Pacific Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

2016
Annual Session
Minutes and Reports

Walker Creek Ranch
Petaluma, California
June 17-22, 2016

Rev 10/31/18 7:05 PM
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Preface

This document is the formal record of Pacific Yearly Meeting’s 2016 Annual Session (PYM-AS-2016). Records of the Annual Session have traditionally been assembled into a “packet” after the conclusion of each session. The packet would then be sent (historically by paper mail, more recently by email) to Clerks (or their designees) of Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and Preparatory Meetings as well as to PYM’s officers and committee clerks.

Due to a breakdown in our processes, PYM minutes for the years 2013 through 2016 were only published as separate pages or PDF files on our website (https://pacificyearlymeeting.org). They were not collected into a single “packet” and not explicitly circulated. This document, assembled in 2018, is the packet that should have been prepared in 2016.

In 2016 the Recording Clerks were inconsistent in how attachments were handled. Some of the attachments were embedded in the minutes of the plenary in which they were referenced (each plenary’s minutes being published in a separate PDF file). These embedded attachments were numbered in Roman numerals, in a single sequence for the whole Annual Session. Other attachments were simply referenced as posts on the website, or were not referenced at all. Those that we have been able to locate are all included, ordered alphabetically, at the end of this packet.

To save space, the intermediate Nominating Committee reports (slates of nominees) are not included in this packet. They can be found on the PYM website www.pacificyearlymeeting.org. Only the final approved Nominating Report is included. The Treasurer’s Report and the Finance Committee Budget Proposal were only given as links, now broken, to files on the website. Those two reports are now included among the alphabetically arranged attachments at the end of the packet, the latter in its approved form.

This document is the product of many hours of work by many people; the authors of the reports, our Recording Clerks, the Presiding Clerk and the Secretariat Committee. This accounts for the various changes in formatting that exist throughout this document. The Clerk’s goal is to capture the spirit of the meetings. Ultimately though, the Secretariat Clerk has responsibility for the final result. So, if you find errors, please inform me.

Respectfully submitted,

George Mills, PYM Secretariat Clerk (Communications Committee)
October 31, 2018
List of Action Minutes

Pacific Yearly Meeting, Annual Session 2016

**AS Minute 2016-01**: We approve the budget for Fiscal Year 10/01/2016 - 9/30/2017, as presented and revised at this 6/20/2016 session.

**AS Minute 2016-02**: We ask our Presiding Clerk to sign the travel minute for Thistle West, sending them with our love and joy into their time of ministry among Friends in Australia.

**AS Minute 2016-03**: We ask our Clerk to endorse Jim Summers’ travel minute from La Jolla meeting in expression of our support of his travel in the ministry among Friends in the West.

**AS Minute 2016-04**: We approve Kate Watkins (Santa Monica) and Ann Fuller (Santa Monica), both for terms ending in 2018, for service on our Nominating Committee.

**AS Minute 2016-05**: We approve the names brought to us by our Nominating Committee for a second reading at this session.

**AS Minute 2016-06**: The adoption of the proposal to limit fully funded PYM representatives to AFSC, FCNL and FWCC Section of the Americas to two each means those delegations now have more appointed representatives than are fully funded, and this will remain true until the terms of certain representatives currently serving or appointed at the current session are concluded. As long as that situation lasts, each of those delegations may decide how the available funding is to be allocated, i.e., either to fully fund two representatives, or to be shared among a greater number.

**AS Minute 2016-07**: We approve in principle experimenting with a way to subsidize travel for Friends in the U.S. mainland, coming to the annual session from over 200 miles away. Details for the implementation of this subsidy will be presented to Representative Committee 2017. Priority will be given to subsidizing those using car pools and public transportation.

**AS Minute 2016-08**: We approve the final Nominating Committee slate of names brought for a second reading, as presented at our closing plenary.

[end of action minutes]
The plenary began with worship.

**Clerk’s Welcome.** Diego Navarro (Santa Cruz), Presiding Clerk, welcomed all the attendees. This Annual Session is arranged a little differently than previous ones. Diego described how this Annual Session is an experiment in several ways, noting that we as Quakers experiment together spiritually. Over the next five days he invited us to experience “not knowing” together, and find where the spirit is alive in this gathering, and when the veil is lifted.

**Walker Creek Ranch Welcome.** Patrick, Assistant Ranch Manager of Walker Creek Ranch, welcomed all. He mentioned the purpose of the Ranch, some housekeeping items and scheduling with an emphasis on conservation.

**Original people of this land.** Barbara Babin (Redwood Forest) introduced Skyroad Webb of the Coastal Miwok. Skyroad shared some words, understandings and songs of his culture and welcomed all to this place.

**Roll Call.** Amy Cooke (Grass Valley), Assistant to the Clerk, reminded us of some practices that we can use. Roll call of meetings and worship groups was completed and is attached. [Attachment I]

**Visitors.** The Presiding Clerk introduced two visitors who have been invited to help.

Scott Bell (Chena Ridge FM, Fairbanks, Alaska) is accompanying Carl Magruder in his ministry here.

Cathy Walling (Chena Ridge, Fairbanks, Alaska) is accompanying Alyssa Nelson to Australia Yearly Meeting. The Presiding Clerk read the minute of travel for her. The minute of travel is attached. [Attachment II]

Other Visitors introducing themselves were the following:

- Kiernan Colby (Guilford/Washington, DC)
- Marco Antonio Lopez (Mexico City), Director, Casa de los Amigos
- Shelley Tanenbaum (Strawberry Creek) General Secretary, Quaker Earthcare Witness
- Traci Hjelt Sullivan (Green Street Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) representing Friends General Conference
- Katherine Youngmeister (Santa Fe)
- Robert Broz (Palo Alto) visiting from El Salvador, Director of the El Salvador Project
- Jonas Bauer (Mountain View FM) Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting
- Maia Wolff-Ostrum (Agate Passage FM) North Pacific Yearly Meeting
- Brylie Christopher Oxley (Tampere Worship Group, Tampere, Finland) and PYM’s website manager
Children’s Program (CP). Nathan Secrest (Redwood Forest), Children’s Program Coordinator, offered information concerning the Children’s Program and a new evening offering, a children’s campfire program.

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM). The Co-clerks, Ministry and Oversight Committee members and adult co-clerks introduced themselves and summarized what they have been and will be doing. One request was for others to please ask before joining JYM activities.

This year the JYM Co-clerks are Rose Nadis (Santa Barbara), David Shaw (Santa Monica) and Maya Price (Berkeley). JYM Ministry and Oversight Committee members are Co-clerks Nina Shaw (Santa Monica) and Miles Pangelina (Berkeley), and member Ari Standish (Berkeley). The JYM Adult Committee Co-clerks are Steve Leeds (San Francisco) and Erika Tarabini (Redding/Chico). The JYM Adult Committee members are Kate Connell (Santa Barbara), Suzanne Doss (Orange Grove), Dan Strickland (Orange Grove), and Muriel Strand (Sacramento).

Young Adult Friends (YAF). Co-clerks J.T. Dorr-Bremme (Orange Grove) and Rebekah Percy (La Jolla and Vancouver) reported on the YAF schedule and invited others to join in.

Respectful Relationships/ Community Expectations. The YAF-led experimental exercise was rescheduled for Saturday morning.

Ministry and Oversight Committee (M&O). Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City), Clerk of M&O, and members of M&O, introduced themselves. Please make suggestions to any one of these committee members. New this year is the Information Desk, to answer any and all questions.

Arrangements. Rick Altherr (San Jose) and Laura Kohl (La Jolla), Arrangements Co-Clerks, mentioned a few points, especially the Information Desk as the place to start an inquiry.

Registrar. Sarah Tyrell (Berkeley) and Heather Levien (Berkeley) described where to register and offered a few other housekeeping notes.

Secretariat. Raph Levien (Berkeley), Clerk of Secretariat, described the “Daily Miracle” and how to publish in it, and shared other resources they have to offer.

Minutes. The minutes were read, edited and approved.

Worship. The plenary closed with worship.
Attachments

Attachment I: Roll Call
Meetings and Worship Groups

Appleseed       y (1)
Berkeley        y
Big Island      y
Central Coast   y
Chico           y
Claremont       y
Davis           y
Delta           n
    Sierra Foothills WG n
Fresno           n
Grass Valley    y
    Placer WG    n
Guatemala       y
Honolulu        y
    Kauai WG     n
    Maui WG      n
    Molokai WG   n
Humboldt        y
    Southern Humboldt WG y
Inland Valley   y
    Las Vegas WG y
La Jolla        y
Live Oak        y
    Friends of Soledad WG y
Marloma-Long Beach y
Mendocino       n
Mexico City     y
    Ojaca WG     n
Monterey Peninsula y
Napa-Sonoma     n
    Ukiah WG    n
Orange County   y
Orange Grove    y
    Conejo Valley WG y
    Whittier WG  n
Palo Alto       y
Redding         y
Redwood Forest  y
    Friends House WG y
    Lake County WG y
Reno            n
Sacramento  y
San Diego  y
San Francisco  y
Western Shore WG  y
West Marin WG  n
San Jose  y
Santa Barbara  y
Ojai WG  y
Santa Cruz  y
Santa Monica  y
Strawberry Creek  y
Oakland WG  n
Visalia  y
and
Carson City WG  n
Livermore WG  y

Note (1) y = present, n = not present

Attachment II: Travel Minute, Cathy Walling

CHENA RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

2682 Gold Hill Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

June 5, 2016

Dear Friends in Pacific Yearly Meeting and Australia Yearly Meeting:

We at Chena Ridge Friends Meeting (Alaska Friends Conference) send our love and greetings with Cathy Walling as she travels as companion in the ministry with Alyssa Nelson and Thistle West of Pacific Yearly Meeting. Cathy will first join Alyssa for her presentation for the week of Pacific Yearly Meeting Sessions, and then they will travel together with Thistle to Australia Yearly Meeting where Alyssa has been invited to share her experiences serving as Pacific Yearly Meeting Youth Program Coordinator.

Cathy has been a faithful member of Chena Ridge Meeting for 20 years, serving the meeting as co-clerk, and clerk of various committees. She has also served as clerk of the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Nurture Committee. Her gifts of eldering have been recognized within our Meeting and more widely by Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Program. She has served as an elder for several Friends over the years including traveling twice to Australia as a companion in the ministry with Elaine Emily.
For the past four years Cathy has provided spiritual accompaniment for the Way of the Spirit Contemplative Study in Community Program in the Pacific Northwest of the USA. Cathy with her husband, Scott Bell, continue to offer Couple Enrichment workshops and retreats.

She is accountable to an anchor committee within our Meeting, which aids in her discernment and provides spiritual support. In support of Cathy’s concern for our planet, Chena Ridge Friends are also individually pledging carbon offsets for her travel through reducing resource use, conservation, recycling, and re-use.

We commend her to your care as she travels and trust that she will be faithful to what God is calling her to do.

In the Light,

Charlotte Basham, clerk
Chena Ridge Friends Meeting

Approved in Meeting for Business Sixth month 5th day, 2016
Meeting for Business I

**Epistle reading.** Sue Torrey (Central Coast), Reading Clerk, read from the German Yearly Meeting Epistle 2015. The mystical spirit is in each simple experience. A lecture on “roots and wings” was offered, noting that youth are not just the future but the here and now of our community. We are to fly but to have roots, to be radical community. We must both be and become Quakers. German Friends have called upon their country to open borders to refugees and to care for their needs.

**Welcoming visitors.** Amy Cooke (Grass Valley), Assistant to the Clerk, welcomed visitors, asking them to stand and give their names. We welcomed Jim Cason from Friends Committee on National Legislation and Leonard Joy of Strawberry Creek, who is returned after an absence.

**Clerk’s opening words.** Diego Navarro (Santa Cruz), Presiding Clerk, shared words to help orient us to our time together and our work this week. We were invited to take special care to welcome newcomers, as we make the transition to being together in a different way, newly sensitive to one another and the Spirit at work in us. This transition may take time and attention; we are asked to enter this first business session with awareness of being in this transition. The agenda was adjusted to begin with the respectful relationships activity.

**Respectful Relationships.** Kylin Navarro (Berkeley) and JT Dorr-Bremme(Orange Grove) brought an activity to us to help us get to know one another. Friends shared fellowship, experience, and fun in learning of welcoming ways and of our community expectations.

Our Clerk followed the exercise with further reflections. What is the purpose of our worship in business? Rightly prepared, we enter our process without answers to the questions before us. This openness allows the Spirit to work within us, and for us to give to our community the leadings of the Spirit here present among us. He offered suggestions regarding our process: give our names and meeting before we speak, address the Clerk when called to minister, seek to hear beyond ego and personal will to the true source of ministry before we speak. Waiting will be our way and the movement to speak will come from this availability. We work in spiritual time, allowing the Spirit to move at its own pace, and following that lead and limit. In moving to approval, the Clerk will test for uneasiness while moving toward unity. Be willing to wait to be moved to speak, speak only once to an issue, trusting that truth will arise among us. Wait to be recognized: we are of one body.

**State of the Society Report.** Members of Ministry and Oversight Committee brought to us excerpts from State of the Meeting reports, grouped according to certain themes:
--What does it mean to be a community: to undertake a small and very human effort in the work of strengthening spiritual relationships, to foster the inclusion and treasuring of our children, to engage in connecting to other levels of our Quakerism.

--What is the significance of our space? The meeting house is a place of welcoming, we announce this space to others through a welcoming sign, we make a home of the place we find but may not own.

--What is our work of outreach? Sponsoring peace contests, the provision of meals for homeless folk, the distribution of needed food assistance, participation in demonstrations, working to support the undocumented ones among us, supporting refugee families, directing inherited funds to the needs of the community.

--What is our good order? To regularly investigate our process, to employ clearness committees, to attend to the responsible and patient management of our funds, to stand faithfully.

--Living the rhythms of life: embracing life stages, acknowledging declining energies in our lives and meetings, joining in retreats such as at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, being willing to let go, welcoming new members.

In summary, there are challenges before us but joy and renewal in being together. We discover the miracle in coming together in love, which is a gift from God, and receive guidance in changing times. We are called to be available, open, willing to share when called upon, to be patient and inclusive, to live the act of worship in the world. The full state of the society report is attached. [Attachment III]

**Epistle Committee.** David Lederman (Orange County) of Ministry and Oversight Committee brought us the names of three friends: Chuck Orr (La Jolla), Thistle West (Strawberry Creek), and Mary Klein (Palo Alto), named for service on the Epistle Committee.

**Naming Committee.** Sarah Rose House-Lightner (Orange Grove), Convenor of Naming Committee, brought names to us for service on our Nominating Committee: nominating for one year as Co-clerks: Nora Cook (Grass Valley) and Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), and for new appointment to the committee: Heather Levien (Berkeley) and Sue Torrey (Central Coast).

**Nominating Committee.** Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), Co-clerk of Nominating Committee, presented the first reading of a list of Friends who have agreed to serve the yearly meeting in various positions, offering some clarifying comments in introducing the list, and noting additions and corrections. These names will be heard again for consideration at a later plenary.

Our Clerk offered advice in how we approach our discussion of the next matters before us. Our discussions of money need to be filled with worship and care as our other matters are. Some initial proposals are to be brought to us and if there is not present unity we will give them further consideration in listening sessions to follow. Diego gave us information on our financial situation; recent years of deficit now present us with a need for new directions, which the following proposals represent.
**Recommendation on PYM delegates.** David Barrows (San Diego), Co-clerk of Finance Committee, brought forth a joint proposal from Finance, Nominating, and Ministry and Oversight Committees, regarding the naming of our delegates to Quaker organizations. He reminded us of the different budgets we operate by, the sources of our funds, and the spending authority that our PYM budget represents. We have reserve funds, some of which are restricted. Reserve funds are declining. The reduction in delegate appointments proposed by the joint document reflects an effort to face these declining resources, while assuming responsibility to fully fund those delegates we do appoint. This proposal represents the outcome of many years of deliberation and differing views on the best solution. The full proposal is available on the web site and in paper copies. If this proposal is approved, two additional minutes will be brought forward regarding implementation. Ministry and Oversight continues to labor with other aspects of this issue. Some questions came forward in response to the report. Friends were encouraged to attend the “committee fair” and the listening session ahead for further exploration of the proposal. The joint proposal is attached. [Attachment IV]

Our Clerk brought our session to a close, scheduling remaining agenda items for later plenaries.

Minutes were read and approved. We closed with worship.

Presiding Clerk: Diego Navarro
Recording Clerks: Jim Anderson, Leslie Zondervan-Droz

**Attachments:**

**Attachment III: State of the Society Report**

Pacific Yearly Meeting State of the Society Report

June 20/21, 2016

¢ “As we reflect on the state of our meeting in 2016, we ask ourselves, Where’s the enthusiasm? Where’s the juice?” Strawberry Creek MM

¢ Twenty-one Meetings and three worship groups sent in State of the Meeting reports, trying to distill the “juice” and the challenges of their communities. From these, we find general themes and specific examples which make up this State of the Society Report.
**Meeting Community** – Chico Friends Meeting speaks of what it is to be a community:

“Tender, generous, and often very human, we are a small but steadfast people wrestling with what it means to be Quaker. With faith that the power and the mystery of Spirit is in it, we continue to, each in our own way, show up, and when we do, we experience life of the Spirit abundantly.”

“This year we celebrated our 50th Anniversary as a monthly meeting.” Grass Valley MM

“Our Meeting has enjoyed a time of spiritual stability in which the attendance at Meeting for Worship has grown… We want to strengthen our spiritual relationships with both long-time attenders and those who have arrived more recently.” Mexico City MM

“After three quarters of an hour or so, we are joined in silence by the children of the meeting and their teachers. The shine in their eyes promises a lively sharing at the rise of meeting.” Inland Valley MM

“In January we hosted PYM’s Ministry and Oversight Committee, and our discussions with the committee emphasized the importance of our Quaker ties. We benefit from members of our meeting who are active in PYM and SCQM, experiencing the richness of the larger Quaker community.” Orange County MM

**Meeting Space** – the space we use or own creates both opportunity and challenge.

“We continue to be struck by the new openness of our Meetinghouse, symbolizing to both us and the broader community the welcome we seek to provide.” Berkeley Friends Meeting

“We approved a Minute and updated our outdoor sign which now reads: Davis Friends Meeting (Quaker), an open, welcoming, and affirming Meeting.” Davis MM
“For now, we have suspended the search [for a meetinghouse to purchase]. This has been very painful, especially for those who have worked so hard and for so long…Without a meetinghouse we are not very visible to our local community. Yet we have a welcome stream of visitors who know to look for us.” Strawberry Creek MM

“We are especially happy to continue sponsorship of the student Peace Essay Contest in the Stanislaus County Schools. We are ever heartened by the growth in participation and the depth of commitment and passion of young people. Delta MM

“We continue to express our social concerns through ongoing activities such as providing a meal and music to homeless women once a month, and supporting those who are taking Alternatives to Violence into the community and local prisons. Live Oak MM

“We help with the monthly Rice Plus Project that packs and distributes rice, beans and other necessities to farm families in the Salinas Valley and North Monterey County.” Monterrey Peninsula MM

“Our presence is noted in public events, including demonstrations in support of climate action, the Black Lives Matter movement, and immigration concerns. Two of our members attended the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP) 21 in Paris, one as General Secretary for Quaker Earthcare Witness.” Strawberry Creek MM
“We support the Dougla-Prieta project in Arizona and Mexico, the undocumented student scholarship fund, African student scholarship funds, the East Bay Sanctuary movement, Prisoners packages work, Citizens Climate Lobby and the Interfaith Jewish Voices for Peace.” Sacramento MM

“In response to immigration and refugee crises, members of our meeting have taken in 3 immigrant families and a new committee was formed to offer financial advocacy and support.” La Jolla MM

“When one of our long standing members passed away, his estate was bequeathed to us. We set aside part as an Endowment, a portion was used to complete our new meeting home the rest funded Grants totaling $174,000.” San Diego MM

“Acknowledging the many efforts of individual Friends in the world, nominations to our Peace and Social Order Committee were suspended pending clarification of this committee’s relationship to the concerns of Friends. Consideration of this action is ongoing.” La Jolla MM

**Good Order** requires us to examine not just what we do, but how and why.

“…the Clerk discerned three desirable efforts for the community: To continue the sharing and examination process that has invigorated Meeting for Business; to structure our community so that we are better able to welcome newcomers; and to be more transparent and efficient. We feel both the pressure of uncertain plans for the next year, yet also joy in our new direction.” Palo Alto MM

“Our meeting has grappled with differences of opinions and with individual life challenges, through the vehicle of clearness committees. This is a profound process that helps to center us in love when facing challenges. Santa Barbara MM
“Getting enough money to meet our budget continues to be a challenge, and we are also challenged by the search for members and attenders to take on a position or serve on a committee, or to help carry out a program. Yet we are committed and care and know there is a way through this if we are willing to be open, patient to wait for this response, and ready to act on it when it comes.” Grass Valley MM

“Quaker history shows us that it is often through struggle that we receive our spiritual gifts. We struggle with how people react to what others say and with achieving a common understanding of committee work versus meeting work and how to make decisions.” Chico Friends Meeting

[Rhythms Of Life] – While the familiar problem of aging seems to be consistent throughout, there is a sense of renewal and vibrancy, with a number of meetings and worship groups growing and delighting in newcomers, new members and new families. And it’s clear the work of Bob and Kathy Runyon and Quaker Center has positively impacted and helped nourish many meetings through our Yearly Meeting.

