistency and timeliness.

3.1.11. Additional thoughts on the proposal for a Communications committee and other details on the progress of this workgroup can be found at (link needs to be updated for final report): [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RyDx3bOA7MAz7rdK-67PhmUHBFjFgKRX0dRC8qZNkzI/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RyDx3bOA7MAz7rdK-67PhmUHBFjFgKRX0dRC8qZNkzI/edit?usp=sharing)

3.2. Directory & Collaboration Tools:

3.2.1. A proposal was drafted early this year for a new electronic directory and synchronous and asynchronous online communication tools for PYM. This incorporates the following:

3.2.1.1. Online directory capability to support PYM and its constituent meetings and committees

3.2.1.2. System of role-based emails, integrated with the online directory

3.2.1.3. Synchronous collaboration tools; e.g., GoogleDocs

3.2.1.4. Asynchronous collaboration tools, including email, online discussion forums and document storage

3.2.2. The proposal is largely complete, pending review with the ECSC.

3.2.3. We will look to discuss this and along with other ECSC items at the Western Friend and Electronic Communications Subcommittee interest group at Annual Session on “Friendly Websites and Other Online Resources”, scheduled for Saturday evening at 6:45 PM.

3.3. Technical Resources and Funding:

3.3.1. The initial draft proposal was created for funding the development and then maintenance of a new PYM website.

3.3.2. Recent experience gained working on the website and 2017 Registration project is helping us move forward with much less dependency on funding.
3.3.3. A funding proposal had been developed but needs to be reworked in view of the learnings over the past 6 months.

3.3.4. This is pending further activity, once we have greater clarity on the website needs and direction (see Website Redesign Workgroup report).

4. 2017 Annual Session Registration Project:

4.1. This effort is largely complete. While a focus of the project team this year was on simplifying the requirements and the design for the new registration application, it nevertheless was exceedingly complex. This, among numerous other lessons learned, are being captured for future registration project teams.

4.2. Overall, the new registration site was well received and worked well. There were a handful issues that have been captured for future resolution or a different approach. One serious defect did occur, and this impacted nearly 2 dozen registrants who were overcharged, and this issue is being addressed by the registrars.

5. Committee Resources:

5.1. A new Web Coordinator is needed to support the website. The committee is working to redefine the web coordinator position to separate out the technical aspects from the routine content updates and will be seeking a technical site administrator as we move forward.

5.2. In addition, the committee needs at least one additional member who has sufficient project management aptitude, experience and capacity to support the work of the committee. This person would assist in the planning activities and deliverables required to help keep the different efforts on track and assist the workgroup leads in coordinating and managing project work.

6. The ECSC currently is comprised of:

6.1. Alyssa Nelson, Davis – Website Redesign workgroup, assisting with website updates

6.2. George Mills, Palo Alto – Website Redesign workgroup lead/convener, assisting with website updates


6.5. Lawrence Alderson, Orange County – Resources and Funding lead, ECSC convener

6.6. Mary Klein, Palo Alto – Directory & Collaboration Tools lead, Resources and Funding workgroup

6.7. Arthur Kegerreis, Orange Grove - Website Redesign

6.8. Eric Moon, Berkeley

Submitted June 26, 2017 by Lawrence Alderson

Documents/references - the following materials are available in the ECSC Google Docs folder:

1. This report - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aNhZcxzQyyZTIolgi_YLWT77rRppKNuLaHRJwL_6d_8/edit?usp=sharing

2. Full Website Redesign Workgroup report: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RyDx3bOA7MAz7rdK-67PhmUHBfjFgKRX0dRC8qZNkzl/edit?usp=sharing

### Pacific Yearly Meeting - General Budget for FY 2017-2018 - 07/18/2017 draft

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Per-Member Expected Contribution from Monthly Meetings (also known as "Assessment")

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<th>FY 2017-2018</th>
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<td>Per member - US mainland meetings</td>
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<td>Per member - Hawai'i &amp; Guatemala</td>
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<td>Per Member - Mexico City</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Attachment O: Abuse Prevention Policy

Policy for Prevention and Reporting of Child Abuse in Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Programs and Activities
Short Title: Child Abuse Prevention Policy
Approved by the PYM Ministry & Oversight Committee [April 22, 2017]
Approved by Yearly Meeting [July 17, 2017]

INTRODUCTION

This is a policy for the prevention and reporting of abuse of minors at Pacific Yearly Meeting sponsored events. Pacific Yearly Meeting strives to provide fellowship, support and educational experience for minors in an environment free from any kind of abuse. We also strive to create an environment that protects adults from unjust accusation. Abuse is a difficult issue to talk about. We would like to believe it does not occur within the Quaker community, but abuse can happen in any community including ours. Our research shows that local Meetings and Yearly Meetings that have no policies in place are more likely to be torn apart when an incident happens than are Meetings that are prepared. Denial of the possibility of hurt does not prevent hurt – if anything, it heightens its likelihood.

This policy defines abuse, describes the recruitment and screening (including reference and background checks) of applicants for youth worker positions, outlines the training of youth workers, and outlines the requirements for mandated reporting and related internal procedures. This policy applies to those youth workers who take care of minors as well as to members and attenders who interact with minors at Pacific Yearly Meeting sponsored events, including committee meetings.

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

The legal definition of Child Abuse in California is found in Penal Code Section 11165.6. which states: "As used in this article, the term "child abuse or neglect" includes physical injury or death inflicted by other than accidental means upon a child by another person, sexual abuse as defined in Section 11165.1, neglect as defined in Section 11165.2, the willful harming or injuring of a child or the endangering of the person or health of a child, as defined in Section 11165.3, and unlawful corporal punishment or injury as defined in Section 11165.4. "Child abuse or neglect" does not include a mutual affray between minors. "Child abuse or neglect" does not include an injury caused by reasonable and necessary force used by a peace officer acting within the course and scope of his or her employment as a peace officer."

California Penal Code Sections 11164 through 11165.9 provide detailed definitions and reporting mandates. Statutes regarding child abuse are amended frequently. The current California law may be found at http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov. Legal definitions vary by state, other states’ guidelines may be consulted using the Child Welfare Information Gateway (https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/).

This policy addresses the safety of minors in the context of child abuse and neglect. We extend similar care and concern to adults, as well as a comprehensive consideration of community relationships and reconciliation, in a (forthcoming) document on right relationships in Pacific Yearly Meeting.
PREVENTION
Pacific Yearly Meeting takes reasonable and necessary precautions to ensure that minors 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 are also protected.

Youth Worker Screening Process
Youth workers include all employees, volunteers, and/or contractors who work with minors at Yearly Meeting events. Among these people are Friendly Responsible Adult Presences, children's program coordinator and teachers, and the Youth Programs Coordinator.

- Youth workers shall be well known to the program organizers and/or to their meetings. Youth workers must have been active members and attenders in Meetings within the Pacific Yearly Meeting community for at least six months before the event.

- Potential youth workers shall be asked in writing to disclose whether they have ever been convicted of a crime and give written permission to the Yearly Meeting to conduct a criminal background check.

- Criminal background checks and reference checks shall be conducted on all youth workers before being appointed. Those checks shall be repeated every 36 months for returning youth workers. The Clerk of the relevant committee (Junior Yearly Meeting, Children's Program, etc.) or his or her appointee will conduct the reference checks. The Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Programs Coordinator and a liaison from Ministry & Oversight will order the background checks, including for the adult members of the Children's Program and Junior Yearly Meeting Committees, but not including occasional or casual volunteers who will not be alone with or in charge of any youth.

- The Youth Programs Coordinating Committee will determine that the Youth Programs Coordinator has met the above criteria, and will obtain the criminal background check and references on any new hire. The background check shall be repeated every 36 months.

- Persons with convictions for violent offenses and/or any type of child abuse shall not serve as youth workers. Other convictions shall be considered in terms of their relevance to the duties of the youth worker position, the seriousness of the offense, the length of time that has transpired since the offense took place, and the rehabilitation efforts of the applicant.

- If an applicant is denied a youth worker position based on conviction information obtained through a background check, he or she will be informed of that fact and will be given an opportunity to appeal the decision. (see https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/background-checks-what-employers-need-know). The applicant should be given a copy of the background check and allowed to provide additional information in response.

- Reference checks and background checks are but pieces of a larger discernment process. They are not a substitute for broader discernment or outreach in the Good
Order of Friends. That is, having a “clean” criminal record does not mean that the person might not be at risk of abusing children or youth. The committee responsible for hiring/appointing should consider all the information in references and background checks as well as their personal knowledge of the candidate to determine whether this information prevents them from being able to offer the position to the candidate. Data collected from both reference and background checks shall be protected and kept confidential.

Communication
This document shall be shared with parents, guardians and sponsors, youth workers, and/or appropriate committees and clerks. It shall be posted on the Yearly Meeting website.

Orientations of minors and their parents, guardians and sponsors near the beginning of Yearly Meeting sponsored activity shall:

1) Introduce the principal staff and volunteers who will be working with the minors and to any supervisors of these persons;
2) Identify the persons that should be contacted if program participants or their parents, guardians, or sponsors have any questions or discomfort regarding the program; and
3) Describe this policy and how copies of this policy may be obtained.

Program Activities
- All minors attending Yearly Meeting-sponsored events without a parent or guardian shall have a designated adult sponsor. (A sponsor is an adult who has been given written permission by the parent or guardian to act as his or her surrogate during the event.)

- Parents, guardians, or sponsors are responsible for supervising their children except when the children are participating in formal programs supervised by youth workers. Parents, guardians, and/or sponsors will be informed in advance as to which are program times and which are parental-supervision times.

- All activities for minors shall be staffed by at least two adults. When one adult is working with a small break-out group, there shall be two or more minors in such group and the group shall be within clear view of other Yearly Meeting activities.

- Field trips or activities in a remote location shall include an extra adult allowing two to stay with the group, one to go for help, at minimum.

- One-to-one conversations and activities between adults and minors, even with fully trusted and familiar volunteers, shall not take place in areas not visible to others unless the adult is the minor’s parent, guardian or sponsor.

- Activities involving minors shall be in locations easily accessible by parents, guardians, sponsors and other concerned adults, either in outdoor areas or in rooms with windows and/or open doors.

- Exceptions:
  - Interactions between the Youth Programs Coordinator and minors that are described by the YPC personnel policy.
• In a true emergency situation (e.g., lost or injured minor) it may be necessary for a youth worker to be alone with a minor.

• Licensed health care professionals may be alone with a minor when providing services within the scope of their license.

Education and Training
Although all of us are entrusted with the care of our community, the Yearly Meeting’s youth workers are given a special trust: to help the children of Pacific Yearly Meeting safely grow in the Spirit. We are conscious that adults’ way of being with minors is as important as the content of the programs provided – children and teens follow the lead of adult Friends, and Friends teach mostly by example. For our programs to be successful and safe, those working with minors, minors, and parents, guardians, and sponsors need a common language and understanding of what makes for a safe and trusting environment.

Those working with minors shall receive education and training regarding child abuse prevention and reporting as outlined in this policy before the program begins and will be told where they can get support during the program.

RESPONDING TO SUSPICIONS OF ABUSE
Youth workers who become aware of the abuse of a minor shall report that abuse to the Youth Programs Coordinator or or to the clerk(s) of Ministry & Oversight Committee. The youth worker may learn of this abuse because of a report by a minor, a report by others, or by observation. Minor’s reports of events that occurred outside of the Yearly Meeting activity – e.g., prior to coming to Yearly Meeting – are reportable in addition to events that occur during a Yearly Meeting activity. The Youth Programs Coordinator and any other Yearly Meeting employees who have responsibilities with minors are mandated reporters; this means that they are required by law to report the abuse to public authorities, generally local law enforcement and/or county child protective services, as described in the following section titled “The Mandated Reporting Process.” Once the mandated reporter files a report of abuse, he or she shall immediately report the details of the report to the Clerk of the relevant Children’s or Junior Yearly Meeting Committee and the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Committee. By law, as described below, other youth workers or Friends who are not mandated reporters may report abuse to authorities, even if the designated mandated reporter does not. In the absence of a legally mandated reporter, the Clerk(s) of Ministry and Oversight shall function as though they were mandated reporters.

If the abuse has occurred or is occurring at the Pacific Yearly Meeting event the youth worker, the Youth Programs Coordinator and the Clerks of the Children’s Program, Junior Yearly Meeting, and Ministry and Oversight Committees shall immediately take steps to assure that the abuse does not continue. These steps will be tailored to the specific circumstances, but are likely to include requiring that the abuser leave the Yearly Meeting activity or gathering and may include barring the abuser from future Yearly Meeting activities or gatherings. Note that such steps may also be taken in response to behavior that does not require a child abuse report because it does not meet the legal definition of child abuse but which is destructive to the Yearly Meeting community.

The Mandated Reporting Process
This section summarizes child abuse reporting requirements. This is only a summary. The reporting process is described in detail in publications such as The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law: Issues and Answers for Mandated Reporters published by Rady Children’s Hospital. (mandatedreporterca.com/images/pub132.pdf). The Youth Programs Coordinator and the Clerks of the Children’s Program and Junior Yearly Meeting Committees shall have a copy of this or a similar publication, which shall be available to youth workers who have questions about reporting procedures. This summary is based on material developed and copyrighted by the National Center for Youth Law.

Who are mandated reporters at Pacific Yearly Meeting functions?

Among mandated reporters are the following [paid employees]:

- A teacher.
- An instructional aide.
- An administrator or employee of a public or private youth center, youth recreation program, or youth organization.
- An administrator or employee of a public or private organization whose duties require direct contact and supervision of children.

Teachers and Friendly Responsible Adult Presences are volunteers, and thus not mandated reporters. However, they may choose to report suspected abuse as described below. They do not need the approval of a supervisor to do so. The Youth Programs Coordinator and any other Yearly Meeting employee having responsibilities for minors are mandated reporters. The clerks of Ministry and Oversight are to serve in this capacity in the absence of a mandated reporter.