“Many of us are using our Meeting’s Ben Lomond Quaker Center [annual] pass which helps our Meeting grow spiritually.” Sacramento MM

“Marloma Long Beach Meeting consists of six senior citizens of increasing age and diminishing energy. Once a very active meeting, we no longer do social service projects as a Meeting, although individuals take part in a variety of activities. What of our spiritual development? One member described our Meeting as “a place where we go to regenerate our spiritual batteries once a week.” Marloma Long Beach MM

[We held] a meeting-wide retreat, “From Strength to Strength: Visions for the Future of the Claremont Monthly Meeting.” Out of the retreat emerged a sense that we might do well to embrace, rather than lament, our smallness: genuinely prophetic communities are perhaps likely to be small.” Claremont MM
“...because there are fewer of us, many standing Meeting committees are small and we rely on individuals to do work that was once done by committee. The answer may lie in simplifying our process and letting go of traditions which no longer serve us.” Orange Grove MM

“Though our spirit remains strong, we are less able to summon physical ability to accomplish all we wish to do. At the same time, Friends are learning to accept the limits of aging, and are searching for new and creative ways to be of service.” Delta MM

“The Query “How is truth served in our Meeting?” also applies to recognizing our own limitations. Some in our Meeting have learned this through disabilities or illnesses. For others it is a matter of following new leadings and finding new ways to be of service. Davis MM

” …older, more seasoned Friends, and Friends ways, [are] giving over to inspired, service-oriented outreach. Meeting community inreach is giving way to larger engagement in service to others in the greater community outside our doors.” San Francisco MM

“We have felt a flowing energy from the Divine to welcome new visitors, attenders and members of our community, floating in and out, a life of constant change. We happily welcome four new members this year. We are thankful for the vitality and energy felt by many in our community.” Santa Monica MM

“The Worship Group at Soledad State Prison (CTF) remains under our care. Currently there are 7 to 8 Live Oak Friends who’ve worshipped and participated in worship sharing discussions, with 7 to 10 inmates, twice monthly. Live Oak MM

“We are continuing to grow as a spiritual community in faith and in numbers.” Conejo Valley WG

“The small size of our worship group continues to be a challenge and a blessing. We don’t have the problems, nor do we have the possibilities.” Ojai WG
“We are a small group, but we have shown concern on peace and social justice issues at a time when the world is full of violence and grave injustices. We are thankful for our time together.” Whitleaf WG

*Summary* — Many meetings speak of their challenges, but also their sense of joy and renewal together.

“Of the little miracles in life, one of those is how we have come together to form a larger community. We have made a family together, a safe place to grow our relationships. An adult who grew up within our Meeting said he remembered Meeting fondly as “a place where he was loved.” Orange County MM

“Chico Friends Meeting life is not smooth, but it is full of joy and of meaningful relationships with each other, the wider world, and the Spirit of God. Chico Friends Meeting

“When Spirit moves in Meeting, it is amazing and glorious, a gift from God. It is in those moments we feel how easy it is to become as God wishes us to be. We trust that Spirit will guide us forward.” Orange Grove MM

“Reflecting on this year, we find strength in the richness of our memories, strength in the power of our hopes. Above all, we seek strength in our togetherness.” Claremont MM

“We…seek to remain open to the will of the spirit and affirm that all creation has worth and dignity.” La Jolla MM

“We recognize the need to remember that we are a living tradition. The world and the Meeting are always changing. We seek the guidance of Spirit in knowing our truth and moving ahead in response to change. We strive to treat each other tenderly and, as we seek the truth and act upon it, we work to touch that of God in each of us.” Strawberry Creek MM
We close our State of the Society Report with a quote from Grass Valley MM:

“…our practice is gathering together in silence, to be available, to be open, to be willing to share when the spirit prods or encourages us, to be patient, to be open and inclusive of others’ viewpoints, and to experience this process as our act of worship, our way of being in the world.

Submitted by the Ministry and Oversight Committee of PYM

Attachment IV: Joint Proposal of Ministry & Oversight, Nominating, and Finance Committees

Recommendations and Proposal from Ministry & Oversight, Nominating and Finance Committees

Current Situation: Last year (FY 2014-2015) in the general account PYM spent $20,400 more than we received. Most income for the general account comes from per-member assessments to monthly meetings in the yearly meeting. There are limits to the amount of funds that can be raised from monthly meetings since their contributions are voluntary. (Assessments of monthly meeting approximately doubled when the yearly meeting hired the Youth Program Supervisor.) Most Meetings supported the hiring, but some still report struggles with their budgets.

For Pacific Yearly Meeting, the budget is a spending authority. The treasurer is authorized to spend up to the limit of the budget. When spending exceeds the budget, approval must be obtained for further spending (i.e., budget augmentation). If at the end of the fiscal year, fewer funds were spent than budgeted, the remainder goes into reserves. When more is spent than budgeted, the difference is drawn from reserves. Obviously, if PYM continued to budget less than actual expenses our reserves would be depleted.

PYM has a variety of reserve accounts; most are restricted for a specific purposed. The unrestricted reserves, from which budget shortfalls would be drawn had been relatively stable in recent years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reserves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$55,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$80,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$81,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$83,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$81,216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This year, in the face of fiscal austerity, three committees (Ministry and Oversight, Nominating, and Finance) are proposing that the funding for delegates be limited to two per organization (other than the Friends Bulletin Corp. (*Western Friend*) Board of Directors, which would continue to send three).

**Background:** Pacific Yearly Meeting presently names (and, with the exception of FCLCa, fully funds travel for) representatives, delegates, and observers to other Quaker organizations:

- four or five representatives to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation;
- one observer to Evangelical Friends Church Southwest;
- three board members to the Friends Bulletin Corp. Board of Directors;
- one representative to Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCa);
- six representatives to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL);
- one observer to the Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee;
- one member to the Friends Peace Team Board of Directors;
For a considerable time, Pacific Yearly Meeting has pondered these representatives, delegates and observers. How many should be named? In some cases the receiving organizations suggested the number (based on the size of our yearly meeting). Did that mean that we were obligated to send this number? Could we send more? Or less? This issue was considered by PYM's M&O committee without resolution.

A further complication was that prior to 2008, the budget supporting travel to meetings did not fully support travel for the number of delegates named. Both the Nominating Committee and Finance Committee had misgivings about naming delegates and expecting some of them to pay their own expenses. (Some Friends are affluent and can and do pay their own expenses; however, if we are expecting representatives to pay their own expense less affluent Friends would not be able to serve.)

At the Representative Committee Meeting in 2008, a minute was passed to fully fund travel of all representatives, delegates, and liaisons. This necessarily increased the budget of yearly meeting, but not as much as might have been expected because some Friends did not charge Yearly Meeting for their expenses and in most years not all of the named delegates actually attended their meetings.

**Minute:** In order to reduce budgeted expenses, Ministry & Oversight, Nominating, and Finance Committees specifically recommends:

- two representatives be funded for travel to the AFSC Corporation
- one observer be funded for travel to Evangelical Friends Church Southwest
- three board members be funded for travel to the Friends Bulletin Board of Directors
- two representatives be funded for travel to the FCNL meeting
- one observer be funded for travel to FGC Central Committee meeting
- one board member be funded for travel for Friends Peace Team Project Board of Directors
- one observer be funded for travel to FUM meeting
- two representatives be funded for travel for FWCC Section of the Americas meetings
- two representatives be funded for travel to Quaker Earthcare Witness
- one observer be funded for travel to Reunion General de los Amigos en Mexico
- one representative for the William Penn House National Consultative Committee; this representative also attends the FCNL meeting and has no additional expense for the William Penn meeting.

If this minute is approved two more minutes will be introduced for implementation. The first will cover how to distribute the reduced budget funding among the existing
representatives, delegates and observers. The second will offer a revised configuration for the slate of representatives, delegates, and observers.

Ministry & Oversight Committee supports this proposal as a short-term measure to address some of the fiscal concerns before Yearly Meeting. Meanwhile Ministry & Oversight Committee is laboring with a broader spectrum of issues and is not yet able to bring related recommendations to the Yearly Meeting for consideration. These issues will focus on how we as a spiritual body should relate to, support and sustain other Friends' organizations.

Survey: Finance Committee developed a survey questionnaire to be completed by members of Yearly Meeting. Less than one-quarter of members of PYM responded (215 valid responses). Of responses received, 12% were from Southern California Quarterly Meeting with 347 members and 27% of total PYM membership and 78% were from College Park Quarterly Meeting with 835 members and 65% of PYM membership. The survey responses provide some information but we should proceed cautiously because the number who did not respond is greater than the number of those who did. We have no way of knowing if those who responded are representative of all.

Some findings:

§ 60% of respondent (129 of 215) supported PYM sending representatives to Quaker organizations
  • 10% were opposed
  • 30% did not answer

§ 41% of respondents give some priority for PYM paying travel for representatives
  • 22% gave high priority
  • 21% gave low or no priority
  • 16% gave no answer

§ Although respondents were supportive of sending representatives, written reports were not regularly read:
  • 8% frequently read
  • 36% rarely read
  • 51% never read
  • 4% gave no answer

§ 57% of respondents supported PYM providing subsidy for attendees traveling over 200 mile to attend the Annual Gathering
  • 9% reported such policy would help them attend
  • 8% were opposed
  • 26% gave no answer

§ Yearly Meeting presently makes annual contributions to certain Quaker organizations; there was mixed support for this practice from respondents:
  • 35% supported
  • 32% were opposed
  • 33% did not answer
Priority for budget allocations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>HIGH OR VERY HIGH</th>
<th>SOME</th>
<th>LOW</th>
<th>NONE</th>
<th>NO ANSWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Programs</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance to Attend Annual Sessions and Rep Com</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee expenses</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations to Quaker Organizations</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference travel for Reps</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Keynote Plenary

Diego Navarro, Presiding Clerk, welcomed all to the keynote plenary and introduced the two speakers and their two elders, who have been accompanying them and helping them in deepening and connecting with their ministry. He noted also their anchor and accountability committees sitting with them on the facing bench.

**Darcy Stanley** (San Francisco) shared an experience in a jail working with a group and how the group was able to come to holding some others in the light responding to a trauma.

Then she shared how she came to be in that group through doula work and the Birth Justice Project, which provides doulas in 2 different jails and other support to women.

What then happened? She knew she needed an anchor committee, and knew right away who the four people should be. The anchor committee and Darcy have met monthly for about 5 years.

These experiences showed her the conditions for lifting the veil. It can be sudden, and is hard work, and needs the support of others.

Several conditions have fostered her in doing this work. One was being raised in a Quaker family and in a Quaker meeting. She learned to listen and be listened to. In JYM and PYM Annual Session she learned to worship deeply. Friends told her that she was a minister before she even knew anything about that. They reflected to her observations about her changing.

The road was hard, dealing with anger was a challenge, and softening into the work has been happening.

The Friends helped her move into and stay with the work and the leadings.

She ended with the query: What conditions are needed to raise up new leadings in any of us?

**Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek)**

Carl shared the words of Isaac Penington set to music.
He then described how Quakerism saved him, starting when he was put into foster care at three months old. After several placements a Quaker couple in 1969 adopted a brown baby, an action almost unknown at that time. Looking back at his experience being raised in Quakerism he realized that we are the Sufis of Christianity. He experienced the beloved community, the unconditional positive value for who he was. He was celebrated, loved and loved enough to be corrected. Out of that he had that foundation of radical acceptance.

Carl continued with sharing how in his twenties he began to live according to his own will, which did not go well. In final despair he asked for help. The response was to fall into the gospel of the earth and, with the aid of an elder to hold the way open, he was able to bring up a greater piece of the Gospel.

Through a fallow time Carl wandered, ending up at Pendle Hill, then onto the National Council of Churches in Washington, D.C., and then, following a 7 year leading, to seminary. In the first year he understood Fox’s struggle with the professional churchmen. And then in a final class a professor named an ability in him. Through working in a hospital he began to discover an opening to work from the heart. The revelation was that for some people at dying time there is a sweetness that arises, a lifting of the veil of self-absorption and mundane concerns. As the dying physically decline they may spiritually grow and expand, looking toward the final unity.

Because of Quakerism’s lack of dogma, it is the smallest, lightest carrier of religious experience, making us attractive to rationalists and activists. But the core of Quakerism is the heart experience leading to action.

Carl asked us: are we willing to be transformed, to be corrected, to explore discipline? Can we still carry that language in our community?
Meeting for Business I.5

The meeting began with worship.

**Joint Proposal.** The Presiding Clerk, Diego Navarro, described the background and reason for the Joint Proposal from the Finance, Ministry and Oversight, and Nominating Committees, which is attached. He also encouraged us to listen to the spirit and show consideration for the work of these committees and Quaker process.

Diego then described the points where the budget had been exceeded and why, including augmentations and travel. In preparation for development of the proposals, a survey was done, the results of which were used as guides for understanding the sense of the PYM body. Another survey will be done in the fall. The survey showed of the 224 respondents:

- 60 never have attended an Annual Session
- 80 have come to Annual Session 1 to 4 times
- The percent of survey respondents indicating a Very High or High priority for budget expense categories:
  - 76% Youth Programs
  - 48% General and Administrative Expenses
  - 47% Assistance to Attend Annual Sessions & Representative Committee
  - 33% Committee Expenses
  - 21% Conference Travel for PYM Delegates to other organizations
  - 12% Donations to Quaker Organizations

Laura Magnani (San Francisco), Co-clerk of Finance Committee, speaking for the Finance, Nominating and M&O Committees, and for the Treasurer, described the background to and some details of the Joint Proposal.

In addition, Laura presented recommendations from the Finance Committee to help the Yearly Meeting address its budget deficit and develop sustainable finances.

In summary the Finance Committee recommendations include raising the assessment to $109, increasing the Annual Session fees and changing the travel policy. Regarding the raise in assessment, those who more directly benefit from Youth Program Coordinator are assessed more than those who do not.

The Presiding Clerk advised that these recommendations will be seasoned until our Meeting for Business II on Monday. [Joint Proposal appears at Attachment IV, plenary I]
Plenary then ended and two listening sessions followed, to review the Joint Recommendation from the Finance, Ministry and Oversight, and Nominating Committees.

**Listening Session. 11:30 a.m.**

Shayne Lightner (Santa Monica), member of M&O Committee, facilitated the listening session. Suggestions and ideas offered were written by scribes on pads of paper that were taken by Finance, M&O Committee members and the Treasurer to be used in further development of the proposal.

**Listening Session. Evening, 8:30 – 10:00 pm.**

Shayne Lightner (Santa Monica), member of M&O Committee, facilitated the evening session also. The Finance Committee, M&O Committee, and Treasurer provided an edited proposal. Further suggestions and ideas were taken down by scribes.
Meeting for Memorials

Members of our Ministry and Oversight Committee led us in our Meeting for Memorials. Friends Sarah Armstrong-Jones [Big Island], Joyce Tarlan-Cahn [Apple Seed], Natasha Herrera-Hillman [Mexico City], JoAnn Taylor [Santa Monica], and Chamba Cooke, [Grass Valley] read the names of 28 deceased Friends. Each group of names was introduced with a brief reading and followed by shared words rising out of worship.

I.
We bereaved are not alone, we belong to the largest company in all the world—the company of those who have known suffering. When it seems that our sorrow is too great to be borne, let us think of the great family of the heavy-hearted into which our grief has given us entrance, and inevitably, we will feel about us their arms, their sympathy, their understanding. Believe, when you are most unhappy, that there is something for you to do in the world. So long as you can sweeten another’s pain, life is not in vain.

   Helen Keller

   Pat Brown  Orange County
   Ruth Dafoe  Fresno
   Harold Field  Honolulu
   Carmen Broz  Palo Alto
   Anne Davenport  Claremont
   Frederic Forste  Strawberry Creek

II.
Their work is done, their joys accomplished,
But the sharing of their lives continues in the memories of others.

   Walt Jones

   Lea Gertrude Fredericks Frey  San Jose
   Dorothy Hansen  Apple Seed
   Onnie Harrison  Orange County
   Tynan Sherman Graham  Central Coast
   Helen Horton  Redwood Forest
III.
From the Eternal Goodness

I long for household voices gone,
For vanished smiles I long,
But God hath led my dear ones on,
And he can do no wrong.

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak
To bear an untried pain,
The bruised-ed reed He will not break,
But strengthen and sustain.

No offering of my own I have,
Nor works my faith to prove;
I can but give the gifts He gave,
And plead His love for love.

And so beside the Silent Sea
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm from Him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

John Greenleaf Whittier

John Janda  Orange County
Joseph Leonard  Davis
Jo Lillis  Chico
Bob Jolly  Berkeley
Ralph Lewis  Berkeley
Jim Mangis  Santa Barbara
IV.
Birth is a Beginning

Birth is a beginning,
And death a destination.
But life is a journey:
A going—a growing
From stage to stage.
From childhood to maturity
And youth to age;
From innocence to awareness
And ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to discretion
And then, perhaps to wisdom;
From weakness to strength
Or strength to weakness—
And often, back again;
From health to sickness
And back, we pray, to health again
From offense to forgiveness
From loneliness to love,
From joy to gratitude,
From pain to compassion,
And grief to understanding—
From fear to faith;
From defeat to defeat to defeat—
Until, looking backward or ahead,
We see that victory lies
Not at some high place along the way,
But in having made the journey,
Stage by stage,
A sacred pilgrimage.
Birth is a beginning
And death a destination.
And life is a journey,
A sacred pilgrimage—
To life everlasting

Rabbi Alvin I. Fine

Jeannie Moburg  Santa Barbara
Peg Rein  Grass Valley
Debbie Schwartz  Sacramento
Hanneliesel Reeves  Mendicino
James Sakauye  Sacramento
V.
I share with you the agony of your grief,
The anguish of your heart finds echo in my own.
I know I cannot enter all you feel
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain;
I can but offer what my love does give;
The strength of caring,
The warmth of one who seeks to understand
The silent storm-swept barrenness of so great a loss.
This I do in quiet ways,
That on your lonely path
You may not walk alone.