May I report child abuse even if I am not a mandated reporter?

Any person who has knowledge of or observes a child whom he or she knows or reasonably suspects has been a victim of child abuse or neglect may report the known or suspected instance of child abuse or neglect. Cal. Penal Code § 11166(g).

When is a mandated reporter required to submit an abuse report?

“A mandated reporter shall make a report . . . whenever the mandated reporter, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect.” Cal. Penal Code § 11166(a).

What if I am not sure that abuse has occurred?

Confirmation of abuse is not required. Reporters must report whenever they have “reasonable suspicion” that abuse has occurred.

“Reasonable suspicion” means “that it is objectively reasonable for a person to entertain a suspicion, based upon facts that could cause a reasonable person in a like position, drawing, when appropriate, on his or her training and experience, to suspect child abuse or neglect.” Cal. Penal Code § 11166(a)(1).

What sexual activity am I mandated to report?
Mandated reporters must report sexual abuse. California law defines sexual abuse as “sexual assault” or “sexual exploitation” as defined by California Penal Code § 11165.1, it includes rape, sexual penetration, sodomy, lewd and lascivious behavior, pornography, and some cases of consensual sexual behavior (statutory rape).

To whom should reports be made?

Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect should be made to any one of the following:
• any police department or sheriff’s department, or
• the county welfare department, often referred to as Child Welfare Services (CWS) or Child Protective Services (CPS).

California law obligates the police, CPS, and the other agencies responsible for receiving child abuse reports to accept every child abuse report made to them, even if the agency lacks jurisdiction over the case. If the agency does not have jurisdiction over a particular case, the agency is obligated to immediately refer the case to the proper authorities. The only exception to this rule is that an agency may refuse a report if the agency can immediately electronically transfer the reporter’s call to an agency with proper jurisdiction. Cal. Penal Code § 11165.9.

How do I make a report?

“A mandated reporter must make an initial report immediately or as soon as is practicably possible by telephone. The mandated reporter then must prepare and send, fax, or electronically transmit a written follow-up report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. The mandated reporter may include with the report any nonprivileged documentary evidence the mandated reporter possesses relating to the incident.” Cal. Penal Code § 11166(a).

What information must I include in my report?

Mandated reports of child abuse or neglect must include:
• the name, business address, and telephone number of the mandated reporter;
• the capacity that makes the person a mandated reporter; and
• the information that gave rise to the reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect and the source or sources of that information.

If a report is made, the following information, if known, also must be included in the report:
• the child’s name;
• the child’s address;
• present location; and
• if applicable, school, grade, and class;
• the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the child’s parents or guardians; and
• the name, address, telephone number, and other relevant personal information about the person or persons who might have abused or neglected the child.

California Penal Code § 11167(a).
Appendix:
Additional Resources

LEGAL RESOURCES AND CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING

California Law Code Search Tool
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/

Child Welfare Information Gateway – searchable by US State
https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/

Mandated Reporter Training, California Department of Social Services (for general, clergy, and others)
http://mandatedreporterca.com/


The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law: Issues and Answers for Mandated Reporters
Rady Children’s Hospital.
mandatedreporterca.com/images/pub132.pdf

CURRICULA AND INFO ON SEXUALITY AND ABUSE

Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Curriculum
http://www.uua.org/re/owl

Scarleteen: independent, grassroots sexuality and relationships education and support organization and website
http://www.scarleteen.com/about_scarleteen

‘Grooming’ Behavior:
http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/Child-Sexual-Abuse-6-Stages-of-Grooming#ixzz21JzBOD6

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Best Practice Standards: The Proper Use of Criminal Records in Hiring. May 21, 2013 Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, The Legal Action Center, and National Workrights Institute

https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/background-checks-what-employers-need-know

Attachment P: Restructuring and Rightsizing of PYM Report

Restructuring and Rightsizing the Pacific Yearly Meeting Organization
Approved at Annual Session July 2017

Background and Introduction
The following proposal was developed considering the work of the former Futures, Visioning, and Experimentation & Implementation (sub-)committees (of Ministry & Oversight), and by listening with the Pacific Yearly Meeting community over the last five years or so at Annual Sessions, meetings of Representative Committee, committee meetings, casual conversations, and other opportunities. M&O has received and incorporated feedback on this document from PYM Nominating Committee (Feb 2017) and other PYM committees (Mar-June 2017). Consideration was also given to current concerns regarding stretching the Yearly Meeting’s resources (both human and financial) beyond what is reasonably needed to maintain a healthy structure for our organization as it currently stands with around 1,300 members.

This proposal distinguishes between the year-round organization from the efforts specifically required for Annual Session and the meeting of Representative Committee (RepCom). We note that although some committees, such as the Children’s Program Committee, meet year-round, their work is focused on Annual Session. It also proposes to re-assign various tasks and responsibilities. This proposal is not intended to address concerns related to the PYM delegates and observers.

Membership changes over time:
2016: 1,292 members
2011: 1,417 members
2006: 1,518 members
1996: 1,513 members
1986: 1,507 members

Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current structure according to the NomCom Slate(^2)</th>
<th>Actual current positions occupied</th>
<th>Proposed Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officer Positions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of People (Officers)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Year-Round: 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committees</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Year-Round: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of People(^3) (Committees)</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Year-Round: 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom: 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff (Paid + Volunteer)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Year-Round: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of People Involved</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Year-Round: 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom: 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^2\) 2016-2017 Final Nominations Report. Includes Young Adult Friends Clerks and Committees. Does not include Junior Yearly Meeting teen clerks or members of the JYM teen M&O committee. Does not include PYM Delegates and Observers.

\(^3\) Does not include ex officio members, representatives from the 3 projects in Latin America, youth members of the Youth Programs Coordinating Committee.
Proposal

Pacific Yearly Meeting (year-round)

Officers
- Presiding Clerk
- Assistant to the Clerk
- Historian-Archivist
- Statistical Clerk(s)
- Treasurer
- Assistant to the Treasurer (when requested)

Staff
- Youth Programs Coordinator
- Web Coordinator

PYM Standing Committees
- Communications Committee: 5 members + Web Coordinator ex officio + Asst. to the Clerk ex officio + Youth Programs Coordinator ex officio
- Discipline Committee: 6 members + Historian-Archivist ex officio
- Finance Committee: 6 members + Treasurer(s) ex officio + Statistical Clerk(s) ex officio
- Latin American Concerns Committee: 8 members + a member is named by each of the Latin American programs: Casa De Los Amigos, El Salvador Project and Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program

Ministry & Oversight Committee: 9 members + Presiding Clerk ex officio
- Naming Committee: 3 members
- Nominating Committee: 9 members
- Peace & Social Order Committee: 5 members + SCQM PSO Clerk ex officio + relevant delegates ex officio
- Unity with Nature Committee: 6 members + QEW delegates ex officio
- Youth Programs Coordinating Committee: 6 members + 4 youth members
- Holding Corporation: 6 members + Treasurer(s) ex officio + Presiding Clerk ex officio

Annual Session / Representative Committee

Officers
- Recording Clerks
- Registrars
- Reading Clerk
- Young Adult Friends (YAF) Co-Clerks

Staff

---

4 Includes Young Adult Friends. Does not include JYM Teen Clerks or M&O Committee.
5 Staff positions are appointed by the committee relevant to their work instead of Nominating Committee, whether paid or volunteer.
6 Ex officio means that one serves as a member of the committee by virtue of another office. An ex officio member is a full member of the committee.
7 While these officers, staff, and committees may do work year-round, their organizing function is primarily for Annual Session and Representative Committee.
Children’s Program Coordinator

Committees

- Arrangements Committee
  - 6 members + Registrars
- Epistle Committee
  - 3 members (this committee is created each spring by M&O)
- Children’s Program Committee
  - 6 members + Children’s Program Coordinator (past and present) ex officio + Youth Programs Coordinator ex officio
- JYM Adult Committee
  - 8 members + Youth Programs Coordinator ex officio

Committees and Officers to be laid down

- Arrangements Clerks - folded into the new Arrangements Committee
- Secretariat Committee - tasks currently assigned will be folded into Communications Committee
- Site Committee - tasks currently assigned will be folded into Arrangements Committee
- Religious Education for Children Committee - becomes a subcommittee of Ministry & Oversight
Here’s another way to look at it:  (highlighted officer/committees are not nominated by Nominating Committee)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Officer / Committee Roster</th>
<th>Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presiding Clerk</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant to the Clerk</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangements Clerks</td>
<td>Incorporate into Arrangements Committee under Annual Session/RepCom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historian-Archivist</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Clerk</td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Clerks</td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrars</td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Clerk(s)</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant to the Treasurer (when requested)</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult Friends Co-Clerks</td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry &amp; Oversight Committee (9 members) + Presiding Clerk <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Program Committee (6 members) + current and past Children’s Program Coordinators <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom; 6 members + Children’s Program Coordinator (current and past) <em>ex officio</em> + Youth Programs Coordinator <em>ex officio</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline Committee (6 members) + Historian-Archivist <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Committee (6 members) + Treasurer(s) <em>ex officio</em> + Statistical Clerk(s) <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holding Corporation (6 members) + Treasurer <em>ex officio</em> + Presiding Clerk <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Yearly Meeting Adult Committee (9 members) + Youth Programs Coordinator <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>Annual Session/RepCom; 8 members + Youth Programs Coordinator <em>ex officio</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin American Concerns Committee (9 members) + 3 project representatives</td>
<td>8 members + a member is named by each of the Latin American programs: Casa De Los Amigos, El Salvador Project and Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace &amp; Social Order Committee (9 members) + SCQM PSO clerk <em>ex officio</em>, 1 PYM FCNL rep, 1 PYM FCL rep <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>5 members + SCQM PSO clerk <em>ex officio</em> + 1 PYM delegate for each relevant organization <em>ex officio</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education for Children Committee (9 members)</td>
<td>Becomes a subcommittee of Ministry &amp; Oversight as the Religious Education Subcommittee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat Committee (3 members) + Asst. to the Clerk <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>Folds into the Communications Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Committee (6 members) + Arrangements Clerks</td>
<td>Lay down, but tasks folded into Arrangements Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity with Nature Committee (9 members) + QEW delegates <em>ex officio</em></td>
<td>6 members + QEW delegates <em>ex officio</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Programs Coordinating Committee (6 members + 4 youth members)</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee (9 members)</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naming Committee (3 members)</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epistle Committee (3 members)</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Additions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangements Committee</td>
<td>6 members + Registrars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Committee</td>
<td>5 members + Web Coordinator <em>ex officio</em> + Asst. to the Clerk <em>ex officio</em> + Youth Programs Coordinator <em>ex officio</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes on proposed changes:
1. The work of the year-round organization is separated from the tasks that are specifically (and only) related to the Annual Session and/or the meeting of Representative Committee (RepCom) (even though many of the Annual Session/RepCom committees meet year-round) for two main reasons: 1) clarification and acknowledgment, and 2) possible financial and/or budget implications.

2. The creation of an Arrangements Committee is proposed, which would be responsible for all the logistics surrounding Annual Session, including without limitation, selection of the site, registration-related tasks, housing assignments, pre-event arrangements, and on-site arrangements, including running the information booth. This committee would have the tasks of the Site Committee, the Arrangements Clerks, and some registration-related tasks. The Arrangements Committee would work on the task of exploring potential alternate sites for the Annual Session, possibly during the fall/winter to bring proposals to RepCom.

3. Due to dwindling attendance at committee meetings and participation in committee work, it is proposed that the Peace & Social Order committee have 5 members and Unity with Nature committee have 6 members plus the same additional and ex officio members as they currently have.

4. Religious Education for Children Committee has not been active for three years and names were not brought for empty slots last year (2016-2017) because of this. It is proposed that this committee be redefined as a Religious Education Committee (not necessarily only for children) and become a subcommittee of Ministry & Oversight.

5. The creation of a Communications Committee is proposed as a standing committee of the Yearly Meeting. This committee could initially be created with the current Electronic Communications Subcommittee of Ministry & Oversight and the Secretariat Committee. As the name states, this committee would be responsible for communications within the Yearly Meeting (electronic and other) and would take on some of the related tasks currently performed by the Assistant to the Clerk (who would serve on this committee ex officio). Communications Committee would be responsible for the Yearly Meeting’s online presence, including the PYM website, social media and other presences as these are developed. It would also be responsible for the Daily Miracle and the secretariat office duties related to Annual Session.

6. Adding the Web Coordinator and Children’s Program Coordinator to the roster merely recognizes two positions that are already in place.

7. Note that M&O sub-committees are not included in this accounting of the number of positions that PYM Friends occupy.

Notes about nominations and appointments
Highlighted here are the positions that are NOT nominated by the Nominating Committee:
- All Young Adult Friend positions (clerks and any committees) as these are made by the Young Adult Friend community
- All Junior Yearly Meeting positions (clerks and Ministry & Oversight, not Junior Yearly Meeting Adult Committee) as these are made by the Junior Yearly Meeting community
- The four youth members of Youth Programs Coordinating Committee (1 year terms) are nominated by the Youth Programs Coordinating Committee, then brought forward as part of the slate the Nominating Committee prepares to be considered for approval by the body
- Youth Programs Coordinator is selected and hired by Youth Programs Coordinating Committee
- Web Coordinator is selected (and hired if being paid) by the Communications Committee
- Children’s Program Coordinator is selected and hired by the Children’s Program Committee
- Epistle Committee is nominated by Ministry and Oversight
- Holding Corporation appoints its own members
Attachment Q: Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

From: Friends World Committee for Consultation
To: Pacific Yearly Meeting

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23-24

Dear Friends in Pacific Yearly Meeting,

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office in London. We extend our best wishes for a full and gathered yearly meeting. We trust that God’s presence among you will enrich your fellowship and open your hearts. May your gathering be blessed by visitors from other yearly meetings and other parts of the world. Understanding how our Quaker brothers and sisters in different parts of the world are carrying forward their worship and witness broadens our own sense of our work at home.