Howard Thurman

John Shefelbine  Sacramento
Jane Stallings  Davis
Karen Thomas  La Jolla
Thomas Carleton Snell  Santa Cruz
Otto Steinhardt  Redwood Forest
Maria Elena Vidana  La Jolla
Meeting for Business II

Plenary began with some moments of worship.

**Epistle Reading.** The epistle from the 355th Annual Session of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, August 2015, was read by Sue Torrey (Central Coast).

**Visitors.** Gail Thomas (Baltimore Yearly Meeting) has moved to Southern California and is now attending Santa Monica meeting. She is active in the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative.

**Clerk’s Notes.** The Presiding Clerk, Diego Navarro, described the agenda and changes for this plenary. We are learning to work together, learning to approach the work worshipfully, and learning not to outrun our guide. He shared a prayer he uses to help himself, “Dear God, Use me in the way that I should be used.” He advised us: if we feel moved, please do listen and act. We were encouraged to “Speak When Spoken Through.” He suggested we remember to avoid confusing the ministry with the minister. When hearing a meaningful ministry we might say “Thee was well favored” or “Thee was well used.”

**Minute of Travel.** A minute of travel for Scott Bell, who has been accompanying and eldering for Carl Magruder, was read. The minute is attached. [Attachment V]

**Nominating Committee.** Nora Cooke (Grass Valley) and Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), Co-clerks of Nominating Committee, presented additions to the original nominating slate as presented at the first plenary. The names brought to the first plenary were approved on this second reading, and the additional names received a first reading, to be heard again at a later plenary. [Attachment VI]

**Naming Committee.** Sarah Rose House-Lightner (Santa Monica), Convenor of Naming Committee, listed the newly nominated and continuing Nominating Committee members. We heard for a second time the nominations for one year as Co-clerks: Nora Cook (Grass Valley) and Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), and for new appointment to the committee: Heather Levien (Berkeley) and Sue Torrey (Central Coast). These names were approved.

Providing context for the budget discussion the Presiding Clerk mentioned that our membership has declined by hundreds of Friends in the last ten years. We will either adapt to the new size structurally or attempt to expand membership.

**Treasurer’s report.** Roy Allen (Berkeley), Treasurer, presented the report. The Treasurer described how to request travel reimbursement, whether within California and Nevada or beyond.

The Treasurer explained the budget and expenses by category, giving special attention to lines that may be confusing. The report is attached. [Attachment VII]
Finance Committee. Laura Magnani (Strawberry Creek), Co-clerk of Finance Committee, described the proposed budget for the coming year, noting the changes presented and discussed in previous meetings for business and listening sessions.

Three significant changes are included in the recommendations: increasing the assessment, changes in the travel policy, and reductions in contributions to organizations.

The Presiding Clerk reminded us that we are in the learning process and encouraged us to thoughtfully consider what we need to contribute to the recommendations.

The proposed budget was approved as presented, with two exceptions: updating of the details within the Youth Programs budget section resulting in a net increase of $48, and the change to $1500 for FWCC travel. The approved budget is attached. [Attachment VIII]

AS Minute 2016-01: We approve the budget for Fiscal Year 10/01/2016 - 9/30/2017, as presented and revised at this 6/20/2016 session.

An augmentation of $500 was requested by the Discipline Committee but not considered at this time.

A recommendation from the Finance Committee was distributed. It proposes a subsidy for those traveling more than 200 miles to Annual Session if they carpool or use public transportation. The increased expense for this subsidy would be covered by an $11 increase in total assessment and a $5 increase in Annual Session fees.

The decision was made to hold this over for further consideration until next session. All with concerns were encouraged to speak with the Treasurer or Finance Committee members in the meantime to help adjust the recommendations to suit the sense of the meeting.

The plenary ended with worship.

Attachments

Attachment V: Travel Minute for Scott Bell

Chena Ridge Friends Meeting

2682 Gold Hill Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

June 9, 2016
Dear Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting:

Scott Bell, a longtime member of our meeting, will be attending your Annual Session this year, serving as an eldering presence as Carl Magruder delivers a message to the body.

Scott has served as our meeting clerk, and has clerked and served on Ministry and Counsel and many other committees over the years. He and his wife, Cathy Walling, were married under the care of the Meeting. Together they serve as Couple Enrichment leaders and tend an ongoing Couple Enrichment group in our Meeting.

We have been enriched by his quiet, grounded presence in our Meetings for Worship, and his gift has been recognized and requested by workshop leaders in our Yearly Meeting and at Friends General Conference. We trust he will be faithful in supporting Carl’s ministry, and we commend him to your care.

In the light,

Charlotte Basham, Clerk
Chena Ridge Friends Meeting

Attachment VI: Nominating report to Business Plenary II

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Nominating Committee

Report and Updated Proposed Slate of Officers, Committees and Delegates
20 Sixth Month 2016 (Business Plenary II)

In the interest of saving paper, the rest of this intermediate report is omitted from the Minutes Packet. It can be found electronically on the pacificyearlymeeting.org website. The final Nominating Committee report is attached in full.
Attachment VII: Treasurers’s Report

Attached elsewhere in this Minutes Packet.

Attachment VIII: General Account Budget for Fiscal Year 10/01/2016 - 9/30/2017

Attached elsewhere in this Minutes Packet.
Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro introduced our plenary for listening as an opportunity to share and to hear how the Spirit is coming alive for us. What is the Spirit helping us to live into? What is trying to be brought forth in this annual session?

Two queries were presented to us:

How have you experienced the Spirit come alive this Annual Session?
What is the Spirit trying to help us live into?

We began with a period of worship, opened with a song. In pairs and then groups of increasing size, we responded to these queries, then gathering again as a single group to share in the large.

- The Spirit is trying to help us live “into”: not only to go deep but in the depth to work with the hard stuff. The unconscious prejudices in us older adults include a prejudice about young people, a sense that they are lesser. Look at yourself in your occasions with young people, inside and out, for evidence of this.
- Doesn’t being tender with one another include a tenderness for the long and patient work of our committees? Do we see them working with the Spirit? Can we feel this as we hear their recommendations? Why do we not show more tenderness? Can we try to do that?
- How might we mean the message “I see you?” YAF’s learning they were to host worship were reluctant at first to sit on the facing bench. Then they all said to each other “I see you, I value you, we value you, we want you to hold our worship.” We may not be perfect at what we do, but we share our good. We are good at seeing each other regardless of age. I see Spirit alive and working through you.
- We are made in the image of God. The bedrock is freedom. Yet we lose track, we forget that we are called to know what is in each other’s heart. I am interested in the unshakeable foundation; I hope we are moving in that direction.
- Are there gifts unseen? How many among us carry these and are not supported? Do we struggle with personality differences that obscure access to these? If you give first to what is inside you, it will save you. If you do not give first to what is inside you, it will destroy you.
- The courage and passion and intellect of those who have shaped this yearly meeting have moved me. We face difficult issues and differences, but there are those with the will and love to engage these. Like a parent, these guiding Friends support us in our growth.
- Silence has taught me. Being with other Friends has taught me. We help and push each other to become better, and the world needs this. Our county burned up
last year; how will we face such things together in the future? We show impatience with one another, but we have great gifts. We need these to survive, this ability to live in community.

■ I have seen how to bear my own pain and the pain of others. The cup is both half empty and half full.

■ Spirit is leading us into life, to vitality. The intergenerational activities and time/space to breathe created energy. Tragedy also helps bring a community together—into a deep sense of rawness in living. This, Spirit is helping us lean into.

■ Different answers may also be the same answer: Spirit gives each of us the nourishment we need, in the different ways we need it.

■ Spirit comes back upon us, creating the conditions for Spirit to minister. We help create the openings for Spirit to enter.

We closed with shaking of hands, and announcements.
Epistle. Reading Clerk Sue Torrey read from Illinois Yearly Meeting Epistle 2015, their 141st gathering, taking place on a Midwest plain. Children finding fallen eggs and desiring to restore them to nests, offer the image of “remudding” our monthly meetings, recalling them to health and renewal. The Meeting is considering creating a youth ministry position, called to this need in part in response to the widespread prejudice and conflict in the surrounding world and the need for acceptance of diversity. God’s love yet is with us and will triumph; using Francis Howgill’s words--the kingdom of heaven did gather us and catch us all, as in a net —the community voiced its yearning.

Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro introduced our plenary for discernment. Our theme of lifting the veil is exercised in various sessions as we explore how the Spirit is moving us and alive for us. Yesterday’s listening session did not give rise to any critical issues that are among us; perhaps we learn from this that Spirit is moving in other ways among us now. We will continue this experiment in next year’s annual session, learning from what we have experienced this year.

What is the lifting of the veil? Why might we resist it? Coming here to a different world of community we find the joy of old Friends, but also the challenge of new awareness and inner movement. We need to learn to be open to this, though it may be hard. Among us there are those with mental illness and tender lives; be kind and gentle with one another even as we seek the veil to be lifted.

Diego reviewed the agenda for the session.

Travel minutes. We have emissaries or missionaries sent from our community to others as we participate in the larger community of Friends. Diego read a travel minute for our member Thistle West addressed to Australia Yearly Meeting. We approved this minute with a minor change in the traveling minute text. The minute is attached. [Attachment IX] [We note that Thistle West desires to use the pronouns they, them, and their]:

AS Minute 2016-02
We ask our Presiding Clerk to sign the travel minute for Thistle West, sending them with our love and joy into their time of ministry among Friends in Australia.

Diego read as well a travel minute approved at Representative Committee 2016, for Alyssa Nelson, our Youth Programs Coordinator, who is invited by Australia Yearly Meeting to travel among them in ministry. [Attachment X]

Nominating Committee. Co-clerks Stephen Matchett and Nora Cooke brought some corrections to their report of nominations, and additional names for our consideration. These new names will be brought for a second reading at a later plenary.

Friends World Committee for Consultation report. Representatives to FWCC Anthony Manousos (Orange Grove), Jan Turner (Humboldt), Hulda Muaka (Palo Alto), and gathering attender Sharon Shen (Berkeley), reported to us on their attendance at a World Representatives Gathering in Pisac, Peru in January 2016. This event gave witness to the work of FWCC in bringing Friends from all over the world into connection and community. The experience of transformation was powerful for many attending the meeting, as the gathering invited Friends to learn of one another’s differing ways of worship and faith. It
was energized by the activity of youth, as young Friends attending sensed their role not only as leaders of tomorrow, but of today. Stories of violence and suffering revealed occasions of powerful witness to peace and courage. Friends learned to listen to one another beyond their differences in practice and theology. One Friend who struggled with poverty asked “Why do people who have plenty let other people starve?”

The issues of global inequity were powerfully and personally present there. A minute from the gathering asks all Friends to take two concrete actions to address environmental issues. In these and other ways, the gathering called on us all to live our faith. The report is attached. [Attachment XI]

**Latin American Concerns Committee.** Donna Smith (Redwood Forest), Co-clerk of LAC, reminded us of our consideration last year of the problem of child refugees. We formed a subcommittee at that time to help us address this issue. We also have existing programs in Latin America that work with youth there, and she introduced two speakers involved in this work. Robert Broz, director of the El Salvador Project of Palo Alto Meeting, spoke of the program there that provides loans allowing students in El Salvador to pursue degrees. Conditions are difficult but there are small victories and personal successes. He believes it is education that will bring about the economic development needed to improve the society. For Robert, the Quaker basis of the work is essential to its continuation, and the creation of a sense of community among those studying. He is grateful for the continuing support of Friends here. The second speaker, Marco Antonio Lopez, the new director at Casa De Los Amigos in Mexico City, described some of the work of the Casa. The Casa employs the Quaker testimonies in orienting itself to its work, and is presently strengthening the organization and its contacts with those in Mexico and the US. Financial sustainability is an important goal. Those working at the Casa desire to provide a rich resource for the Quaker community and for Latin American life. The report is attached. [Attachment XII]

**Ministry and Oversight Committee.** Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City), Clerk, reported for the committee. She spoke of some of the projects being worked on in the committee, particularly their concern with the spiritual basis for some of the practices we have been following for years. How are our present structures and practices an expression of our faith? What is the meaning and purpose of a “minute of concern?” Should we affiliate with Friends General Conference? The committee recognizes the importance of our Monthly Meeting Representatives and seeks to find ways to strengthen their role, clarify their charge, and support careful selection and support in home meetings. It is considering also the Visiting Friends program, its purpose and the prospect of its continuation. In these various ways and others, the committee seeks to serve our community. The report is attached. [Attachment XIII]

We closed our session with worship, followed by announcements.

Presiding Clerk: Diego Navarro
Recording Clerks: Jim Anderson, Leslie Zondervan-Droz

**Attachments**

**Attachment IX: Travel Minute for Thistle West**

Dear Friends in Australia Yearly Meeting,

We are delighted to introduce you to Thistle West (pronouns: they/them/their) and to affirm their gifts for spiritual accompaniment and building connections among people. Last summer, Thistle accompanied our now-
Presiding Clerk, Diego Navarro, to Intermountain Yearly Meeting where he presented the keynote talk. Now Thistle will be accompanying our PYM Youth Programs Coordinator, Alyssa Nelson, and fellow elder Cathy Walling of Alaska Friends Conference for the first portion of Alyssa’s travels among you this June/July 2016, including your Yearly Meeting in Tasmania, Silver Wattle Quaker Centre, and Canberra Regional Meeting, as well the Young Friends pre-YM camp. We expect that Thistle may also be moved into spoken ministry around their own spiritual journey as a Friend and young adult, which we hope enriches the exchange between our Yearly Meetings.

Thistle, age 18, grew up in the PYM community as the child of families who have been part of PYM and local meetings for three generations. Thistle started regularly participating in Meeting for Worship at age 7 and has attended Friends General Conference, “an association of regional Quaker communities in the U.S. and Canada working together to nurture a vital Quaker faith.” These experiences have been significant parts of their convincement and choice to join the Society as a member of Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting (Berkeley, California, USA).

As a younger teen, Thistle served on our PYM Youth Programs Coordinating Committee and as co-clerk of Quarterly and Yearly Meeting teen programs. Thistle has followed a leading to promote gender and sexuality justice, once bringing Alyssa in to help put together a Quarterly Meeting interest group for teens and adults about trans* and non-binary gender identity; this coincided with Thistle and other teens advocating for change in Quarterly Meeting policy on binary-gender-segregated sleeping in the teen program and promoting non-binary language in the teen program handbook revision.

Thistle earned high school credit in Fall 2014 by attending the Woolman Semester, a Quaker educational community in Northern California focused on peace, justice, and sustainability. Thistle published an article about that experience, “237 Acres of God” in Western Friend Magazine (May/June 2015): “At Woolman, I often felt like a baby bird: thoroughly safe, but uncomfortably vulnerable, which I see as the ideal state for growth.”

Thistle passionately finds The Sacred in different places and encounters, which frames how they see the world and shows them how they might help create positive change. They would like to come to better understand globalization, modern colonialism, and post-colonial discourse. To this end, Thistle has just finished their first year at Oberlin College in the state of Ohio, USA with a declared major in Economics and a double minor in Spanish Language and Middle Eastern & North African Studies.

We are delighted for Thistle to have this opportunity to share with and learn from you. We thank them for providing loving support to Alyssa Nelson’s ministry and look forward to hearing how Spirit continues to move in this journey.

In the Light,

[to be signed by PYM Presiding Clerk if approved]
Attachment X: Travel Minute for Alyssa Nelson

5 March 2016

Dear Friends in Australia Yearly Meeting,

Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends introduces Alyssa Nelson (Davis Friends Meeting, California, USA), whom we have employed as our Youth Programs Coordinator since 2011. We recognize Alyssa as a trusted and experienced Friend who has been moved to a ministry of participation, inclusion, diversity, unity, solidarity, and liberation among youth and adults. In the same vein, Alyssa carries a concern for right relationship with indigenous peoples –having experience that includes co-creating an annual service-learning camp for Quaker and Native American youth and adults– that we believe will be strengthened by learning from Australian Friends’ relationships with First Nations peoples and efforts toward reparation and healing.

Alyssa came to Friends at age 25 with experience in social and environmental justice work and a yearning for spiritual community. By now, Alyssa has over 20 years’ experience in participatory youth and community development, and holds academic degrees in Religion (AB), Experiential Education (MS), and Geography (PhD) that she draws upon in her ministry. She has lived and worked with indigenous communities as a participant-facilitator in the American Friends Service Committee’s Mexico Summer Service Project and as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali. Alyssa attended the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends and has served as a representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation. Her offerings to our community have included a weekend workshop at Ben Lomond Quaker Center, “Seeking Spirit All Together: Intergenerational Faith, Fun and Fellowship through Service” and day-long workshops on “Becoming Adult Allies to Youth.” She acts as a resource person for individual Friends of all ages; committees of our Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings; and Quaker organizations within PYM.

We are pleased that Way is opening for Alyssa and our Youth Programs Coordinating Committee to accept your invitation to have Alyssa attend Australia Yearly Meeting in July 2016 and to travel among your local and regional meetings and The Friends’ School in Hobart. We hope your community benefits from the time you spend with Alyssa and that we and the wider body of Friends are also enriched as a result. We entrust Alyssa to your care and look forward hearing how Spirit is moving among you and to reading your words of endorsement upon her return.

In the Light,

Diego Navarro, Presiding Clerk
Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Attachment XI: Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

Awakening to the Wider World of Quakers:
a report on the FWCC World Plenary in Peru for Pacific Yearly Meeting

The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends

Dear Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends:
Greetings from FWCC and from fellow Friends across the Americas and around the World. THANK YOU for your support!

This January, three members of Pacific Yearly Meeting (Jan Turner, Anthony Manousos, and Hulda Muaka) attended the FWCC World Plenary meeting in Pisac, Peru, as your representatives from Pacific Yearly Meeting. (Jill Shook, Sharon Shen and Janet Leslie attended as open delegates.) During the plenary, 320 Friends from 37 countries and 77 Yearly Meetings (plus independent Meetings and worship groups) met together for a week in the sacred valley of the Incas. Another 60 Peruvian and Bolivian friends joined us for the weekend. Being among the world fellowship of Friends is an experience of profound unity in the midst of a perplexing diversity of linguistic, cultural, and religious expressions. If you think you know who Friends are, what they think and how they worship, you might want to attend an FWCC event and think again!

Our theme at the plenary was “Living the Transformation.” We were challenged to sense the deep spiritual connection that animates us all and act out Spirit’s leadings both individually and collectively. There were many opportunities for us to get to know one another in small groups as well as to worship together as a body. Not all the worship was silent – some of it was quite loud – with singing in several languages and simultaneous translation of spoken messages into English, Spanish, French, and Aymara (an indigenous language). In working sessions, the plenary consultations focused on four topics: developing leadership, creating vital Quaker communities, sustaining life on earth, and equipping FWCC to serve the worldwide community of Friends. Young Adult Friends (90 of them!) took a vital role in the plenary, and, at its end, reminded us all that they are not just our future leaders – they intend to lead now.

One outcome of the plenary is the acknowledgement that FWCC world plenaries will happen less often in the future. What was the “Triennial” became a four year interval after 2012 and will now be even more years between world gatherings. The trend of donations is down, particularly from North America. Unless we have more funding, it could be as long as eight years until the next world gathering. However, other concerns also motivate the change, including conservation of the Earth’s limited resources (less plane travel) and conservation of our energy for growing other activities like inter-visitation through traveling ministry. (To find more about this program, go to http://fwccamericas.org/about_us/programs/images/FWCC_app_Traveling MinistryCorps.pdf)

In the meantime, our more local FWCC Section of the Americas continues to plan consultations every other year (next year in Pittsburgh), with local events in between. As we encourage younger Friends to represent us, we need to remember to budget for their travel in the Americas and beyond!

Environmental concerns increasingly concern Friends globally. Following the 2012 Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice, this world plenary approved a minute on “Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth,” which calls for action at the FWCC level, at our yearly meetings, and as individuals. At the world level, the minute asks FWCC to invest its funds ethically, share Quaker experiences with other faith groups, seek ways of connecting Friends worldwide that are sustainable, and facilitate dissemination of training materials on sustainability issues. At the yearly meeting level, the minute asks us here at PYM to (1) initiate at least two concrete actions on sustainability, (2) support individuals and groups in Meetings who feel called to take action on sustainability, and (3) support the work done on by Quaker organizations such as the Quaker United Nations Office to support sustainability. Finally, the minute asks individual Friends to share their experiences of living sustainably on the “sustainability webpage” of the Quakers in the World Website (http://www.quakersintheworld.org/). The full text of the minute is available at http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/living-sustainably-and-sustaining-life-on-earth-the-minute-from-the-plenary and contains an addendum with suggested individual, monthly meeting, and yearly meeting actions.

The world plenary epistle ends with these words: “We are one. We are one in the spirit of God which does not wash away or hide our differences, but allows us to celebrate them and enables us to move beyond the spiritual boundaries that may separate us. … Through listening deeply and tenderly to each other and to God we reached a place where we can hear and sense where the words come from even when we may not
understand the tongue they are spoken in.” Amen to that! At one moment during worship, we all listened with rapt attention to impassioned words spoken in Aymara, the native language of Peruvian and Bolivian Friends.

The epistle ends: “The work of FWCC depends on us all. In order to continue it, we encourage Friends, meetings … and Yearly Meetings to contribute financially to and participate in building connections between Friends.” This year’s plenary faced a challenge when visa issues threatened to block participation by East African Friends. Immediate action by the world community enabled our East African Friends to arrive, but at an $29,000 unexpected expense. FWCC asks Friends to help replenish this deficit. See details at: [http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/special-fwcc-pisac-travel-appeal](http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/special-fwcc-pisac-travel-appeal).

- **Would you like to learn more about FWCC?** Please contact Anthony Manousos at interfaithquaker@aol.com. We are offering two interest groups during the PYM annual session about FWCC and the world plenary, one focusing on the Sustainability Minute (co-sponsored by QEW and PSO) and one focusing mainly on the spiritual aspects of our FWCC gathering. Please come, share your experience, and learn more about what’s going on in the world-wide Quaker community. There’s a Power point about the Peru gathering at [http://laquaker.blogspot.com/2016/04/the-world-gathering-of-quakers-in-peru.html](http://laquaker.blogspot.com/2016/04/the-world-gathering-of-quakers-in-peru.html). There’s also a video about the world plenary at [https://vimeo.com/153757538](https://vimeo.com/153757538). Please also take a look at the FWCC website [http://www.fwccamericas.org/](http://www.fwccamericas.org/), and, if so moved, consider making a donation to help fund FWCC’s work bringing Friends together across all boundaries.

In friendship, Anthony Manousos, Jan Turner and Hulda Muaka

(With appreciation to Rob Pierson of Intermountain YM, who wrote much of this report and serves on the FWCC Communications Committee, which Anthony Manousos clerks)

**Attachment XII: Latin American Concerns Committee Report**

**Latin American Concerns Committee Report to Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session 2016**

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. 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 Robert Broz, Director of El Salvador Projects in attending. He will be presenting an Interest Group to inform PYM about conditions in El Salvador and his work there.

LACC and Peace and Social Order Committee brought a minute to PYM Annual Session in 2015 which was supported by Annual Session as follows:

> “This year six monthly meetings in Pacific Yearly Meeting have approved minutes of concern for refugee children crossing the border from Latin America. A special subcommittee of the Latin American Concerns Committee, Child Refugees and Migration, was formed to address this concern. Many Friends have taken action from visiting elected officials, accompanying a local child refugee through the legal processes, to traveling to Texas to be in solidarity with these children and their families. Pacific Yearly Meeting’s Annual Session supports the efforts of the LACC and numerous other Friends who are seeking justice and showing compassion toward those who are fleeing the violence in their home countries and need a place of refuge in our country. We encourage monthly meetings and individual Friends to read the attached

PYM-AS-2016 Minutes Packet - p. 44
Reports of the subcommittee and service projects follow:

**Child Refugee and Migration Subcommittee**

We have been meeting regularly, tracking and reporting on the work of some monthly meetings, collecting and sending on information and information sources about child and family asylum seekers coming from Central America, adding to the resource list on the PYM website and following political changes and challenges regarding these refugees. We have planned an Interest Group for 2016 Annual Session presented by Rev. Deborah Lee. She is the Director of Immigration-Northern California at the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity in Oakland. She will be speaking about her bay area interfaith immigration work as well as the People of Faith-Root Causes-Delegation to Central American that she led last August to Honduras and Guatemala.

In the minutes of our meetings we have discussed and shared specifics about Johanna’s asylum-seeking (Redwood Forest), Sonia’s perseverance and status (Santa Barbara), the providing of sanctuary and assistance to a family (La Jolla), family detention challenges, new information about programs from various sources, reports on the East Bay Sanctuary visit to Central America, learned of and passed on ideas about how we can help even if not near the border, and provided encouragement and information to monthly meetings.

We want to do more educating of ourselves, advocacy and making presentations, and supporting meetings providing sanctuary. We are planning an Interest Group for Annual Session with the leader of the Bay Area Immigration Covenant as speaker.

**Casa de los Amigos** [www.casadelosamigos.org](http://www.casadelosamigos.org)

Casa de los Amigos approaches yet another transition! This one is all good, and the Casa is in a good spot. There’s a board meeting this Saturday to, among other things, make a final decision about a new executive director. To all of you good Casa allies out there, here are three accurate 2016 Casa talking points you can use to talk to anybody in the world about Casa de los Amigos:

1. 2016 is the Casa’s 60th anniversary year! There will be a celebration in October, and the Casa’s deep roots will be a present theme throughout the year. The celebration will also serve as a release date for a long-awaited book about Casa de los Amigos. Kickstarter campaign launches any minute now, when you hear about it please help spread the word!

2. The Casa’s peace work is stronger than ever. You have to visit to truly get a sense of the dizzying array of projects and movements that the Casa is meaningfully involved in. But you should know that the Casa houses thousands annually in its peace guesthouse, provides emergency housing to migrants and refugees, central meeting space for dozens of NGOs, supports local small producers and solidarity
economics, has a cool environmental concerns program, and is a social justice clearinghouse for movements and groups from around Mexico and the world.

3. Hayley Hathaway is sad to go but feels right in her decision to turn the page and leave the Casa after over six years of nonstop service. The good news is that the Casa today is on an excellent footing, a wide net has been cast and 60-some applications received for the director spot. The important things to know about bringing in a new person at this time is that the person will arrive to a firm foundation of partner-based programs running strong, financial support and institutional networks, and a dynamite on-the-ground team willing to work to help orient, train and support a new director.

El Salvador Projects pafmelsalvadorprojects.org

Carmen Broz started the El Salvador Projects in the context of a civil war so viciously destructive that it brought this smallest country in Central America to the world’s attention. Her initiatives in child care, maternal and child health, early education, community development, and ultimately support for higher education for young people from poor rural families were transformative, bringing hope and tangible improvements to many lives. That legacy continues today. The candles we light with your support do more than dispel some of the darkness for individuals, as important as that is. Every child whose dream is made real, every family that takes a significant step away from the desperation of poverty into a more secure future, every young adult whose path leads to a role of positive service and leadership in the community – each of these demonstrates to others that there are realistic alternatives to despair. In my reports I share my experiences and observations with you frankly, confident that you will realize that in times of adversity the assistance and opportunities we are able to offer together become even more important.

Reports on social and economic conditions in El Salvador by both domestic and international news agencies are overwhelmingly dismal these days, reflecting a toxic blend of human activities and forces of nature:

- Allegations and investigations of political corruption at high levels.
- Escalating warfare that pits Salvadoran gangs against the police and military.
- A dramatic decline in visits by tourists and solidarity delegations due to fear of violent crime and health risks caused by serious new viruses – Chikungunya in 2015 and Zica fever in 2016 – which are spread by mosquitoes, like the dengue that preceded them, and are now common in the region.
- A failing economy that is affected by all of the above factors.

Reforms to a 1959 anti-corruption law were passed in December of 2015 and put into effect in January of 2016. Since then, 29 investigations have been opened against past and current politicians and high-level government employees. These reforms were pushed through by the governing FMLN in alliance with other parties and opposed by the right-wing ARENA party, which expected the law to be used against former officials of the ARENA party who controlled the central government for more than 20 years with obvious corruption and no fear of criminal charges.

In practice, application of the law appears impartial. High-level politicians including three former presidents, one of them the immediate past president Mauricio Funes (FMLN), are being investigated to determine sources of financial gain during their terms in office. Current FMLN Vice-President Oscar Ortiz was accused of having had business ties in a local land development company since the early 2000’s with Salvadoran drug lord José Adán Salazar Umaña, alias Chepe Diablo, who was named years ago by the U.S. as the leader of El Salvador’s Texis drug cartel.
The dramatic news of allegations against Ortiz nearly made Salvadorans forget about Francisco Flores of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, President from 1999-2004, who was under house arrest for embezzling millions of dollars of a donation from Taiwan. Flores’s reported illness and death soon after being admitted to a private hospital is suspected by many of being a well-orchestrated trick to get him out of the country. They ask why no autopsy was performed and why the family held a low-profile, closed casket burial. Even in social media networks like Facebook, photos of the Flores family celebrating in the US were published shortly after the funeral. The now-famous *Panama Papers* reveal tax evasion by most of El Salvador’s larger companies as well.

Although currently we see few news reports like those of early 2015, when literally thousands of minors fled El Salvador and Honduras to escape the intense violence caused by gangs, the situation has hardly improved. Both countries are still listed as the most violent countries in the world where there is no war going on. In 2015 El Salvador surpassed Honduras in violent deaths per capita, and now leads the world in that grisly statistic.

I can foresee no quick fix for this complex situation, of course. Some of the newer programs at both local and central government levels may lead to long-term improvements, but even these can involve drastic tactics that impact the general population. No longer willing to negotiate with the leaders of internationally recognized organized crime groups, the government has combined police and military efforts to disable the high commands of the gangs. A recent initiative involved working with cell phone companies to block signals at the prisons, an imprecise process that usually causes residents of surrounding areas to lose their phone service. With many gang leaders operating from prison and a low-paid prison guard receiving up to $3000 per illegal phone introduced to the prison, little more could be done. Just days before the signal blocking was implemented, a cell phone with $20,000 in credit was decommissioned from one inmate. This was possible, apparently, because a new way to send money using cell phones was implemented by two of the larger telecommunication companies. It is assumed that these new ways to send money are now used to transfer illicit funds to the kingpins in prison.

As I write this report, a newly trained battalion of soldiers is scheduled to be on the streets by late April. These 600 elite soldiers will join 400 police attempting to catch gang members as they flee from one gang-ridden area to another just before a police operation, a practice that has been common for years and raises the suspicion that gangs have infiltrated the police and military. This new unit is very controversial, compared by right wing politicians and the local press in many cases to abuse of police and military forces in the 1970s and 1980s, but now controlled by the FMLN rather than by the military dictatorships of the past.

As I said earlier, Salvadorans are drastically affected by the country’s worsening economy. The U.S. State Department and many other foreign government websites list El Salvador as the most violent country in the world, with travel advisories that discourage travel to El Salvador because of the high level of violence and several dangerous mosquito-transmitted viruses. The result is an enormous decline in private travelers, as well as solidarity, religious, and educational delegations. Tourism, which had been considered until 2015 one of the fastest growing components of El Salvador’s economy, is now withering.

In just two groups I work with in addition to the El Salvador Projects of Palo Alto, I have seen more than 20 delegations cancel trips planned for 2016, causing non-profit organizations in both El Salvador and the U.S. to re-evaluate current budgets, reduce projected spending, let staff go, and in one case even close the local offices. If we combine this with the loss of income to small communities where project money is spent, and additional services like food services and transportation are taken into account, the lost income enters into to every aspect of the local economy, motivating Salvadorans both young and old to consider
taking the dangerous trip to the north in search of the American Dream that more than three million Salvadorans already live.

On a much brighter side, some positive programs are in place around the country – better street lighting, full school days, sports and arts programs, vocational training programs, scholarships, seed and fertilizer programs to insure a decent production this season and income for the poor campesinos who continue to produce the majority of our local grains on small parcels of land. How different their lives are from those of the large sugar cane and coffee producers who form part of the wealthiest upper-class of Salvadoran society!

In the private sector, too, determined efforts continue for a new El Salvador with a positive future. Since the September 2015 death of my mother Carmen Broz, founder of our Projects and our university student loan program in El Salvador, and more recently the death of my good friend Frank Cummings, who was an attender of Atlanta Friends Meeting and founder of two other local scholarship programs, I have seen positive changes. Within the municipality of Suchitoto Frank was my “accomplice in Education,” as I used to say, for the last ten years. Frank and I worked for years to unite several educational programs and now, in 2016, we are moving very quickly to do just that in honor of his work.

We now hold monthly student meetings with around 90 university students supported by our own El Salvador Projects, the programs of Frank Cummings, and Santa Lucia Parish. I oversee a new scholarship program managed by a local non-profit called CORDES that has financial support from the City of Suchitoto. At our meeting in April when we asked for volunteers to form a new committee of scholarship students, nine stepped forward in just five minutes! The new committee met on April 10th to start work on planning this year’s University Fair, a task that Frank and I had done alone for the past nine years. As I write this report, students from the new committee will be visiting the six schools in Suchitoto that offer high school (secundaria) to promote the upcoming Fair, the several financial aid programs, and the opening of the entrance process at the National University to the 2016 graduating high school students in Suchitoto. The committee will also be responsible for all logistics of the Fair, and with some guidance will help with the selection of scholarship students for the different programs in 2017. A dream Frank and I shared is to one day have the programs not only managed by ex-beneficiaries, but even supported financially by the professionals we have helped to gain a college education. We are on the path!

You will probably not be surprised when I say that the months since our last newsletter have been a period of mourning and intense emotion for me. In addition to my own mother’s death and the death of my dear friend Frank, my work has involved situations of a kind that are all too common in El Salvador. I think the case that continues to be most unsettling to me is that of Erika, a young woman from a small, remote village in the rural northeast part of Suchitoto who started in our program in 2015. Erika contacted me late last year, telling me she would be unable to continue her studies in modern languages in 2016. Initially she said only that her decision was for personal reasons, but as I questioned her she told me her mother had given birth, had complications, and was admitted to the hospital. As the only daughter, Erika decided to drop out of school to bring up her new little sister. When I realized that this was the only realistic option for Erika and her family I cried, as I am now while writing this report, knowing there is little that I or our program can do to help. I have told Erika that we will help her in the future if she decides to go back to school, but as her mother continues to deal with serious health issues she does not see this as a possible future.

My work as Project Director has always involved difficult situations, and although this case was more severe and personally emotional than many others over the past eleven years, I always find peace and joy knowing our programs have made a difference and will continue to make El Salvador a better country. I see an example in one of our new students, Rosa Isabel, who is in her first year of medicine at the
Salvadoran University Alberto Masferrer (USAM). Rosa Isabel is the oldest daughter of one of our past students, Rosa Orellana, who studied and is now a licensed teacher working at one of the rural schools in Suchitoto. Rosa Isabel tried to enter the National University where the medical program is one of the hardest to get into. When she did not make the cut she was still determined to follow her dream and study medicine. She also opted to join our coed student house in San Salvador, where 22 students from five different programs live. One of our continuing students in the house is a third-year student of medicine, and Rosa has already used this in-house resource for tutoring in this first year. Rosa Isabel was last on my list for new student candidates in 2016, but when Erika told me she would not be continuing her studies, we opened her spot for young Rosa Isabel. This late and final addition of Rosa Isabel to our list of new students in 2016 felt so right, and it brought a feeling of light and peace in this work that at times can be difficult.

Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program (PROGRESA) www.guatemalafriends.org

PROGRESA has just celebrated its 43rd year providing an opportunity for education to rural, poor Mayans. We saw 17 of our students graduate in 2015. Their careers included teaching, law, nursing, natural resources, computer science and bookkeeping. In the 2016 school year, we have 75 new and continuing students. Most are women and they are studying at the university level.

Progresa’s Teaching English Experience has just completed its 7th year with 15 North Americans and 15 Progresa students sharing a fun-filled and rewarding week together in Antigua, Guatemala. Join us next year January 3-11, 2017.

In the 1990’s Progresa received funding for scholarships for refugees of the armed conflict from Casa de los Amigos when Casa laid down their Central American Refugee Program. We were invited to the community who received these scholarships, Primavera del Ixcan, for their annual meeting and celebration. It is in a remote area and it was an adventure getting there. We have 18 former and 2 current students from this community. In a meeting with our former students (many are teachers), we learned that this community has an educational system far superior to other communities in remote areas with 97% of their children finishing primary school. One of our former students was responsible for obtaining governmental approval for a high school in the community, a major achievement.

The new President of Guatemala just appointed one of our former students, Hector Canto, Assistant Secretary of Education in charge of rural education. Hector has asked to speak with our director, Miguel Costop, about Progresa’s work in rural education. We look forward to this collaboration.

Hector Canto was the keynote speaker at our Annual Student Conference where he sought input from our students and encouraged their participation in improving rural education. A Meeting for Worship was held and over 50 of our students joined the four North American Quakers present in a deeply moving spiritual experience.

For more information about the scholarship program or the Teaching English Experience next January, call Donna Smith (707)542-2874 or Harriet Lewis (707)526-1066 Co-Clerks of the program at Redwood Forest Meeting.

Submitted by Donna Smith, Co-Clerk
The role of Ministry & Oversight Committee is to help foster the spiritual life and good order of the Yearly Meeting, by offering assistance and counsel and endeavoring to make the annual session a fulfilling experience for all participants. Ministry & Oversight serves as support for the Presiding Clerk and upon request, may assist any committee, Meeting or individual of the Yearly Meeting. The committee also takes into discernment other matters as identified by the Yearly Meeting, Representative Committee, and/or the committee itself.

Much of the work of Ministry & Oversight Committee this year has been related to reviewing last year’s Annual Session and preparing for the 2016 Annual Session. We have labored with individual Friends and Monthly Meetings on different issues. In addition, Ministry & Oversight is working on other projects and discernment currently before the committee, which are described in this report.

**Structure of the Pacific Yearly Meeting Organization**
Ministry & Oversight Committee is examining the structure of our Yearly Meeting organization. We struggle as a body to fill positions. We recognize that some Yearly Meeting activities are duplicated or even triplicated with the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. There are approximately 165 positions within the Yearly Meeting, serving a membership of approximately 1,300 Friends. Is the Yearly Meeting a tree with branches that exceed the support of its roots? Does our tree need pruning to make it more vital and grow stronger? In addition to service to the Yearly Meeting, Friends are also serving their Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. Are Friends over-committed to service?

Our discernment on this issue is ongoing and Ministry & Oversight Committee will be talking with Friends and Meetings before bringing proposals for change to the Yearly Meeting body.