Answering God’s call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends together both literally and virtually, both at the local level and at the world level. “Connecting Friends, crossing cultures, and changing lives,” we build understanding across cultures, languages, and theological diversity. We appreciate the yearly meeting’s continuing work of strengthening the Religious Society of Friends, and likewise, FWCC brings Friends together who have similar passions in order to strengthen the Quaker voice in the world.

Whether we worship in isolated or small communities or enjoy a larger yearly meeting community, we all need the wider family of Friends to nurture us. We are not alone!

Martin Luther King said in 1967, “Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.” At this time of political unrest, we need each other and we need our faith. Being a Quaker, I take heart knowing I share the broad and insistent vision for a peaceful world. Everything has changed and nothing has changed. Our shared work for peace and justice continues, from King’s lifetime til now. From the World Conference minutes in 2012: “In moments of deep sharing of joys and grief, we find love, tenderness, and mutual understanding. Friendships form, and seeds of future partnerships are planted.”

FWCC holds the accreditation for Quaker work at the United Nations, and we appoint Friends from each Section to serve on the Geneva and New York governing committees of the Quaker United Nations Office. Quakers are represented well at the UN. Seek out your own Section appointees if you want to learn more or visit the QUNO web site.

I attach the Sustainability Minute from the World Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru in January 2016, drawing your attention to the call for yearly meeting action. Please let us know what you are doing or considering across time. We will be putting contributions on the FWCC World Office web site to build momentum for the Quaker movement around sustainability.

With this greeting, I invite you to engage with FWCC through our web site and Facebook page. I invite you to give financially to FWCC through your Section. I invite you to support Robin Mohr in her work as Section Secretary of the Section of the Americas. And most importantly, I invite you to engage with other Friends who share your passion for life and love.

FWCC is revising the world map, Finding Quakers Around the World, and we are in the process of updating the book Friends Around the World. We also post all epistles we receive so that all Friends might see how God is moving amongst us. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

We hope that you will remember you are part of a larger family, very diverse, yet joined by its common heritage, testimonies, and faith. We enjoy unity within our diversity.

We thank you, Friends, for your faithful support of our work.
In loving Friendship,

Gretchen Castle
General Secretary

Attached: Sustainability Minute
Attachment R: Yearly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting Clerks Coordinating Calls Report

Over the course of the last year, the Presiding Clerks and Ministry and Counsel Clerks of Pacific Yearly Meeting, College Park Quarterly Meeting and Southern California Quarterly Meeting, the PYM Youth Programs Coordinator and the PYM Assistant to the Clerk met via conference calls three times.

We worshipped deeply together and began to discern a range of issues with which we are finding overlap. Some of these issues include:

- Fluctuating capacity of our bodies to do the work we have traditionally done,
- Difficulty filling our Nominating slates,
- Insufficient institutional memory,
- Communication challenges,
- Deficiencies in our infrastructure and
- An apparent need to try new ways of doing & prioritizing our work

Some of the questions that have emerged from our discernment include:

- Are similar structures at the MM/QM/YM level redundant, or do they serve different functions?
- How would our Society change with paid staff members assisting with outreach to the MMs and other tasks? How could MM, QM and YM bodies share more paid staff people?
- Do we prioritize the role of volunteerism in our lives?
- How do we support our MMs, MM Reps, and the relationship between MMs and QM and YMs?
- How do we enliven our practice as Quakers in this time?
- How do we figure out what we are about corporately and how would we educate ourselves about that?

There was a sense of unity among those gathered of a love for each body, and shared gratitude for the rich time we spent together in this continued discernment. Many of us have been longing for this kind of connection and coordination among these bodies for some time so to be engaged in the early stages of this has been gratifying.

Spirit moves us to continue this exploration and discernment together in the coming year, and we anticipate that Spirit may move us to bring a more substantive presentation to you next year, for example in the way of a panel discussion, fish bowl or a seasoned proposal for wider discernment or action.

Diego Navarro, Santa Cruz MM, PYM Presiding Clerk
Elaine Emily, Strawberry Creek MM, Elder Accompanying Diego
Kylin Navarro Burger, Berkeley MM, PYM Ministry & Oversight Co-Clerk
Sally Kingsland, Strawberry Creek MM, PYM Ministry & Oversight Co-Clerk
Sandy Kewman, Grass Valley MM, CPQM Presiding Clerk
Jim Anderson, Chico MM, CPQM Ministry & Oversight Clerk
Sarah Rose House-Lightner, Orange Grove MM, SCQM Presiding Clerk
Gail Thomas, Santa Monica MM, SCQM Ministry & Counsel Co-Clerk
Lawrence Alderson, Orange County MM, SCQM Ministry & Counsel Co-Clerk (outgoing)
Alyssa Nelson, Davis MM, PYM Youth Programs Coordinator
Sharon Gates, Orange Grove MM, PYM Assistant to the Clerk (March 2017 – present)
Amy Cooke, Grass Valley MM, PYM Assistant to the Clerk (through March 2017)
Attachment S: Statistical Report

Pacific Yearly Meeting Statistical Report - 2017

This report summarizes membership information within the monthly meetings of Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) for the statistical year ending May 31, 2017.

Membership this year within PYM has decreased by 26, for a total of 1,266, down from 1,292 in 2016.

There are 36 Monthly Meetings. Twenty-three meetings are in College Park Quarterly Meeting (65% of PYM's membership). Nine meetings are in Southern California Quarterly Meeting (27% of the total membership), and four meetings are not affiliated with a Quarterly Meeting (Big Island, Honolulu, Guatemala, and Mexico City are 8% of the membership).

There are 17 Worship Groups:
CPQM – 8 Worship Groups
- Sierra Foothills, under the care of Delta Meeting
- Placer County, under the care of Grass Valley Meeting
- Southern Humboldt, under the care of Humboldt Meeting
- Soledad, under the care of Live Oak Friends Meeting
- Friends House, Ukiah, and Lake County, under the care of Redwood Forest Meeting
- Oakland, under the care of Strawberry Creek Meeting

SCQM – 4 Worship Groups
- Las Vegas, under the care of Inland Valley Friends Meeting
- Conejo Valley and Whitleaf, under the care of Orange Grove Meeting
- Ojai, under the care of Santa Barbara Meeting

Unaffiliated with Quarterly Meetings – 5 Worship Groups
- Maui, Kaua`i, Windward O`ahu and Moloka`i under the care of Honolulu Meeting
- Oaxaca, under the care of Mexico City Meeting.

The largest Meetings are: Strawberry Creek (109), Palo Alto (90) and Berkeley (86). Six Meetings have 10 or fewer members. Twenty-seven Friends joined by Convincement. Twenty-one members died, the same number as last two years (a statistical anomaly), and 21 members were released or withdrew. There were 11 transfers in, and 16 transfers out, more from outside PYM than internal.

Within the past 10 years, PYM membership was at its highest, 1,462 members, in 2009. The Overall Ten-year Loss is 12.87%. This year is the lowest for this 10 year view. Total membership was down 2% for this statistical year over last year.