**Abuse Prevention Policy**
A draft of a new Abuse Prevention Policy was presented at Annual Session 2015. Ministry & Oversight Committee continues to labor with Children’s Program Committee, Junior Yearly Meeting, Young Adult Friends, and the Youth Programs Coordinator to incorporate their concerns and insights into the policy. Friends are invited to submit additional comments and/or concerns to Ministry & Oversight. The current draft of the policy is attached. We hope to bring the final draft of the policy to the 2017 meeting of Representative Committee for acceptance by the Yearly Meeting.

**Minutes of Concern**
Ministry & Oversight Committee continues to discern the role of Minutes of Concern based on the queries: Why are Minutes of Concern brought to the Yearly Meeting? Why do we approve them? How do they serve our PYM community? Ministry & Oversight is laboring with defining Minutes of Concern and will invite the collaboration of other committees of the Yearly Meeting to review and refine the current draft guidelines for bringing Minutes of Concern to the Yearly Meeting to then bring these guidelines to the body for approval and adoption.

**Monthly Meeting Representatives to Pacific Yearly Meeting**
Ministry & Oversight Committee is examining the role of the Monthly Meeting representative to Pacific
Yearly Meeting and how our constituent Meetings are represented in the Yearly Meeting’s decision making process. We are also considering how these representatives are selected and building a process of two-way communication between the Monthly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting.
Friends General Conference

Ministry & Oversight is working on a process to bring forward a proposal for Pacific Yearly Meeting to formally affiliate with Friends General Conference. Affiliation would represent positive care for the spiritual life of Pacific Yearly Meeting and would acknowledge the fact that we are already benefiting from and contributing to Friends General Conference and its programs and services. We heard concerns at the meeting of Representative Committee and will be preparing an information packet to be distributed to the Monthly Meetings that will include details of what affiliation would mean for Pacific Yearly Meeting. Friends carrying concerns about Pacific Yearly Meeting formally affiliating with Friends General Conference are invited to approach Ministry & Oversight to have their concerns heard. We hope to bring the formal proposal of affiliation to the 2017 meeting of Representative Committee for approval and action.

Other Ministry & Oversight Concerns this Year

Communication within the Yearly Meeting and its community has been a common theme this year. Ministry & Oversight participated in the Coordination Team conference calls in the fall and in the spring, sharing with and supporting others.

The committee supports the three-committee proposal on reducing the number of Pacific Yearly Meeting delegates to outside Quaker organizations. Ministry & Oversight will continue to explore which organizations Pacific Yearly Meeting should or could send delegates to and how this representation is part of our function. Is our energy being spent in ways that most support us as a spiritual community? The committee will also be looking at setting expectations on these delegates in terms of reporting back to the Pacific Yearly Meeting community.

Attendance Assistance Fund

Ministry & Oversight Committee 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 a little additional financial help in order to do so. The $9,000.00 Attendance Assistance fund is helping about 33 people to attend Annual Session this year.

Visiting Friend Program

Roena Oesting (La Jolla) served as Visiting Friend for Pacific Yearly Meeting this year. She made 16 visits during the year, spending time with Friends from 17 Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, plus visits to the “Golden Rule” and participation in Southern California Quarterly Meeting and the meeting of Representative Committee. Roena offered discussions on a variety of topics and presented her Elizabeth Fry program. Details and photos of her visits can be found on the Facebook page “The Visiting Quaker”. Copies of the endorsements of Roena’s Travel Minute can be found in the Quiet Room at Annual Session. We thank Roena for her service.

Ministry & Oversight is discerning the continuation of the Visiting Friend Program, considering aspects such as building a strong Visiting Friend Support subcommittee and asking Monthly Meetings and Friends to contribute to the Visiting Friend Fund, among others. Friends interested in supporting the Visiting Friend Program are encouraged to approach Ministry & Oversight.

Subcommittees

Electronic Communications: The subcommittee believes it would be able to supervise and advise, but not execute a plan for the PYM website. The subcommittee is also looking at our Yearly Meeting’s communication systems and privacy policies. Ministry & Oversight has asked the subcommittee to develop a proposal for contracting the services of a professional web designer.

Racial Justice: The subcommittee has spent much of the year working on its 39 Questions for White People interest group presented at College Park Quarterly Meeting and again at Annual Session, and also promoting the use of Shakti Butler’s Breaking the Codes: the System of Racial Inequities film and workbook among Monthly Meetings to raise awareness of racial justice issues. The film is available on the
Pacific Yearly Meeting website under the Gallery tab (sign-in required). Ministry & Oversight asks the subcommittee, what is the inward work we are doing within our Monthly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting?

**Representative Support:** The subcommittee serves as a resource for Meeting representatives. Ministry & Oversight encourages Friends to consider serving on this subcommittee.

**Visiting Friend:** The subcommittee stewards the Visiting Friend program. (see Visiting Friend Program above)

Ministry & Oversight has laid down the Experimentation and Implementation Subcommittee. The committee as a whole has taken up the work of examining the organization of the Yearly Meeting.

### Ministry & Oversight Committee Meetings

The committee meets in person three times a year and daily during Annual Session. Each committee meeting is hosted by a different Monthly Meeting so that we might better understand the needs and concerns of local Meetings and so that Friends might better understand the Yearly Meeting. This allows us to share Meeting for Worship, adult education, and social gatherings with many Friends. This past fall we met with Grass Valley Meeting at Sierra Friends Center and offered a discussion on the Yearly Meeting and Annual Session. Our winter meeting was hosted by Orange County Meeting, where we talked about how the Yearly Meeting can help nurture the spiritual life of the Monthly Meeting. In the spring, we met at Santa Cruz Meeting and enjoyed sharing with local Friends over a potluck lunch. Listening with these Friends has enriched both the members of Ministry & Oversight Committee and our service to the Yearly Meeting. We invite other Meetings to consider hosting a meeting of Ministry & Oversight Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Bronwen Hillman, on behalf of PYM Ministry and Oversight Committee
Meeting for Business III

**Epistle Reading.** Reading Clerk Sue Torrey read from the Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting Epistle of 2015. A diverse group of over 100 Friends gathered, joined in worship sharing, and wrestled with changing communication systems, language differences, and past practices and structures in need of change. They were well guided in their gathering to be sensitive to the Spirit. The children lightened their hearts.

Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro explained some of the guiding concerns that created the plan for this gathering. We need to embrace three critical elements that were present in early Friends’ life. Ministers, elders, and overseers represent three ways of being present to the Spirit that we need to recover. Diego had early experience with guiding and supporting elders that helped him be sensitive to his own gifts. Ministers carry an accountability to the weight of the Spirit. Overseers bring the gift of attentive hospitality. All of these roles and ways of being open are part of our tradition and we begin to cultivate them more fully in this year’s gathering.

Diego presented plans for the session ahead.

**Travel Minute.** Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro read a travel minute for Jim Summers (La Jolla), who will travel among Friends in the West, with a ministry arising out of the restoration project of the historic Quaker peace boat the Golden Rule. We **approved** the following minute:

**AS Minute 2016-03**

We ask our Clerk to endorse Jim Summers’ travel minute from La Jolla meeting in expression of our support of his travel in the ministry among Friends in the West.

**Reading of the Minutes from Meeting for Business Plenary II.** Friends heard and **approved**, with changes, the minutes from Meeting for Business Plenary II

**Pacific Yearly Meeting Epistle draft reading.** Thistle West (Strawberry Creek), Mary Klein (Palo Alto) and Chuck Orr (La Jolla), members of the Epistle Committee, read a draft of our PYM Epistle. Friends were invited to review the draft copy posted on the dining hall wall and offer comments to the committee by dinner tonight.

**Registrar’s Report.** Sarah Tyrell (Berkeley) and Heather Levien (Berkeley), Registrars, reported that their present figures indicate 308 people in attendance here this week, thirty were children, twenty Junior Yearly Meeting participants, and thirty-five Young Adult Friends. We appreciate the on-line registration made available by the Berkeley registration team. Sarah ends a long term of service as co-registrar and we thank her. [Later review of registration numbers corrected these figures to the following: full attendance 305, Children’s Program 32, Junior Yearly Meeting 19, Young Adult Friends 33.] [Attachment XIV]
Naming Committee. Naming Committee Convenor Sarah Rose House-Lightner (Santa Monica) read for the second time the names of two Friends proposed for service on our Nominating Committee. She also brought the name of Ed Flowers (Apple Seed) for a first reading.

AS Minute 2016-04
We approve Kate Watkins (Santa Monica) and Ann Fuller (Santa Monica), both for terms ending in 2018, for service on our Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee Co-Clerk Stephen Matchett (San Francisco) presented names for a second reading, which we approved, added some correction to the report, and offered additional names for consideration at a later plenary. [Attachment XV]

AS Minute 2016-05
We approve the names brought to us by our Nominating Committee for a second reading at this session.

Delegate Travel Implementation Minute. Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), Co-clerk of Nominating Committee, brought us a minute designed to manage the implementation of the proposal developed by Nominating, Finance, and M&O Committees, and which has been incorporated into our budget. This minute places a regrettable burden of negotiation on certain present delegate groups. We wished to avoid this burden but no workable alternative arose. A number in the meeting expressed this shared regret and a degree of reservation. After consideration and with the reservations voiced by some, we approved the following minute:

AS Minute 2016-06
The adoption of the proposal to limit fully funded PYM representatives to AFSC, FCNL and FWCC Section of the Americas to two each means those delegations now have more appointed representatives than are fully funded, and this will remain true until the terms of certain representatives currently serving or appointed at the current session are concluded. As long as that situation lasts, each of those delegations may decide how the available funding is to be allocated, i.e., either to fully fund two representatives, or to be shared among a greater number.

Travel to Annual Session Equity Minute. Laura Magnani (Strawberry Creek), Finance Committee, brought us a minute designed to move us toward equity in the matter of travel costs to our annual session.

AS Minute 2016-07
We approve in principle experimenting with a way to subsidize travel for Friends in the U.S. mainland, coming to the annual session from over 200 miles away. Details for the implementation of this subsidy will be presented to Representative Committee 2017. Priority will be given to subsidizing those using car pools and public transportation.

Discipline Committee. Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro read to us a minute from our 2014 annual session approving the beginning of work on a revision of our Faith and Practice. Discipline Committee clerk Liz Baker brought a proposed minute requesting a change of the name of the Discipline Committee to Faith and Practice Revision Committee, which was considered but not approved. We look toward a fuller discussion of the nature and scope of a revision of our Faith and Practice at our 2017 annual session.
Clerk Diego Navarro reported that FWCC delegates, Peace and Social Order Committee, and the Unity with Nature Committee met together and are led to share with the monthly meetings the FWCC “Living Sustainably” minute. This minute calls on Friends to take two concrete actions on sustainability in the upcoming year. Friends will be asked to report back to Unity with Nature Committee regarding their actions. [Attachment XVI]

We closed our session with worship.

Presiding Clerk: Diego Navarro
Recording Clerks: Jim Anderson, Leslie Zondervan-Droz

Attachments

Attachment XIV: Registrar’s Report

Registrar’s Report

June 21, 2016
As of June 20, 2016, 305 people have attended Pacific Yearly Meeting’s 2016 Annual Session for at least one day. Of these, 30 were in the Children’s Program, 20 were in the Junior Yearly Meeting, and 35 said on their registration forms that they considered themselves Young Adult Friends. The median age of our attenders here is 54.5 years old. The mean is 48; and 41 people registered themselves as first time attenders.
We want to extend our profound thanks (once again) to the Berkeley Contract registration team: Joe Magruder, Margaret Mossman, and Joanne Magruder. Their help, plus the online registration process has made things so much easier for all of us.
We will be posting the application for the 2017 contract registration team shortly after Annual Session on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website. Applications are due November 15th, 2016. See the Registrars for more information.
From Sarah Tyrrell: After four years of service as Registrar, this is my last time before you in this role. On behalf of myself and Heather, it has been a joy to welcome you to Annual Session and make sure you are well-situated while you’ve been here.
Thank you!

Attachment XV: Nominating Committee Report

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

REPORT AND UPDATED PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES
21 SIXTH MONTH 2016 (BUSINESS PLENARY III)

In the interest of saving paper, the rest of this intermediate report is omitted from the Minutes Packet. It can be found electronically on the pacificyearlymeeting.org website. The final Nominating Committee report is attached in full.
Attachment XVI: FWCC Sustainability Minute

IRM 16-20. Sustainability. The Consultation on Sustainability, facilitated by Jonathan Woolley (Mexico City MM/Pacific YM; Staff, QUNO-Geneva), Rachel Madenyika (Staff, QUNO-NY), and Charlotte Gordon (Aotearoa/New Zealand YM) have presented a minute for our consideration:

Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth
The Light of Christ has inspired Quakers throughout the generations. As we gather together in Pisac, Peru in 2016, we feel this light stronger than ever in our calling to care for the Earth on which we live. It is calling us from all traditions: programmed, unprogrammed, liberal, and evangelical. It calls us to preserve this Earth for our children, our grandchildren and all future generations to come, working as though life were to continue for 10,000 years to come. Be ready for action with your robes hitched up and your lamps alight. (Luke 12:35, Revised English Bible)
Our faith as Quakers is inseparable from our care for the health of our planet Earth. We see that our misuse of the Earth’s resources creates inequality, destroys community, affects health and well-being, leads to war and erodes our integrity. We are all responsible for stewardship of our natural world. We love this world as God’s gift to us all. Our hearts are crying for our beloved mother Earth, who is sick and in need of our care.

We are at a historical turning point. Internationally, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals oblige governments to take action. Faith groups and other civil society are playing a major role. As Quakers, we are part of this movement. The FWCC World Conference approved the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice in April 2012, while the FWCC World Office was a signatory to the Quaker statement on climate change in 2014 and divested from fossil fuels in June 2015.

We recognise that the environmental crisis is a symptom of a wider crisis in our political and economic systems. Our loving and well informed environmental actions as Friends, consistent with our spiritual values, must therefore work to transform these systems.

Many of us all over the Quaker world are taking practical actions as individuals and communities. At this Plenary, a consultation of more than sixty Friends from all over the world worked to build on these leadings with further practical action. The Annex attached to these minutes shows examples of what Friends are doing already or propose to do.

We must redouble our efforts right now. We must move beyond our individual and collective comfort zones and involve the worldwide Quaker community and others of like mind. Just as Jesus showed us, real change requires us to challenge ourselves to be effective instruments of change. We can do more.

On recommendation of this Consultation, and after some discussion, we adopt the following minute:

In this effort for sustainability, and mindful of the urgency of this work, this Plenary asks the FWCC World Office and Central Executive Committee to:

1. **Invest FWCC World funds ethically.**
2. **Share Quaker experiences with other faith groups** to inspire them to action, especially through the World Council of Churches.
3. **Seek ways of connecting Friends worldwide that are sustainable.**
4. **Facilitate dissemination of training materials on sustainability issues** for Quaker leaders, pastors and teachers.

This FWCC Plenary Meeting also asks all Yearly Meetings to:

1. **Initiate at least two concrete actions** on sustainability within the next 12 months. These may build on existing projects of individuals or monthly meetings.
or they may be new initiatives. We ask that they encourage Young Friends to play key roles. We ask that meetings minute the progress and results, so as to share them with FWCC and Quaker meetings.

2. **Support individuals and groups in their meetings** who feel called to take action on sustainability.

3. **Support the work done by Quaker organisations** such as the Quaker United Nations Office and the Quaker Council for European Affairs to ensure that international agreements and their implementation support sustainability.

This FWCC Plenary Meeting asks individual Friends and groups (such as Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and ad hoc groups within Meetings) to **Share inspiring experiences of living sustainably** on the new “sustainability webpage” of the Quakers in the World Website (http://www.quakersintheworld.org/). This webpage can be used as a source of ideas, inspiration and action.

**Annex to the Minute: Possibilities for practical sustainability action from the Pisac consultation**

**Individuals can:**
1. Dedicate personal time to nature.
2. Reduce consumption and use your consumer buying power to create change.
3. Cut down on meat consumption, be aware of energy costs in production and transport of all foods and methane from ruminant animals, support sustainable agriculture.
4. Travel – cycle, walk, use public transport or alternatives to private cars, keep air travel to a minimum.
5. Grow your own food and plant trees.
6. Be politically active in promoting sustainability concerns.
7. Share environmental concerns through books, publications, conversations, electronic media
8. Reduce energy use.
9. Use less water and harvest water.
10. Make time for spiritual connection with God.

**Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and small groups within Meetings can:**
1. Live in a community, share housing, participate in a transition town movement.
2. Educate yourself and others.
3. Share transport and equipment.
4. Develop urban agriculture, community gardens, community supported agriculture, tree planting.
5. Love nature and encourage others to do so: we protect the things we love; get children out in nature; take care of nature around your meeting house (e.g., picking up trash/litter).
6. Invest ethically and divest from fossil fuels.
7. Ensure meeting houses are carbon neutral.
8. Build alliances, seek visibility, approach legislators.
9. Share sustainability skills.

**Yearly Meetings can:**
1. Support the sustainability actions of Monthly Meetings.
2. Build solidarity with local people.
3. Support Quakers in politics and international work.
4. Form support networks and alliances to make more impact – we can only do so much on our own.
5. Invest ethically, including on sustainability issues.
6. Practice what we preach.
7. Discern and move concerns to action.
8. Set targets for increased sustainability.
9. Connect and share with other YMs, direct or via FWCC Sections and World Office

We recognise that different actions are relevant to different Quaker meetings in different parts of the world.
Closing Plenary

The plenary began with worship.

**Epistle.** Reading Clerk Sue Torrey (Central Coast) read the epistle from Illinois Yearly Meeting.

**Clerk’s Welcome.** Diego Navarro, Presiding Clerk, welcomed us. He introduced the items that would be covered during this session.

Minute pertaining to delegates: the Presiding Clerk reported back on this item from yesterday’s plenary. He did meet with former presiding clerks about the minute pertaining to delegates. They agreed that the minute was approved but that he missed a good teaching moment, that is, the presiding clerk is given the responsibility to listen to the entire body and discern the sense of the meeting. The co-recording clerk from that plenary read the narrative describing the background to the minute and then the minute pertaining to delegates as it was approved.

The Presiding Clerk shared that some items came forward during a previous plenary that could have been announced as information. The Co-recording Clerk reported the information based on the consultation by Anthony Manousos with the clerks of those committees.

**Preschool Epistle.** The epistle with the preschoolers’ art was posted on the wall behind the Clerk’s table. The Presiding Clerk read the words on the banner, which were “God is in the white tent.” The white tent was where the plenaries and meetings for worship were held.

**Elementary School Epistle.** The epistle shared what was special and loved by the group. They have worked from the *Golden Book of Heaven.* [Attachment XVII]

**Middle School Epistle.** The epistle was read by two middle-schoolers. They described making the Peace Planet, a service activity and special activities. [Attachment XVIII]

**Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle.** Nina Shaw (Santa Monica) read the epistle twice as it was written in rap form. The epistle described activities, using tools learned, service projects, AVP and respectful relationships helping to relieve stress, and there was lots of powerful ministry. [Attachment XIX]

**Young Adult Friends Epistle.** Nora Cooke (Grass Valley) reported that the YAF’s ran out of time to produce an epistle but a committee did provide a letter reflecting their path and where they are at. [Attachment XX]

**Pacific Yearly Meeting Epistle.** Thistle West (Strawberry Creek), Mary Klein (Palo Alto) and Chuck Orr (La Jolla) read the epistle. The epistle was accepted. [Attachment XXI]
Nominating Committee. Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), Co-clerk, presented the slate. Upon request of the Presiding Clerk the new nominations offered on yesterday’s slate were approved. Stephen also presented additional names for the first time, and proposed for action using the interim nominations process. The full report will be posted on the website. [Attachment XXII]

AS Minute 2016-08
We approve the final Nominating Committee slate of names brought for a second reading, as presented at our closing plenary.

Naming Committee. Sarah Rose House-Lightner (Orange Grove), Convenor, described the nature in which their work was done. The name of Ed Flowers (Apple Seed) was read for a second time and approved.

JYM Nominations. Nina Shaw (Santa Monica) and David Shaw (Santa Monica) announced the leadership positions for next year to be: Co-clerks: Nina Shaw, Rose Nadis, and Arianna Standish; Co-Clerks of Ministry and Oversight: Miles Pangelina and David Shaw; M&O members: Elinor Steffy, Gabriella Alvarado, Andrew Pangelina, and Khadija Farrukh.

YAF Nominations. These nominations were read by JT Dorr-Bremme (Orange Grove) and Rebekah Percy (La Jolla/Vancouver) and included names for some new positions: Co-clerks: JT Doerr-Bremme (Orange Grove) and Rebekah Percy (LaJolla); Arrangements Committee: Clerk Julian Garrett (San Jose), Hayley Hathaway (Orange Grove), Eli Fowler (Orange Grove); Spiritual Nurture Committee: Nate Secrest (Redwood Forest), Martin Waldron (Central Coast), Thistle West (Strawberry Creek).

Blessing for our Missionaries. Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek) offered blessings to our PYM missionaries: Jim Summers (La Jolla), Cathy Walling (Chena Ridge), Thistle West (Strawberry Creek) and Alyssa Nelson (Davis), by having the community gather around and touch them, with a prayer offered on their behalf. Then we ourselves, as missionaries, were encouraged to allow ourselves to be filled with that energy to bring light and love as we travel over the world.

Clerk’s Closing Remarks.
Diego reported that in his classroom there will sometimes be a student or two whose behavior has a deleterious effect on the community. It is a difficult choice how to balance the needs of individual and group. Much preparation went into production of Annual Session using practices to help balance needs. Some of these practices may be useful in monthly meetings. Creating safety is a necessary step to allow us to go deep, to look at who we are. Who are showing up as ministers and who as elders? These Friends need to be supported because they can’t do it by themselves. Recognizing gifts is the basis. The role of the elder is to hold the space of the spirit. Elders help ministers, yoking them together in that relationship of responsibility. We can create these in all levels of our meetings. We were invited to return to our monthly meetings with what we have learned, and gather again next July.

Minutes. The minutes were read and approved.

The plenary closed with worship.
**Attachments**

**Attachment XVII: Elementary School Epistle**

Dear PYM, JYM and the greater Quaker community,

Hello from the elementary program. Here are some words we wanted to say from this week:

- The all age dance was great. THANKS JYM!
- Beady animals was nice.
- We enjoyed doing family night.
- We liked playing and watching Gaga ball with JYM.
- We loved petting the goats and sheep and feeding them lettuce.
- Going to the garden where we tasted and smelled things every day was super fun.
- The lifeguards made the pond a highlight. Thank you for swim tests and canoes.
- We enjoyed listening in our classroom.
- This week we helped work on The Golden Book of Heaven.
- We had a lot of fun and look forward to next year’s gathering.

Love,

The elementary kids

**Attachment XVIII: Middle School Epistle.**

We all enjoyed playing Gaga ball and climbing trees. Some trees were redwood and one was an oak planted by JYM 23 years ago. We always wanted to climb higher each day.

We liked hanging out with everybody and having fun with our friends.

Our group created a whole world out of wire and paper-mache. Its name was “Planet Peace.”

We liked going to the pond and as a service project we harvested *Igeren densa* or pond weed.

We saw many animals – turkeys, foxes, deer, butterflies, turkey vultures, snowy egrets, lizards and snakes - and a bunch of dead animals in the museum - and went on hikes and a creek walk. We had worship while passing a rolly-polly or pill bug from hand to hand.

We did more Gaga ball.

We decided to divide a donation of $100 between the El Salvador project and Birth Justice. It was a very hard business meeting.

We did more Gaga ball.
And then PYM was over.

- Created and approved by the Middle school program.

**Attachment XIX: Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle.**

insert maaaadd beatboxing here> (Baddum-dum-chhh. Baddum-dum-chhh. Etc...)

We are junior yearly meeting

Sending you this lovely greeting

From over here at PYM

This one here's for all the friends...

We held business meetings and set community expectations And played a couple icebreakers to help build new relations

Dealing with emotions can be a mess

But AVP helped us release the stress

First we settled into silence

Then learned to use nonviolence

And how to diffuse situations

Using good communication

Respectful relationships brought us together And taught us how to treat each other

We are junior yearly meeting

Sending you this lovely greeting

From over here at PYM

This one here's for all the friends...

During plenary on day four

Youth energy helped spirits soar

Lots of powerful ministry

Helping us find connectivity
And then again in worship sharing
Found out people could be so caring
Lots of teens found doing service
Gave their lives a sense of purpose
At the pond we did our project
Tearing up weeds that grew unchecked
And helping out among the plants
In the garden doing our dance
We are junior yearly meeting
Sending you this lovely greeting
From over here at PYM
This one here's for all the friends...
Then in the Boogie Barn things went down When we took the dance to scary town
Halloween in summer was the theme
Every sunburnt goblin's dream
And there we jammed til the end of night The full moon moon above was shining bright
Over the last two days we met
Nominations for leadership roles were set
Decisions were made, and people selected To fill the jobs and be respected
We are junior yearly meeting
Sending you this lovely greeting
From over here at PYM
This one here's for all the friends...
The final night we stayed up late
Laughing and singing, we didn't hesitate
To express ourselves at an open mic
With reckless abandon so childlike
We met with YAF's and had ice cream
Overall, we made a really good team
Then braced ourselves for a sleepless night The foxes gave some quite a fright
We are junior yearly meeting
Sending you this lovely greeting
Our week is finished and the end is near And we hope to see you all next year!

**Attachment XX: PYM 2016 Young Adult Friends letter-epistle**

To Friends Everywhere,

The Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM) Young Adult Friends (YAFs) do not have an epistle to bring this year. We ran out of space, time and energy for that work. Some of us as members of this community would like to offer this letter as a reflection of how and where we are.

PacYM YAFs had around 30 attenders to our Annual Session this year. We are a community which deeply cares for each other and we long to find ways to support each other better. Our co-clerks expressed a need for more support in organizing and in responds to that we have nominated an arrangements clerk with a small committee to work along side them. We are deeply moved to have spiritual nurturing roles in our community and have created an ad-hoc Spiritual Nurturance committee as an experiment to see how that might come alive this year.

We are aware of the need for more education and seasoning around Quaker process in our community. We also have acknowledged that we "reinvent the wheel" every year. How do we move forward with institutional memory? How can we carry our passion at Annual Session forward and keep ourselves accountable throughout the year?

This Annual Session’s theme was Lifting The Veil. During a plenary for listening one Young Adult Friend ministered on our capacity to recognize each other’s gifts. In our final YAF business meeting we experienced a peek behind the veil. We feel led to hold space for each other beyond Annual Session and call upon each other’s gifts to make this a reality.

In love,

Some PacYM YAFs
Attachment XXI: PYM 2016 Epistle

To Friends Everywhere:

Lift the veils that obscure the Light of Truth within you. Sink down to the Seed that God sows in your hearts.

From June 17 through June 22, 2016, three hundred and eight Friends gathered at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma, California, for the 70th Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting. The theme of our gathering was, "Lifting the Veil," and during our time together, we sought the tenderness that comes from lifting the veils of everyday life. We felt the kindness that comes with the presence of Spirit.

Our invited guest from the Coast Miwok People, Sky Road Webb, opened our annual session with sacred songs, with tales of the land's history, and with stories of indigenous peoples today. As the wind swirled forcefully around our gathering, billowing the sides of the large tent in which we held our plenary sessions, we felt the breath of Spirit moving in the world around us, and among us, and within us.

Early in our sessions, we noticed and appreciated the careful preparations that had been made for our gathering, both physical and spiritual. It was clear that our clerk, our assistant clerk, and our Ministry and Oversight committee had designed our plenary sessions to serve both as learning experiences and as times for Spirit to enliven our business. At the start of each plenary, our clerk reminded us of the sacred purpose of our Quaker practices. He reminded us to lift the veils of our egos, to “speak only when spoken through,” to drop our preconceptions, and to open ourselves to Mystery. He also took these learning experiences to special sessions with our young Friends. Worship sharing groups, interest groups, and bible study sessions throughout the week were also designed to help us explore the countless implications of “lifting the veil.”

We opened ourselves to experimentation in matters both profound and mundane. Some of our experimentation concerned simple logistical changes that helped clear our way to attend more fully to Spirit and community. We enjoyed the return of our long-lost Information Desk. We experimented with starting our session on Friday instead of Monday, which allowed participation by Friends who were only available for the weekend. We increased the number of intergenerational plenaries and offered a new evening campfire event for our youngest Friends, which enabled parents to attend evening interest groups. And we tried overall to lessen the number of concurrent offerings in our schedule, to create a greater sense of simplicity and unity among us.

Another new occurrence this year was that our annual session was led by adult Friends who grew up among us. Our presiding clerk, Diego Navarro, and our keynote speakers, Darcy Stanley and Carl Magruder, all had participated in PYM as children. Of course, Friends from countless backgrounds bring us leadership and light, but we felt especially uplifted to find that “our own” leaders are uniquely qualified to speak to our condition as a yearly meeting.

Our condition is one of human imperfection. Although we did feel Spirit working through us frequently during our time together, we also found ourselves stumbling over details in our business, found ourselves tripping over our worldly veils. We found it difficult to come to terms with the need to reduce the operating deficit in our budget. We suffered from confusion as we worked to approve the minutes of our meetings, confusion that diverted our attention from the task at hand and tempted us to reopen previous conversations instead. And
throughout the year, between our annual sessions, we struggled to find ways to stay connected with each other – facing dilemmas over right uses of travel and electronic communications.

On a deeper level, we find ourselves falling short of our responsibility to nurture each other’s spiritual growth. Although we can feel inspired by descriptions of traditional, supportive relationships between Quaker ministers and elders, and can even feel inspired to see examples of such relationships in action today, many of us still find it hard to trust each other fully and to support each other effectively. Old memories of past hurts get in the way, which are sometimes hurts that we have caused each other. We struggle to learn ways to speak truth with love, to navigate between the errors of undue harshness and dishonest niceness.

At the same time, we sometimes find that conflict can open our hearts, and we continue to draw inspiration from each other. Our teens and young adults especially serve as models of faithfulness and good order for the rest of us. And we felt moved to see our young Friends embracing new experiences – from a wiggly baby tooth to the traveling minutes of two young adult Friends preparing to travel in the ministry in Australia.

We feel led to learn better how to reach down to the Seed that God sows in our hearts. We feel led to learn better how to pull away the veils that hide that seed, the veils of our daily worries, of our selfish wants, of our self-recriminations, of our wildest dreams, the countless veils that hide the Seed and Light of Truth. And when we ask whether we will choose to help each other in this work, we have learned to answer, “I hope so.”

Attachment XXII: Final Nominating Committee Report

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

LISTING OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES
2016-2017

CURRENT AS OF 25TH OF SIXTH MONTH 2016
INCLUDING ALL APPOINTMENTS APPROVED AT 2016 ANNUAL SESSION
AND SUBSEQUENT INTERIM APPOINTMENTS BY PRESIDING CLERK

The year shown to the left of an officeholder’s name is the year their 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 their original appointment. Appointments of committee clerks and delegation conveners are for one year. Vacant positions are indicated by an underscore next to the term-expiration year. An asterisk (*) indicates an interim appointment.
PYM OFFICERS

Presiding Clerk (one-year term)
2017  Diego Navarro, Santa Cruz (2015)

Assistant to the Clerk (one-year term)
2017  Amy Cooke, Grass Valley (2014)

Arrangements Clerks (two-year terms)
2017  Laura Kohl, La Jolla (2016)
2018  Sarah Tyrrell, Berkeley (2016)

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

Reading Clerk (one-year term)
2017  Betty deValcourt, Santa Cruz (2016)

Recording Clerks (two-year terms)
2017  Leslie Zondervan-Droz, Humboldt (2013)
2018  Jim Anderson, Chico (2016)

Registrars (two-year terms)
2018  Rick Altherr, San Jose (2016)
**Statistical Clerk** (three-year term)

2019  *Don Bean, Conejo Valley (2013) co-clerk*

2019  *Roscoe Mathieu, Cent. Coast (2016) co-clerk*

**Treasurer** (three-year term, 10/1-9/30)

2019  *Roy Allen, Berkeley (2013)*

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**PYM COMMITTEES**

**Ministry and Oversight Committee**

(9 members, 3-year terms)

2017  *Bronwen Hillman, Mexico City (2011)*

2017  *Joe Magruder, Berkeley (2011)*

2017  *Julie Harlow, Davis (2014)*

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  *Jim Summers, La Jolla (2016)*

2019  *Valerie Nuttman, Santa Cruz (2016)*

**Children’s Program Committee**

(6 members, 3-year terms)

2017  *Heather Aymie, Santa Monica (2015)*
2017 Carol Cruickshank, San Francisco (2015)

2018 Chamba Cooke, Grass Valley (2015) clerk
2018 Peggy Craik, Conejo Valley WG (2016)

2019 Cheryl Hendricks, San Francisco (2016)
2019 ________________________

Ex Officio: current and past program coordinators:

2017 Nate Secrest, Lake County WG (2016)
(2018 ________________________)

Discipline Committee

(6 members, 3-year terms)
2017 Carl Magruder, Strawberry Creek (2014)
2017 Robin Durant, Orange Grove (2015) clerk

2018 Chuck Orr, La Jolla (2014)
2018 Laura Magnani, Berkeley (2016)

2019 Patricia Portillo, Sacramento (2016)

Ex Officio: Historian-Archivist

Finance Committee

(6 members, 3-year terms)
2017 Martha Hunkins, Humboldt (2010)

2018  Mary Miché, Lake County (2012)
2018  Sandy Farley, Palo Alto (2015)

2019  David Barrows, San Diego (2015) clerk
2019  Deborah Marks, Strawberry Creek (2016)

Ex Officio: Treasurer(s), Statistical Clerk(s)

Holding Corporation

(6 members, 3-year terms)*

2017  Jennifer Carr, Las Vegas (2014)
2017  Sharlene Roberts-Caudle, Visalia (2014)

2018  Peter Neumann, Santa Barbara (2015)
2018  Beth McCleary, Reno (2012)

2019  Jeff Kroeber, San Jose (2013)
2019  Stratton Jaquette, Palo Alto (2016)

Ex Officio: Treasurer, Presiding Clerk

*(Holding Corp. appoints its own officers)

Junior Yearly Meeting Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms)*

2017  Steve Leeds, San Francisco (2011)
2017  *Erika Tarabini, Chico (2013)*

2017  _ (intentionally left unfilled) _ _ _ _

2018  Kate Connell, Santa Barbara (2012)


2018  _ (intentionally left unfilled) _ _ _ _

2019  *Dan Strickland, Orange Grove (2013)*

2019  __________________________

2019  _ (intentionally left unfilled) _ _ _ _

*This committee has expressed that only six positions need be filled.

Ex Officio: Youth Programs Coordinator

**Latin American Concerns Committee**

(5-9 members, 3-year terms)

(plus three members appointed year-to-year by Guatemala Scholarship Program, El Salvador Project & Casa de los Amigos (Mexico))*

2017  Margaret Bean, Guatemala (2013)

2017  Burton Housman, La Jolla (2015)


2018  Linda Rowell, Chico (2015)

2019  *Betty Guthrie, Orange County (2016)*

2019  *Nate Secrest, Lake County (2016)*

2019  *Laura Kohl, La Jolla (2013)*

*Guat. Donna Smith (Redwood For.) (2014) clerk

*Mex.

Peace and Social Order Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms)

2017  Bill Spencer, Humboldt (2011)

2017  Anthony Manousos, Or. Gv. (2014) co-clerk


2018  ______________________

2018  ______________________

2019  Linda Dunn, Inland Valley (2016)

2019  Shannon Frediani, Santa Cruz (2016)

2019  Sandra Gey, Berkeley (2013)

Ex Officio: clerks CPQM & SCQM P&SO,
1 PYM FCNL rep., & PYM FCL rep.

Religious Educ. for Children Cmte.

(9 members, 3-year terms)

2017  Ramona Hussey, Honolulu (2011)

2017  Elizabeth Bills, La Jolla (2014)

2017  _______________________
2018  John Cantu, Santa Cruz (2012)
2018  Delcy Steffy, Sacramento (2013)
2018  ________________________

2019  ________________________
2019  ________________________
2019  ________________________

Nominating Cmte. note: Religious Education for Children Committee has been inactive for the last two years. We have contacted numerous Friends to serve and have not met with success. We are bringing no nominations for this committee.

Secretariat Committee

(3 members, 3-year terms)

2017  Martha Carey, La Jolla (2016)
2018  Elisa Jo Harkness, Sta. Monica (2015) clerk
2019  George Mills, Palo Alto (2016)

Ex Officio: Assistant to the (Presiding) Clerk

Site Committee

(6 members 3-year terms)

2017  Paul Harris, Redwood Forest (2011)
2017  ________________________

2018  John Pixley, Claremont (2009)
2018  Sue Torrey, Central Coast (2015)
Ex Officio: Arrangements Clerks
(current & immediate past)

Nominating Cmte. note: Site Committee has been inactive for the last year. The last known work it undertook was to explore potential Southern California sites, none of which it found suitable for a variety of reasons. As Friends know, Finance Committee has brought a proposal for travel subsidies to offset the burden on Southern California Friends of continued use of Walker Creek Ranch. Ministry and Oversight is also seasoning a restructuring proposal that would affect this and other aspects of site selection. In the mean time, until further notice we are bringing no nominations for this committee.