On page 4, we have included the names of those 21 Members whose deaths were reported to us this year, even though they may have died years earlier. This is done to keep our stats records validated.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Bean and Sherri Sisson,
Statistical Co-Clerks
Pacific Yearly Meeting 2017 Epistle

To Friends Everywhere:

Greetings from the heart of Pacific Yearly Meeting. Our clerk, Diego Navarro, introduced the theme of our 71st session, "Awakening to the Presence", by reminding us to soften and open to the Spirit. Pay attention to your body. Listen to your heart and your gut.

Sky Road Webb welcomed us to the land of his people, the Coast Miwok. Young Adult Friends spent time with Sky Road during their pre-Yearly Meeting Gathering, and joined him in leading a Miwok song. The teens in Junior Yearly Meeting went to Point Reyes Seashore with Sky Road for a service project. Throughout the week at Walker Creek Ranch, we saw deer, gray fox, raptors, and other wildlife from the plenary tent and near our worship-fellowship groups.

We cheered for Friends from meetings in California, Nevada, Hawaii, Mexico and Guatemala; visitors from other Quaker Yearly Meetings and organizations. Newcomers, and Ministry and Oversight committee, had special nametags to encourage us to approach them.

Our Ministry and Oversight committee asked us to respond to the question, "What makes me feel welcome at Annual Session?"
- Even if you don’t know me, sit with me at meals
- Connect with me as a person before raising committee business
- Ask me how I am, or how Spirit is moving in my life

Zachary Moon, an adult child of Pacific Yearly Meeting, returned to share his experience of receiving an unlikely call to become a Navy chaplain. God calls insistently, like a cat pawing us awake to be fed. This call brought more questions than instructions. What does it mean to be a good Quaker? Who am I to turn away from what God gives me?

Clarity came through a thousand little moments over years, testing questions with friends and strangers. For the past eight years, Zachary has ministered to the suffering of hundreds of marines, sailors, and their families.

We see and acknowledge those in our midst whose lives have been shaped by war and its institutions. We also question our own complicity in the seeds of war. What do we pass on to our own families? Do we still pay war taxes? Do we see our own privilege, in distancing ourselves from people who participate in wars on our behalf?

When the Spirit comes, we do not know how it will manifest. We explored examples from the writings of early Friend Isaac Penington and from the book of Acts. The apostles were given messages they themselves did not understand. When they spoke in obedience to the Holy Spirit, others did understand. We are reminded that seeds seldom resemble what they grow into. How do we nurture the Presence among us?
Ministry is a team sport. We need to make it the center of our lives. We need elders to midwife the birth of our deepest gifts.

In this Annual Session, we have used the practice of eldering, or spiritual accompaniment, to support us in staying awake to the Presence. Elders are paired with clerks and others with work or ministry to carry.

Every Meeting for Worship is grounded by Friends arriving early and deepening the silence. Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Adult Friends have held our worship with tenderness and care. In our plenary sessions, at least one Friend remains in silent worship, as spiritual accompaniment for our collective discernment. The clerk meets regularly with a support group, and has invited past Yearly Meeting clerks to open each Meeting for Worship for Business with reflections on Quaker process.

This year, open committee meetings have taken place on two different days. This allows for committee work to be visible, and for complex issues to be addressed outside of business meeting and brought back.

One issue that is still working on us is a desire for a new name for our Ministry and Oversight Committee. How can we shed the association with overseers of enslaved people, and still express the guidance and accountability we seek from this committee?

Fewer Young Adult Friends came this year, and many could only afford to do so by working in the children’s program during the day or receiving financial assistance. Young Adult Friends are exploring new ways to support each other, to be more integral to the Yearly Meeting, to include young people of different classes and situations.

How many of us reach out and listen to people of different generations, backgrounds, languages, gender identities? How many of us answer the call to connect with Friends with disabilities?

Many of us yearn for fellowship that feeds us more deeply. Some find this in worship-sharing, in affinity groups, in the dining hall, spending time with the children of the meeting, or on committees. Others wish for more free time for music, yoga, or writing. Many of us have never walked to the Turtle Pond or on the Enchanted Forest trail. Might we find time next year?

We are grateful to all the people who make the Annual Session possible. Being held in these ways facilitates our openness to awaken to the Presence. May all of us and you, our Friends, remain open and faithful to the Spirit.

Diego Navarro, Clerk
On behalf of Pacific Yearly Meeting
June 14-19, 2017
Epistle from the Preschool Children

Dear Children all over the World, Hello.
We went to the garden and also chased the sheep two times. We played with water and shaving cream. Some of us tried to eat it and it was yummy. We made new friends. We made necklaces in Meeting for Memorials. We had a good time. We want to come back next year.
Pacific Yearly Meeting Preschool Program

Epistle from the Elementary Children

To Friends everywhere:
We had a fun time at Yearly Meeting, because ...
- We went to the pond, where we swam and went boating. We raced canoes; one canoe had 3 paddles and the other canoe only 2, so it wasn’t really fair.
- We walked to the creek. We cheered for Aurora when she went up hills and across the creek in her wheelchair. The bridge was so narrow people had to hold up two wheels so she wouldn’t fall off.
- We played gaga ball, and got all dusty.
- We went to the barn dance and had a great time dancing.
- We made beady animals … in all different designs: like geckos, snakes, mice, pipefish, owls, ducky, tadpole, watermelon, a hot pepper, and Hermy the worm.
- We did coloring at Meeting for Memorials.
- We did painting on flowerpots and ceramic flowers with Peggy.
- At family night, we did an amazing performance, singing about the three things to do with your waste. And then we had ice cream.
- We saw foxes (one by the Owl cabin, another by the Big Tent), at least 2 jackrabbits and 7 deer (including fawns) by Willow, 2 turtles, a snake swimming, fish and an eel. Our class pet was a black speckled kingsnake named Speca.
- We practiced sharing what God said to each of us.

We learned:
- How to make beady animals.
- How to be nice.
- How to sit quietly and be present with God.

Goodbye until next year.

Epistle from the Middle School Children

We named ourselves ACEAJAIH⁸, for the initials of all of our names. We made a banner of letters that spells out our name.
At PYM we played gaga ball, played with our F(f)riends, went swimming, and played games ... very energetic games.
At the pond, we went in canoes and kayaks (we were old enough to paddle kayaks.)
We went to Meeting for Worship, where we felt peaceful, bored and happy.

⁸ Pronounced ACE - AJIAH
We ate breakfast and snacks ... it was good, especially when we could talk with our F(f)riends and family.
We did a picture activity in small groups where we learned how to make decisions without arguing.
We did individual art activity that wasn’t that interesting.
We played hangman ... a lot.
We lined up according to how many pets we have.
Half of us played a game while the rest worked as a team so all of us could get up in a tree. This was: interesting, co-operative, engaging, energizing, fun, and exciting.
We learned new ways to communicate because we had Aurora in our group. Everyone in the group ACEAJIAH has an exceptional talent.
We all want to come back next year.