Unity with Nature Committee

(9 members, 3-year terms)

2017  Meagan Fischer, Chico (2014)
2017  Rick Herbert, Strawberry Creek (2014)
2017  Tom Farley, Palo Alto (2016)

2018  Catya de Neergaard, Str. Creek (2013) clerk
2018  __________________________
2018  __________________________

2019  Shelley Tanenbaum, Strawberry Ck. (2013)
2019  Andi Macleod, La Jolla (2016)
2019  Sharon Shen, Berkeley (2016)

Youth Programs Coordinator
(appointed by Youth Programs Coord. Cmte.)

xxxx Alyssa Nelson, Davis (2011)

(serves ex officio on Junior Yearly Meeting Committee)

**Youth Programs Coordinating Committee**

(6 members, 3-year terms)

2017 Jennifer Carr, Las Vegas (2013)

2017 Stephen Myers, Sacramento (2014)

2017 *Steve Leeds, San Francisco (2011)*

2018 *Barbara Babin, Redwood Forest (2016)*

2019 *Melissa Lovett-Adair, Ctrl. Coast (2016)*

2019 *Bertha Peña, Mexico City (2016) clerk*

**YPCC Youth Members**

(4 members, 1-year terms; nominated by YPCC)

2017 *Kylin Navarro, Berkeley (2014)*

2017 *Rebekah Percy, La Jolla (2015)*

2017 *Julian Garrett, San Jose (2016)*

2017 _____________________________
PYM REPRESENTATIVES, DELEGATES, AND OBSERVERS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation

(4-5 representatives, 3-year terms)

2017  David Barrows, San Diego (2014) convener
2017  Graciela Martinez, Visalia (2014)
2018  Nancy Mellor, Sacramento (2012)
2019  Shannon Frediani, Santa Cruz (2016)

Evangelical Friends Church Southwest

(1 observer; 3-year term)

2019  Sandy Kewman, Grass Valley (2016)

Friends Bulletin Corp. (Western Friend) Board of Directors

(9-member board, 3-year terms; 3 appointed by PYM, 3 by NPYM and 3 by IMYM)

2017  Claire Gorfinkel, Orange Grove (2016)

Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA)

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

2017  Stephen Myers, Sacramento (2016)

(serves ex officio on Peace & Social Order Committee)
Friends’ Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

(6 representatives, 3-year terms)

2017  Carolyn Stephenson, Honolulu (2013)
2018  Anthony Manousos, Orange Grove (2016)
2019  Carolyn Levering, Santa Cruz (2016)
2019  Robert Levering, Santa Cruz (2016)

(one FCNL representative serves ex officio on Peace & Social Order Committee; see also William Penn House Natl. Consultative Cmte. below)

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)

(2 representatives, 2-year terms, appointed by Unity with Nature Committee)

2017  Rick Herbert, Strawberry Creek (2014)
2018  Catya de Neergaard, Berkeley (2014)
2018  Meagan Fischer, Chico (2016)

(UwN Cmte. intends reps to share/take turns with available funding)

Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee

(1 observer, 3-year term)

2019  _______________________

Friends Peace Team Project Board of Directors

(1 member, 3-year term)

2018  Gay Howard, Central Coast (2009)
Friends United Meeting (FUM)

(1 observer, 3-year term)

2018  Dorothy Henderson, Grass Valley (2015)

Friends World Cmte. for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas

(5 representatives, 3-year terms)

2017  Roena Oesting, La Jolla (2011)
2017  Hulda Muaka, Palo Alto (2014)
2018  Lee Sisson, Orange County (2015)
2019  Jan Turner, Humboldt (2013) convener
2019  Emlyn Buskirk, Live Oak (2016)

Reunión General de los Amigos en México

(1 observer, 2-year term; the Reunión meets every 18 months)

2017  Burton Housman, La Jolla (2015)

Wm. Penn House Natl. Consultative Cmte.

(1 representative, 1-year term; selected from FCNL representatives (see above))

2017  Robert Levering, Santa Cruz (2016)
American Friends Service Committee Corporation Meeting
Report to Annual Session 2016

Nancy Ahlberg Mellor, PYM Representative to AFSC Corp.

A quotation from the AFSC website reads: “The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.”

The Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee is the organizing body that chooses the AFSC Board, which in turn sets the direction of the organization. The Corporation meets annually. As a representative of Pacific Yearly Meeting to the American Friends Service Committee Corporation, I had the privilege to attend the most recent sessions of the 99th AFSC Corporation, held on March 4 and 5, 2016 at the Friends Center in Philadelphia. In addition to the business meetings of the Corporation, the days and evenings were filled with workshops that reflected the theme “Change the Story, Change the World” and included material and ideas that are meant to be shared with our home Meetings.

The current work of the American Friends Service Committee is covered at other times at Yearly Meeting and will be explained by those who work directly with programs. From my perspective as a member of the corporation, I can say that I am immensely honored to be a tiny part of the AFSC, the work of which I have known and respected for nearly sixty years. In addition, my membership on the Corporation has increased my interest in the projects located in the Central Valley, the Pan Valley Institute in Fresno and Project Voice in Stockton. That interest has led to visits and presentations at Sacramento Friends Meeting by Myrna Nateras and Luis Magana and by members of the meeting to their projects. Thank you, Pacific Yearly Meeting for my appointment to the Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee.
Report from Children’s Program Committee June 2016

By Chamba Cooke, clerk

Committee members: Heather Aymie, Chamba Cooke, Peggy Craik, Carol Cruickshank

With much help from Alyssa Nelson, the Youth Programs Coordinator, and Sally Kingsland, M&O Liaison, our committee has hired a Children’s Program Coordinator, Nate Secrest, 13 teachers (see below) and has designated a member of our committee to act as a mentor to the Coordinator. The Children’s Program is fully staffed, with two teachers partnering in every morning and afternoon session.

Coordinator:  Nate Secrest  Coordinator’s Mentor: Chamba Cooke

Preschool Group Teachers (newborns -3/4 years):          Elementary Program Teachers (grades 4/5-7/8)
AM: Michael Paul Michaels  PM: Arielle Rubin  AM: Mary Miche  PM: Hilary Ellis-Lavigne
AM: Joanne Taylor  PM: Leah Najjar  AM: Lee Sisson  PM: Emily Walden

Middle School Program Teachers (grades 7/8-13)  Floater:
AM: Marie Vastola  PM: Rob Cimorelli  Stanley Chagala
AM: Rolene Walker  PM: Eli Fowler

Having many experienced teachers in our classes this year gives us a good foundation. It is the committee’s intent to make the Middle School Program one in which the students come away having been respected in their ability to participate in Quaker discernment and self reflection. Nate brings with him some self reflection activities and a small group is working on giving the Middle School students the opportunity to make some meaningful Quaker discernment. This paves the way for their entry into the JYM program in subsequent years.

In response to requests from last year, we will also be introducing a Saturday Night Campfire from 6:30 to 9:30pm, giving the parents an opportunity to participate in the interest groups.

We are also creating a survey which will be distributed electronically to all the parents to evaluate this year’s program. This will help us in planning and improving the Children’s Program in 2017. Any participant in the Annual Session is welcome to request a copy of this survey. Just e-mail the request to Chambacooke@summerthymes.com.

We are looking for more committee members with whom we could continue to improve our programs over subsequent years. Please let nominating (Stephen Matchett stephenmatchett@earthlink.net or Nora Cooke cookenl@guilford.edu) know if you are interested or know someone whom you believe would be a good addition to our committee.
Report to Pacific Yearly Meeting
June 17-21, 2016

PYM Discipline Committee is deeply engaged in the process of revising our Faith and Practice. Remembering our keynote speaker of last year, we now seek to listen in tongues. Our challenge on the Discipline Committee is to find words that can bridge differences in understanding in our revision work.

We are making progress. In reorganizing the current F&P table of contents we began creating a new outline. We have found unity to

- Begin with a description of the Core of our faith;
- Eliminate redundancies—through reorganization, while retaining much of the existing language;
- Fix obvious mistakes or changes.

Our committee is rediscovering the Light and Life in considering revisions and we seek to share with yearly meeting the discovery process;

- We are establishing a F&P Revision link on our PYM website.
- Discipline Committee will use the link to post committee-approved drafts and to collect feedback;
- We will post all reviews of F&P submitted by Monthly Meetings where we finding that good work is being done.

We have asked for a supplement to our current budget. We plan one more meeting this Summer that will be charged to the current year's budget. Also, we seeks to clarify, since we now a Revision Committee, if committee membership that runs with for duration of the project? With each change in membership we have experienced a delay while we ‘re-knit' our committee into a working team.

Respectfully Submitted, Chuck Orr, co-clerk,

Liz Baker, co-clerk, Robin DuRant, Carl Magruder, Bob Runyon, Carolyn Stephenson, Jan Tappan, Historian Archivist.
Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
Report to Yearly Meeting 2016  

June, 2016

Dear Friends – my name is Stephen Myers. I am a member of the Sacramento Friends Meeting and the clerk of the board of the Friends Committee on Legislation of California.

The present moment is an encouraging time to be your voice of conscience at the State Capitol. In recent weeks, State government has included, for the first time in more than 20 years, money in the annual budget to support children born into poverty. We are also beginning to see a shift toward more rehabilitation, rather than punishment, in the state prison system: FCLCA helped to pass laws that will allow people sentenced as minors to demonstrate positive changes in their attitude and behavior in order to earn parole.

Our work is needed now more than ever. FCLCA has three areas of concentration for our work: reform of the criminal justice system, promotion of economic equality, and environmental justice. Right now, we are advocating for a redefinition of the purpose of sentencing from its present intent of punishment to a more holistic definition that includes restorative justice. We believe this can open the door to a paradigm shift in which California’s justice system serves to heal rather than promote further harm.

Our coalition work to repeal the Maximum Family Grant, the state aid to children I mentioned before, brought together members of a wide range of faith communities. Many of these congregations were featured in a brief video which I would be delighted to share with you this week. Working together with a wide range of communities has been empowering and nourishing for FCLCA, and we couldn’t do that work without your support!

We also are uniquely suited to address issues at the intersections between our priorities: our current work to increase the level of investment towards greenhouse gas reductions in low-income communities would benefit working families at the same time it would promote environmental justice.

Our impact is determined in large part by the support of the members of this meeting – YOU allow FCLCA to make a difference at the state capitol. The good folks in the Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Cruz, and other meetings who are working on the 50th Annual Harvest Festival, as well as other meeting fundraisers, allow FCLCA to be present each day in Sacramento to build relationships and keep our eyes and ears open to any developments in the capitol building.

Thank you for your support!

FCLCA’s Action Network has reached 5,200 subscribers! This allows FCLCA to multiply our impact by enabling you and your social networks to send messages directly to state legislators. Legislative staff tell us that our direct advocacy makes a huge difference – we have ensured good bills have made it through committees and stopped bad bills before they became law. The action network is an excellent way for every member of the meeting to stay informed about FCLCA’s work and to be part of the movement to promote Friends’ values at the state level. I strongly urge you to sign up online at www.fclca.org.
And, as always, we remain a source for in-depth analysis of state-wide Initiatives, allowing voters to understand ballot measures from a carefully reasoned Friends’ perspective before going to the polls in November. Our recommendations will be available in the next issue of the Newsletter online and in print for our supporters.

The other half of FCLCA, the Education Fund, has also been hard at work: last year we created the *Bring Your Voice Guidebook to Lobbying the California State Legislature* that will be available soon. We are developing a citizen-lobbyist training program to train other like-minded folks across the state!

While all this good news is inspiring, it is also important for me to express my uncertainty about the future of FCLCA. We’re struggling to close a $100,000 annual shortfall for our lobbying organization. As the Quaker community has aged, more of our income has come from end-of-life bequests rather than steady monthly and annual contributions. That is why I am directly asking members of this meeting to ask yourself how you as an individual and your Friends Meeting as a community can help FCLCA bridge the significant gap that presently exists. We need a significant number of new individuals to contribute $1,000 or more annually. If you are able to give at this level, FCLCA needs you to do so. If you can connect the organization to those either in your meeting or in your larger circle that can contribute financially, please share those contacts with me. Remember that with our monthly sustainer system, a significant annual contribution can be divided into manageable monthly amounts. To encourage your participation in our summer initiative, a generous donor has enabled increased or new donations to FCLCA to be matched dollar for dollar up to $11,000!

Again, I want to thank those individuals and meetings that contribute time, love, and resources to the Friends Committee on Legislation of California. We cannot continue to be your voice of conscience without your passion and commitment to Friends’ values. I am extremely appreciative for the opportunity to serve you as the clerk of the board, and am available at any time to talk with you about supporting the work of FCLCA – whether that be through writing a letter to your legislator, organizing a fundraiser at your meeting, or stretching financially to make an individual contribution. Every effort is appreciated!
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Representative Report to Pacific Yearly Meeting 2016

FCNL in 2015

Friends in PYM engaged with FCNL in many different ways in 2015, from our delegation that participated in discernment at FCNL’s Annual Meeting in November and the legislative actions many Friends took in response to FCNL emails to Chico Friend Megan Fisher’s participation in the year-long Advocacy Corps and the Advocacy Team formed by Friends in Santa Cruz meeting.

“Pivot2Peace” was the theme of FCNL’s Annual Meeting, Nov. 12-15, 2015, at a new venue, nearer Capitol Hill and FCNL’s office. Meeting spaces there were larger, and the location was much more convenient.

An obvious opportunity to bring FCNL supporters to lobby their Senators and Representatives, the annual meeting begins with the Quaker Public Policy Institute (QPPI). FCNL really knows how to teach lobbying skills for impact and success!

The players: FCNL Executive Secretary Diane Randall

Speakers from the US Institute for Peace; Bureau for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, State Dept.; Genocide Prevention Program, Geo. Mason U.; Quaker UN Office; Central African Republic trauma healing project; Kenyan Human Rights Group (Haki Africa); Ed Snyder

Staff includes 17 registered lobbyists; a strong Field staff, a growing Young Adult program funded by a Capital Campaign, Young Fellows (interns), and many more.

General Committee – 178 Quakers from YMs of all branches of Quakerism; provides oversight and stewardship, establishes policy and priorities for work with each Congressional session [Factoid: each Congress lasts 2 years after House elections occur], convenes at Annual Meeting.

Peacebuilding: the theme for 2015

The theme changes for each annual session to provide focus for the plenary speakers and lobbying topics. (Q: If war is not the answer, what is? A: Pivot2Peace.)

Lobbying – learning and doing:

QPPI provides the background and inspiration for lobbying on a single current legislative issue that is likely to be acted on very soon by Congress. We heard from experts in conflict prevention and practical de-escalation of violence from the US Institute for Peace and several African conflict-resolution projects. Training for lobbying included practicing presentations with others from the same state or region. Visits to Congressional offices, follow-up, and feedback to FCNL are always well-planned by staff, with some local advance work to schedule visits.

It is an amazing and valuable experience to be part of professionally organized lobbying. First, FCNL sets up the
Focus: a pragmatically chosen current opportunity for bipartisan support. A single specific “ASK” made by many constituents from all over the country in a short period of time makes a great impact on Congress.

Logistics: arrangements – the Who, When, Where — assigned roles for each member of a state delegation, background material to leave behind to reinforce the message, and different forms to prepare, track our activities, and report results back to FCNL.

Training: What works best is a personal story with emotional impact told by a constituent. Prior to our visits, we prepared — with coaching and practice — in telling our stories to other team members. Rehearsing the points to cover improved our ultimate presentations’ effectiveness.

Visits to members of Congress, step-by-step instructions:

- Introductions of the group’s members,
- Thanks for the legislator’s awareness of FCNL’s work,
- Inquiring about the legislator’s interests/issues,
- Telling our individual stories about our focus issue,
- What we are asking for, specifically related to an upcoming bill or amendment,

Follow up: material to leave behind, report on visit to FCNL, plan next contact with legislator back home in district office.

The 2015 “ask” was to make the inter-agency Atrocities Prevention Board permanent (Sen. Ben Cardin’s bill, S.2551); 350 constituent lobbying visits happened during the two days of QPPI! When the legislation was introduced in early 2016, among the sponsors were several Republican Senators who specifically said they were cosponsoring the bill because of the engagement of Friends in their states.

Meeting with a Concern for Business

After QPPI, the annual meeting of the General Committee and supporters of FCNL takes place, covering the past year’s achievements and progress. 2015 saw advances regarding

- Iran: diplomacy works,
- Climate: opening bipartisan dialog,
- Advocacy in Washington – expanded opportunities,
- Growing and sustaining grassroots organizers in local communities,
- Reducing mass incarceration,
- Limiting the Pentagon budget and nuclear weapons,
- Peacebuilding within the US government,
- De-militarizing US police forces.

Ongoing Work at FCNL, Status and Updates
• Staff changes, especially hearing from the incoming and outgoing interns: introductions and reports on their experiences during their year in Washington;

• Advocacy Teams: regional networks of citizen activists doing grassroots lobbying in district offices;

• Capital Campaign programs:
  o Quaker Welcome Center: meeting place on Capitol Hill plus a residence in 205 C St. next to the FCNL office;
  o Friend in Washington program: short-term residence for experienced Quakers; possibilities for various projects;
  o Young Adult Advocacy Corps summer intensive program and Spring Lobby Day;

• FCNL on the Road events across the US in 2016 and 2017 (will be at Friends House, Santa Rosa, in Feb. 2017).

• Futures Planning process.

GC Business (budget, etc.)

Setting or revising priorities for work during the new session of Congress starting in January. Every odd-numbered year priorities for the newly elected Congress are set during Annual Meeting, and specific priorities for staff focus are determined annually by input from monthly meetings across the country.

Workshops on current topics to educate attenders and give them the opportunity to ask questions:

• Emerging issues,
• Understanding the budget,
• Capital Campaign,
• Advocacy,
• Lobby Corps outside of Washington.

Ongoing Advocacy

Congressional offices tell FCNL staff that messages to Congress are a key part of our democratic process. Friends and other like-minded folk in California sent thousands of messages to Congress in response to alerts from FCNL, helping to encourage our lawmakers to advance the world we seek.

Advocacy Corps

Young Friend Megan Fisher from Chico Friends meetings completed a very successful term as a member of the first class of 18 Advocacy Corps organizers focused on encouraging others to lobby Congress on climate change. As part of her activities, Megan organized four other young Friends to attend FCNL’s Annual Spring Lobby Weekend in March of 2016. FCNL paid half the
cost of their travel to Washington, DC with the other half covered by the Bob Vogel Youth Programs Endowment Fund of PYM.

Advocacy Teams

Several Friends in Santa Cruz Monthly Meeting helped to welcome FCNL Advocacy Team organizer Maiya Zwerling to their area to help launch an Advocacy Team – a year-long service of FCNL that provides training in deep advocacy to Friends and other like-minded folk around the country.

Submitted by Amy Southwick, 6/16/2016

Attachments to printed report:

- Schedule for speakers and QPPI
- “What we achieve together”
- Legislation summary: Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act
- FCNL Priorities and Lobbying Programs
## Pacific Yearly Meeting - General Account

**Budget for Fiscal Year 10/01/2016 - 9/30/2017**

**Approved 6/20/2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<table>
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<td>5230 Peace &amp; Social Order</td>
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<td>5231 Religious Education</td>
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<td>5232 Secretariat</td>
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<td>5233 Site</td>
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<td>5235 Unity with Nature</td>
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<td>5237 Committee Suppl. Exp. (2714)</td>
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<td>525 Support of Friends Orgs.</td>
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<td>5251 FCNL</td>
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<td>5260 AFSC</td>
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<td>5261 FriendsHouse Moscow Support Assoc</td>
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<td>5262 Casa de los Amigos</td>
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<td>5264 Friends General Conference</td>
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<td>5266 Quaker Earthcare Witness</td>
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<td><strong>Total 525 Support of Friends Orgs.</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,750</strong></td>
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Pacific Yearly Meeting - General Account  
Budget for Fiscal Year 10/01/2016 - 9/30/2017  
Approved 6/20/2016

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<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>FCNL &amp; Wm Penn House Travel</td>
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<td>FWCC, Sec. of the Amer.(2743)</td>
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<td>Gen. Reunion Friends, Mex (2746)</td>
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<td>5289</td>
<td>Friends Peace Team Project</td>
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<td>Total 527 · Conference Travel/PYM Delegates</td>
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<td>Youth Program</td>
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<td>YPC Supervisory</td>
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<td>6110</td>
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<td>6140</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>6190</td>
<td>Administration &amp; Travel</td>
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<td>Total 6100 · Youth Program</td>
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Total Expense 148,020

Total Income (see top of page 1) 137,983

Net gain (deficit) - Income minus Expense -10,037

Transfers to (from) Reserves:

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<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Transfer to (from) General Resrv</td>
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<tr>
<td>4106</td>
<td>Transfer to (from) YPC Reserve</td>
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Per-Member Assessments $ Assessment

- Base assessment - all non-Mexico mtgs 49
- US mainland YPC support assessmt 62

Per member - US mainland meetings 111
Per member - Hawaii & Guatemala 49
Per Member - Mexico City 30
Finance Committee Travel Subsidy Recommendation
June 20, 2016

Finance Committee recommends a subsidy for Friends traveling to Annual Gathering in excess of 200 miles:

- subsidy for those traveling over 200 miles by car pools of 3 persons or more
  $25.00/person
- subsidy for those traveling over 400 miles by car pools of 3 persons or more
  $50.00/person
- comparable subsidies for people traveling by bus or train, also based on distance.