**Epistle from Junior Yearly Meeting (teen program)**

**Beyond the Pond**

JYM is a distinctly different experience each year. This year we combined our AVP theme, power in relationships, and Respectful Relationships, which made an arc through the week. We bonded with new members of our community, both JYMers and YAFs, through games, the dance, and AVP activities like concentric circles and the affirmation activity. We went to several interest groups and learned about military recruitment in schools and other yearly meetings down under. On our service project we went to Point Reyes National Seashore, learned about the native people with Skyroad Webb, and helped clean up and build an acorn storage unit. Throughout the week we used Quaker process in our business meetings and our meeting for discernment. During free-time or down-time we went to the pond and swam and we sang and played music and ping-pong. At the beginning of the week SYM’s presiding clerk, Diego Navarro, came and talked to us about awakening to the presence around us, in our communities, and within us. We have been very privileged this annual session to be reuinted in our community here and return to Walker Creek Ranch, and we all look forward to returning next year to a new experience.

"Now thou must die in the silence" -George Fox, on sleeping in yearly meeting
"The Buckeye room holds a sacred place in our hearts. May it hold the peanuts and bread crumbs that we left upon its carpet in the light." -John Woolman
"This year we did not harvest the snake-like weeds from the turtle pond. Instead we clapped, we wheel-barrowed, and we tore down the rotting structure." - Alice Paul
"All that’s left are the peanut butter, apples, oranges, and seeds." -Margaret Fell
"Can someone please play 'Walk in the Light?'" -George Fox, JYM Dance 2017
"Thou must not write the epistle at the last minute for thy words will be garbled." -Unknown

**Young Adult Friends**

The Young Adult Friends group did not issue an epistle this year, as they did not organize separate programming at annual session, seeking to integrate more fully into the adult program. More
information about their discernment process over YAF structure for the future can be found in their report to annual session on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website.
Attachment U: Registrar’s Report

Registrar’s Report

Good afternoon, Friends!
I’m Heather Levien, one of your co-Registrars for 2017, and Rick Altherr was your second co-registrar this year. We want to thank you for being patient with the inevitable challenges we’ve faced this year and to celebrate a couple of new innovations.

This year, 287 people have attended PYM this year, with 56 being new attenders. We hope that everyone has taken the time to notice those first time attender stickers on the new PYMers name tags and paid some special attention to those people. If not, there’s still time!

We have a new online registration system this year which was piloted into existence after many months of consideration and online meetings with the Electronic Communications SubCommittee of M&O convened by Lawrence Alderson, and aided by various others. The final product, as many of you will have seen, is very easy to use and lovely to look at. There are still some bugs in the system that some of your registrations alerted us to, and we hope to have those worked out by next year. We also want to express appreciation to Brylie Oxley for all of his efforts in designing the previous system, which we appreciate so much. Representative Committee approved the proposal for people to be able to pay their fees using PayPal, and those friends who used this option (about 20% of registrants), expressed appreciation for the option.

Finally, we would like to express our great appreciation to the Berkeley Meeting members who have provided assistance to the Registrars, even though it was unclear that we would be able to pay much this year for a contract registration team, since we needed to pay for the coding of our new registration system. In particular, Joe Magruder has put in countless hours working as an unofficial Registrar, and we would like to thank him for this. He’s been doing this for years, but he’s usually the head of the Berkeley contract registration team. If we approve his nomination for Registrar, his work will finally be visible, and perhaps I can apply to lead the Berkeley contract registration team.

Thank you all again for your patience, your willingness to find alternatives and your good humor.
Attachment V: Nominating Committee Report

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

LISTING OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES
2017-2018

AS APPROVED AT FINAL PLENARY OF ANNUAL SESSION, 19TH OF SEVENTH MONTH 2017

Date to the left of officeholder’s name is the year the current appointment expires (at the end of that year’s annual session unless otherwise indicated). Each name is followed by the individual’s monthly meeting or worship group, and, in parentheses, the year of appointment. Committee clerk and delegation convener appointments are for one year. Vacant positions are indicated by an underscore next to the term-expiration year. Names in italics indicate nominations brought at the final plenary session, which are being seasoned for possible interim appointment by the Presiding Clerk and the Clerk of Nominating Committee.

PYM OFFICERS

Presiding Clerk
2018  Diego Navarro, Santa Cruz (2015)

Assistant to the Clerk
2018  Sharon Gates, Orange Grove (2017)

Arrangements Clerks
(see Arrangements Committee)

Historian-Archivist
2019  Jan Tappan, Orange Grove (2013)

Reading Clerk
2018  Judith Searle, Santa Monica (2017)

Recording Clerks
2018  Jim Anderson, Chico (2016)

Registrars
2018  Lawrence Alderson, Orange County (2017)
2019  Joe Magruder, Berkeley (2017)

Statistical Clerk
2019  Sherri Sisson, Orange County (2017)

Treasurer  (term through 9/30 of year shown)
2019  Roy Allen, Berkeley (2013)
PYM COMMITTEES

(LISTED ALPHABETICALLY, EXCEPT NAMING AND NOMINATING, FOUND LAST)

Arrangements Committee*

(6 members, 3-year terms)
*This new standing committee was created at 2017 annual session and remains to be fully staffed

2018 Sarah Tyrrell, Berkeley (2016 (Arrangements Clerk appointment))
2018 __________________
2019 Bronwen Hillman, Mexico City (2017 (Arrangements Clerk appointment))
2019 __________________
2020 __________________
2020 __________________
Ex Officio: Registrars

Children’s Program Committee

2018 Chamba Cooke, Grass Vly. (2015), co-clerk
2018 Carol Cruickshank, San Francisco (2015)
2018 Peggy Craik, ConejoVlyWG(2016), co-clerk
2019 Marcus Melander, Santa Cruz (2017)*
2020 Mary Lee, Visalia (2017)
2020 Vivian Carlson, Honolulu (2017)
Ex Officio:
2018 Nate Secrest, Lake County WG (2016) (immediate past program coordinator)
2018 __________________ (current program coordinator)
Ex Officio: Youth Programs Coordinator
*nomination presented at 2017 final plenary, being seasoned for interim appointment

Communications Committee*

(5 members, 3-year terms)
*This new standing committee was created at 2017 annual session and remains to be fully staffed

2018 __________________
2019 George Mills, Palo Alto (2016 (Secretariat Committee appointment))
2019 __________________
2020 __________________
2020 __________________
Ex Officio: Web Coordinator, Assistant to the Clerk, Youth Programs Coordinator
Web Coordinator (appointed by Communications Committee)

Discipline Committee (AKA Faith and Practice Revision Committee)
2018  Chuck Orr, La Jolla (2014)
2018  Laura Magnani, Berkeley (2016), co-clerk
2019  Patricia Portillo, Sacramento (2016)
2020  Carl Magruder, Str. Ck. (2014), co-clerk
2020  Robin Durant, Orange Grove (2015)
2020  ____________________*

*IT position created at 2017 annual session
Ex Officio: Historian-Archivist

Finance Committee
2018  Sandy Farley, Palo Alto (2015)
2018  Carolyn Stephenson, Honolulu (2017)
2019  David Barrows, San Diego (2015), clerk
2019  Deborah Marks, Strawberry Creek (2016)
2020  Emma Castanedo, La Jolla (2017)
Ex Officio: Treasurer, Statistical Clerk

Holding Corporation
2018  Peter Neumann, Santa Barbara (2015)
2018  Beth McCleary, Reno (2012)
2019  Jeff Kroeber, San Jose (2013)
2019  Stratton Jaquette, Palo Alto (2016)
2017  Jennifer Carr, Las Vegas (2014)
2017  Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Visalia (2014)
Ex Officio: Treasurer, Presiding Clerk
(Holding Corp. appoints its own officers)

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Committee
(adult committee)
2018  Erika Tarabini, Redding (2013)
2018  Muriel Strand, Sacramento (2015), clerk
2019  Dan Strickland, Orange Grove (2013)
2019  Suzanne Doss, Orange Grove (2013)
2019  Keith Runyan, Santa Cruz (2017)
2020  Sarah Armstrong Jones, Big Island (2017)
2020  Larissa Keeler, Strawberry Creek (2017)
2020  Don McCormick, Grass Valley (2017)
Ex Officio: Youth Programs Coordinator
JYM Co-Clerks
(appointed by JYM teens)
2018  Charlie Shaw, Santa Monica
2018  Ari Standish, Berkeley
2018  Elinor Steffy, Sacramento

JYM Ministry and Oversight Committee
(appointed by JYM teens)
2018  Gaby Alvarado, Sacramento, co-clerk
2018  Gracie Martínez, Visalia
2018  Rose Nadis, Santa Barbara, co-clerk
2018  Callum Standish, Berkeley

Latin American Concerns Committee
2018  Linda Rowell, Chico (2015)
2019  Laura Kohl, La Jolla (2013)
2019  Betty Guthrie, Orange County (2016)
2019  Nate Secrest, Lake County (2016)
2020  Margaret Bean, Guatemala (2013)
2020  Burton Housman, La Jolla (2015)
2020  Patricia Portillo, Sacramento (2017)
Appointed by Casa de los Amigos:
2018  Patricia Constantin (Mexico City) (2016)
Appointed by El Salvador Project:
2018  (information being obtained)
Appointed by Guatemala Scholarship Program:
2018  Donna Smith (Redwood For.) (2014), clerk

Ministry and Oversight Committee
2018  Janet Gastil, San Diego (2014)
2018  Sally Kingsland, Straw.Ck.(2015), co-clerk
2018  Kylin Navarro, Berkeley (2015), co-clerk
2019  Shayne Lightner, Santa Monica (2013)
2019  Valerie Nuttman, Santa Cruz (2016)
2019  Jim Summers, La Jolla (2016)
2020  Shan Cretin, Santa Monica (2017)
2020  Thistle West, Strawberry Creek (2017)
2020  ________________

Peace and Social Order Committee
2018  Anthony Manousos, Orange Grove (2014)
2018  Graciela Martinez, Visalia (2017)
2019  Sandra Gey, Berkeley (2013)
2019  Linda Dunn, Inland Valley (2016)
2019 Shannon Frediani, Santa Cruz (2016), clerk
2020 Stephen McNeil, Strawberry Creek (2014)
2020 David Breitzmann, San Francisco (2017)
2020 Linnea Hanson, Chico (2017)
    Ex Officio: SCQM Peace and Social Order Committee clerk, one PYM AFSC
    representative, PYM FCLCA representative, one PYM FCNL representative

Religious Education for Children Committee
(laid down; see Religious Education Subcommittee of Ministry and Oversight
Committee)

Secretariat Committee
(laid down; see Communications Committee)

Site Committee
(laid down; see Arrangements Committee)

Unity with Nature Committee
2018 Catya de Neergaard, Str. Creek (2013)
2018 Klara East, Visalia (2017)
2018 Lora Powell, Berkeley (2017)
2019 Shelley Tanenbaum, Strawberry Ck. (2013)
2019 Sharon Shen, Berkeley (2016) clerk*
2020 Andrea Beane, Santa Monica (2017)
2020 Patricia Constantino, Mexico City (2017)
*nomination presented at 2017 final plenary, being seasoned for interim appointment

Youth Programs Coordinator
    (appointed by Youth Programs Coord. Cmte.)
    - - - - Alyssa Nelson, Davis (2011)

Youth Programs Coordinating Committee
2018 Barbara Babin, Redwood Forest (2016)
2018 Gail Eastwood, So. Humboldt WG (2017)
2019 Bertha Peña, Mexico City (2016), clerk
2020 Jennifer Carr, Las Vegas (2013)
2020 Stephen Myers, Sacramento (2014)

Youth members (nominated by YPCC):
2018 Rebekah Percy, La Jolla (2015)*
2018 Julian Garrett, San Jose (2016)*
2018 Rachel Kempf, Santa Monica (2017)*
2018 __________________________
*nomination presented at 2017 final plenary, being seasoned for interim appointment
**Naming Committee** (terms through first First Day of Third Month of year shown)
2018 Bertha Peña, Mexico City (2017), convener
2018 Sue Scott, Inland Valley (2017)

**Nominating Committee**
(nominated by Naming Committee)
2018 Sue Torrey, Central Coast (2016) clerk
2018 ______________
2019 Ed Flowers, Apple Seed (2016)
2019 Ann Fuller, Santa Monica (2016)
2019 Kate Watkins, Santa Monica (2016)
2020 Peggy Craik, Conejo Valley WG (2017)
2020 Julie Harlow, Davis (2017)
2020 Rebekah Percy, La Jolla (2017)

**PYM Delegates (Representatives and Observers) to Other Organizations**

**Representatives:**

**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation**
2018 Nancy Mellor, Sacramento (2012), convener
2019 Shannon Frediani, Santa Cruz (2016)

**Friends Bulletin Corp. (Western Friend) Board of Directors**
2018 Jim Anderson, Chico (2015), convener
2020 Claire Gorfinkel, Orange Grove (2016)

**Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA)**
(appointed by Peace & Social Order Committee)
2018 Stephen Myers, Sacramento (2016)

**Friends’ Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**
2018 Anthony Manousos, Orange Grove (2016)
2019 Carolyn Levering, Santa Cruz (2016)
2019 Robert Levering, Santa Cruz (2016)
2020 Klara East, Visalia (2017)
2020 Julia Thompson, Palo Alto (2017)

Friends Peace Team Project Board of Directors
2018 Gay Howard, Central Coast (2009)
Friends World Cmte. for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas
2018  Lee Sisson, Orange County (2015)
2019  Jan Turner, Humboldt (2013)
2019  Emlyn Buskirk, Live Oak (2016), convener

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)
(appointed by Unity with Nature Committee)
2018  Catya de Neergaard, Berkeley (2014)

Wm. Penn House Natl. Consultative Cmte.
(appointed from among FCNL delegation)
2018  ________________

Observers:

Evangelical Friends Church Southwest
2019  Sandy Kewman, Grass Valley (2016)

Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee
2019  Heather Levien, Berkeley (2016)

Friends United Meeting (FUM)
2018  ________________

Reunión General de los Amigos en México
2019  Barbara Babin, Redwood Forest (2017)