The subsidy will be paid for by a $1.00 increase in assessment and a $5.00 increase in session fees for Friends in mainland U.S.
Abuse Protection Policy

Policy for Prevention of Sexual and Physical Abuse in Pacific Yearly Meeting Programs and Activities

(Short Title: Abuse Prevention Policy, June 2015)

Approved by the PYM Ministry & Oversight Committee
June 6, 2015
Executive Summary

Abuse is a difficult issue to talk about, and most of us would like to believe that there are no predators within a Quaker community. Unfortunately, abuse can happen in any community and Quakers are not immune. In fact, our research shows that 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.

This is a draft policy for the prevention and reporting of sexual abuse of minors at Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) sponsored events. The policy defines sexual abuse, describes the recruitment and screening (including reference and background checks) of applicants for youth worker positions, and discusses the measures that the youth programs will implement in order to minimize the possibility of sexual abuse.

This document outlines the training of youth workers, the requirements for mandated reporting, and the procedures that will be undertaken should an allegation of sexual abuse come forward.

Although the policy focuses on sexual abuse prevention and reporting, the same procedures would be undertaken to prevent/report any kind of abuse.
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INTRODUCTION

Informed by their deep conviction that there is that of God in every person, Friends affirm the basic dignity of all humankind. In our gatherings we seek an environment of welcoming love and acceptance which encourages the full and equal participation of all. Friends strive to bring together a community of mutual trust which challenges all forms of violence against others, a community in which faith and principles are expressed in appropriate action.

Sexual harassment and abuse profoundly violate that community of love and trust for which we yearn. Abuse in our Quaker family is similar to abuse within our personal family, and it can be devastating—the difficulties of the victims are compounded by estrangement from those of whom they had expected the most, and by grief for what has been lost. (Pacific Yearly Meeting, Ministry and Oversight Committee, “When Quaker Solidarity is Broken” second edition, 8/93)

No segment of society, including the Religious Society of Friends, is immune to the dangers of sexual abuse. In fact, parts of our own community have been damaged by incidences and accusations of abuse. If we are honest with ourselves as Friends, we acknowledge that the same potential for hurt exists in our community as in others, and that mindfully attending to issues of safety is the best way to protect individuals and the community. (Friends Meeting at Cambridge, “Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse”, March 2006) Denial of the possibility of hurt does not prevent hurt—it heightens its likelihood.

If we experience or learn of abuse, “grooming”*, or harassment—taking advantage of another person's youth, smaller size, weakness, desire to please, or timidity for one's own sexual gratification—it must be and will be confronted.

*“Grooming” is a process consisting of six stages where a sex offender draws a victim into a relationship that becomes shrouded in secrecy and leads to molestation.

POLICY STATEMENT

Pacific Yearly Meeting affirms that it will provide for the safety of the children and youth of the Yearly Meeting to help ensure the fellowship, support and educational experience for our children and youth in an environment free from any kind of abuse, sexual or otherwise. We also affirm our concern for the safety of adults who, without this policy, might be unjustly accused. This policy will set forth policies, practices and procedures that all who work with children and youth will follow.

Further, as a component of this policy we seek to educate and inform members and attenders of the Yearly Meeting’s gatherings about our concerns and convictions in establishing a healthy and safe environment for our children and youth. Therefore, this policy applies to those youth workers who take care of our children and youth for us. It also applies to members and attenders who interact with our children and youth. Ultimately what is done with our children and youth is in the name of the Yearly Meeting and in the name of the Spirit that guides us all. (Adapted from Sacramento Meeting, Policy on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, March 2015)
WHAT IS 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).

In addition, we define sexual abuse as including, but not limited to:
- verbal or visual obscenities,
- unwanted sexual comments, teasing or jokes,
- unwanted sexual or suggestive touching or closeness,
- pressure for dates or meeting alone,
- sexual intercourse or touching without consent,
- sexual intercourse, contact, or touching, even with consent, between two minors or between a minor and an adult,
- any sort of threat, implied or stated, if the victim “tells.”

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

PREVENTION

Pacific Yearly Meeting takes reasonable and necessary precautions to ensure that our children, young people, and the adults who work with them are safe and secure during their programs and activities, and that the safety and reputation of teachers and program organizers is also protected.

Youth Workers

Youth workers include all volunteers, employees and or/or contractors who work with youth at yearly meeting events.

- Youth workers such as FRAPs (Friendly Responsible Adult Presences), children's program teachers, and the children's program coordinator, are well known to the program organizers or to their meetings so that the program organizer may easily determine their suitability. They have been active members and attenders in the PYM community for at least six months before the event.

- To be considered for a position as a youth worker for a PYM-sponsored program, the applicant must complete an application which will ask will ask the applicant to disclose whether they have ever been convicted of a crime. The applicant will also be asked to give PYM permission to to conduct a criminal background check.

- Background checks and reference checks must be conducted on all youth workers before being appointed, and those checks shall be repeated every 36 months for returning youth workers. The clerk of the relevant committee (JYM, Children's Program, etc.) or their appointee will conduct the reference checks. The PYM Youth Programs Coordinator, with the support of the Youth Programs Supervisor and a liaison from Ministry & Oversight, will order the background checks, including for the adult members of the...
Children's Committee and JYM Committee, but not including occasional or casual volunteers who will not be left alone or in charge of any youth.

- The Youth Programs Coordinating Committee will be responsible for seeing that the Youth Programs Coordinator has met the above criteria, and for ordering the background check and conducting reference checks on any new hire. The background check shall be repeated every 36 months.

- Reference checks and background checks are but pieces of a larger discernment process, not a substitute for broader discernment or outreach in the Good Order of Friends. If a reference or background check brings up a concern or question, the committee in charge hiring/appointing should consider the information and discern whether it prevents them from being able to offer the position to the candidate. The candidate should be given a copy of the background check and allowed to provide additional information in response. Data collected from both reference and background checks shall be protected and kept confidential.

- The committee will decide which offenses (convictions) to examine in the background checks and which offenses will disqualify applicants. For child sexual abuse, absolute disqualifiers include violent behavior and child sexual abuse perpetration history. Other convictions will 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

**Communication**

This document, including the plan for response, will be communicated regularly to parents / guardians / sponsors, youth workers, and/or appropriate committees and clerks. It includes a written process for reporting any suspected abuse or improper behavior within the community and to state or local authorities. No specific communications about the incident or those involved that would violate the need for confidentiality and privacy will be disclosed to the Yearly Meeting community. The Yearly Meeting will be informed as needed to provide assurance that the situation has been addressed and that this policy has been followed.

**Program Activities**

- At PYM-sponsored events, any minor in attendance without a parent/guardian shall have a designated adult sponsor. For each gathering, there are times when programs are in session and children or teens are being supervised by volunteer staff. At all other times, parents / guardians / sponsors are responsible for supervising their own children and youth. Parents / guardians / sponsors will be informed in advance as to which are program times and which are parental-supervision times.

- All programs, rooms, activities are staffed by at least two adults. There may be times when one adult is working with a small break-out group, but there will be two or more children or teens in such groups. Break-out groups will be within clear view of other PYM activities.
- One-to-one conversations and activities, even with fully trusted and familiar volunteers, will not take place in areas not visible to others.
- Locations of activities, programs, classes are easily accessible by parents/guardians/sponsors and other concerned adults—an area outdoors, or with windows, or near adult activities.
- Field trips or activities in a remote location include an extra adult—for example, two to stay with the group, one to go for help.

**Education and Training**

Although all of us are entrusted with the care of our community, PYM's youth workers are given a special trust: to help the youth and children of PYM grow in the Spirit, and to grow safely. We are conscious that our **way of being** with youth is as important as the content of the programs provided—children and youth follow our lead, and we teach mostly by example. For our programs to be successful and safe, youth workers, youth, and parents/guardians and sponsors need a common language and understanding of what makes for a safe and trusting environment. Therefore, education and training shall be included in all PYM-sponsored activities that involve youth.

Youth workers of any age, including teens who will be working with younger children, shall receive education and training before the program begins and be told where they can get support during the program. All programs should also include an evaluation and/or debriefing session after the program.

At a minimum, this education and training should include the following:

1) Provide key materials to youth workers to review ahead of time (copy of this Abuse Prevention Policy, program schedule/plan, any documents that have been sent to participants and parents/guardians/sponsors) and 2) Hold a meeting to highlight important information (including the topics covered in this Abuse Prevention Policy), review expectations and the schedule, answer questions, and introduce youth workers to each other, supervisors, and key contact people. In addition, we recommend that in-person group community-building activities be conducted to build collegiality among the youth workers, supervisors, and relevant committee members so that there is a strong understanding of the need for cooperation in the effort to prevent abuse and to address it if it arises.

Children and Teens (except infants) shall receive explicit introduction at the beginning of each program to the adult(s) to whom they should come if they have any questions, problems or concerns. An age-appropriate version of the following suggested statement shall be shared with the youth (adapted from the introduction to this Policy): "We Friends say that we see that of God in every person. We want our gatherings to be full of welcoming love and acceptance that encourage full and equal participation of everyone. Friends try to create a trusting community that challenges all forms of violence against others. If something happens in our gathering here to you or to someone else that feels wrong, ask one of these adults for help. PYM has a policy to help prevent abuse and to address abuse in case it happens. (For older youth: read the "What is Sexual Abuse" section of this document or have a group brainstorm. For younger youth: give an age-appropriate summary, such as 'abuse is touching or words that hurt or feel wrong,' or have a group brainstorm.)

Parents / Guardians / Sponsors shall be provided access to this Policy before any PYM-sponsored event. A Parent Orientation Meeting shall be offered near the beginning of the event to highlight important information (including the topics covered in this Abuse Prevention Policy), review expectations and the schedule (including if/when the program will or will not be in session or when parents/guardians/sponsors are expected to supervise their own children), answer questions, and introduce them to the event’s key contact people.
PYM Community Members in general shall have access to this Abuse Prevention Policy and other youth program materials through the PYM website and upon request. PYM Ministry and Oversight Committee (M&O) shall communicate to all PYM Meetings and Worship Groups that this policy exists. M&O will make sure that this policy and relevant resources are referenced in registration materials and in announcements or orientations at the beginning of any PYM-sponsored event.

RESPONDING TO SUSPICIONS OF ABUSE

Everyone involved in the process is urged to hold themselves, and all others involved, tenderly in the Light as we all wait for loving guidance ...
(from La Jolla Monthly Meeting's Harassment and Abuse Policy)

Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>the person who may have been abused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observer</td>
<td>thinks there may be abuse in a relationship or situation. This may be based on personal experience or a report from someone else.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Named</td>
<td>the person suspected of abusing the Subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Convener</td>
<td>the person designated by the clerks (see steps #2-3 below) to facilitate the Response Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Committee</td>
<td>a small committee consisting of members of the Ministry and Oversight Committee, the adult members of the JYM Committee, the Children’s Program Committee, and may also include the Youth Programs Coordinator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandated Report</td>
<td>required statement or act of telling an official agency (police, sheriff or Child Protective Services of the suspected abuse).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocates</td>
<td>individuals suggested by the Response Convener to accompany the Subject Observer, and/or Named through the process. These individuals, suggested by the Response Committee and accepted by the person under their care, will be selected from those persons present at the Gathering with a particular concern and/or training in these issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gathering</td>
<td>usually this is the PYM Annual Session. However, it could also be another PYM event such as Representative Committee or an activity organized by the Youth Programs Coordinator or Youth Programs Coordinating Committee.</td>
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Procedure for Reporting and Response

1. If you see an abuse taking place, stop it immediately.

2. All youth workers of the Junior Yearly Meeting and Children's Programs are considered mandated reporters who must report any incidents of suspected abuse to the appropriate authorities as defined by law. The Mandated Report must be filed with the appropriate agency within 24 hours. (See Appendix 1: Mandated Reporting) *It is not the responsibility of the mandated reporter to decide whether or not abuse has occurred.*
3. As soon as possible, but no later than within 4 hours of learning of suspicions of abuse of a child, the Observer must share this information with one of the following, who will then notify the others: the Adult Clerk of JYM, the Children’s Program Committee Clerk, the Clerk of M&O, and Clerk of PYM.

4. With input from the aforementioned clerks, the clerk of Ministry and Oversight will designate an individual from among the clerks or from the Ministry and Oversight Committee to serve as the Response Convener who will oversee the response process.

5. A small committee will be formed consisting of members from the Ministry and Oversight, JYM, and Children’s Program Committees and may also include the Youth Programs Coordinator. This committee will be known as the Response Committee.

6. All statements of suspected abuse will be taken seriously, and heard with compassion and without judgment. The first steps for those learning of a suspected abuse is to see that the Subject is safe and there is a safe environment for all participants. The most immediate requirement is to stop all possibility of further harm.

7. Within the first 24 hours of an allegation coming to its attention, the Response Committee’s function will include the following:

   a) Receive, review and monitor any report of child abuse. All or a selected number of the Response Committee members will be available to meet with any potential reporter (Subject or Observer). Ascertain whether a Mandated Report has been filed with the authorities.

   b) Take steps to stop all contact between the Named and the youth of the Yearly Meeting community for the period of inquiry.

   c) If the Subject is a minor, notify the parent/guardian of the Subject that a Mandated Report is being made and provide support as necessary and as requested by the Subject and family. (If the Named is a parent or guardian, the Response Committee might choose to delay this step until the safety of the Subject is secured.) Ideally this initial contact should occur before or as the Mandated Report is filed. Additional support may be offered if requested.

   d) Notify the Named (and his/her parents/guardians if the Named is a minor) that the Mandated Report has been made (again, attending first to the safety of the Subject if necessary). Provide referral to services, including a support committee. Clarify with the Named any restrictions the RC deems necessary on his/her activity or responsibilities within the community to maintain child safety for the duration of the investigation.

   e) Maintain careful records of the conversations and processes that the RC engages in.

   f) Plan and conduct communication (e.g. letter to the community, gatherings for information, worship, reflection) as necessary. Those who are implementing this step must be mindful of appropriate confidentiality. A range of situations may arise, the most extreme of which would be sexual abuse alleged to have been perpetrated by a PYM.
volunteer or staff member during a PYM program. The Response Committee is encouraged to keep in mind, and freely remind those who are involved (and those who have been informed) of the centrality of worship at a time when there may be pain, confusion, shock, fear, disbelief, anger.

g) Take appropriate steps to keep information confidential. Only those with supervisory or organizational need-to-know should be informed of the identity of the Subject and Named, unless permission is given otherwise.

h) If the suspected abuse does not fall into one of the categories required for a Mandated Report or authorities decide not to conduct an investigation, and the Response Committee still feels concern about an allegation, the Response Committee will seek to discern the appropriate steps to ensure ongoing safety for all, pursuing appropriate follow-up with all involved.

CONCLUSION OF PROCESS

At the conclusion of the process, the goal is to provide a written report to Ministry and Oversight Committee as well as to discern whether a continuing risk exists and what further steps need to be taken to protect participants from such risk.

The Response Convener will keep the other clerks in close communication throughout the process. In addition, the Response Committee may choose to recommend one of the following options to the Ministry and Oversight Committee:

1. Requiring that the Named keep a specified distance from children’s activities and individual children;

2. Requiring the Named to leave the Gathering immediately;

3. Escorting the Named off the Gathering property or providing transportation home;

4. Banning the Named from attending future PYM sessions or activities;

5. Consultation between PYM's Ministry and Oversight Committee and the M&O Committee and/or Clerk of the home meeting of the Named. Together they would discern whether there is cause to be concerned about future incidents that endanger the safety of the participants at the Gathering, future Gatherings, or at the home meeting of the Named or the Subject.

Should there be continuing cause for concern, the home meeting of the Named is responsible for notifying the appropriate committee clerks or others as needed to assure the safety of all participants in its activities. Should the Named change meetings, appropriate cautions should be forwarded to the new meeting. If the new meeting is not known, the PYM M&O Committee will determine how to relay its concerns to the rest of the Yearly Meeting.

6. Should there be cause for continuing concern for the Subject, the Response Committee will suggest to the parent/guardian that s/he consult the home meeting about the situation. PYM's ministry and oversight committee will provide support to the Subject's home meeting if
requested.

7. A written report will be provided to the Ministry and Oversight Committee, which will then be provided to the PYM treasurer should an insurance claim be initiated.


With gratitude to:
Pacific Yearly Meeting, Ministry and Oversight Committees of 1993 and 2010
La Jolla Monthly Meeting
Sacramento Monthly Meeting
Friends Meeting of Cambridge
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Friends General Conference
National Center for Youth Law
Appendix 1: Mandatory Reporting

Who are mandated reporters at Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) functions?

Mandated reporters include all of the following:

- 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. Although our teachers and FRAP's are technically volunteers rather than employees, they could fall into this category, meaning that they can and should report suspected abuse. They do not need the approval of a supervisor to do so, and should initiate a report on their own.
- A physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, dentist, resident, intern, podiatrist, chiropractor, licensed nurse, dental hygienist, optometrist, marriage, family, and child counselor, clinical social worker, or any other person who is currently licensed under Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code.

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 CWA or 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).

with gratitude to:
Appendix 2:
Additional Resources


http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/Child-Sexual-Abuse-6-Stages-of-Grooming#ixzz21IJ3BOD6


Best Practice Standards: The Proper Use of Criminal Records in Hiring, MAY 21, 2013 | LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW
http://www.lawyerscommittee.org/newsroom/publications?id=0037 (can download PDF there)

Background Checks: What Employers Need to Know (A joint publication of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Federal Trade Commission)
Appendix 3: 
Insurance Company Questionnaire

Sexual Misconduct Liability

If coverage is desired, the supplemental sexual misconduct questionnaire must be completed and signed, otherwise the policy will be issued without misconduct coverage.

1. Does your organization have a formal written policy that includes procedures to prevent acts of sexual misconduct?
   - Yes
   - No

2. Are all employees, and those volunteers involved in any activity involving a minor (person under the age of 18), required to sign a release form which you keep on file that allows you to request a criminal background check?

3. Do you conduct criminal background and reference checks on employees and volunteers?
   - Yes
   - No

   a. Check all that apply for employees and all that apply for volunteers. For purposes of this question, a volunteer is anyone involved in a nursery school or overnight activity involving minors, counseling of minors, or one-on-one mentoring of minors.

   b. For employees we conduct:
      - Nationwide criminal background checks
      - Statewide criminal background checks
      - Local criminal background checks
      - No criminal background checks on employees
      - Reference checks on employees
      - No reference checks on employees
      - Other

   c. For volunteers we conduct:
      - Nationwide criminal background checks
      - Statewide criminal background checks
      - Local criminal background checks
      - No criminal background checks on volunteers
      - Reference checks on volunteers
      - No reference checks on volunteers
      - Other

4. Do you require that all volunteers be involved with your organization for at least six months before they are allowed in any position involving contact with minors?

5. Do you require that no minor is ever alone with only one adult on church premises or in any church-sponsored activity, except in a chaperoned situation?

6. Do you have a whistle-blower program in the event that a sexual misconduct event occurs?

7. Have you or any of your representatives ever submitted a claim for sexual misconduct liability to any insurer? If "yes," submit a detailed written explanation of the event.

8. Have you or any of your pastors or present ministers, employees, or volunteers ever been accused, charged, convicted, had claim for damages submitted against, or named in any suit for any type of sexual misconduct? If "yes," identify the person and submit a detailed written account.

9. Have you or any of your representatives ever received a complaint alleging sexual misconduct against any of your ministers, employees, or volunteers, or ever received a report, or investigated any event of alleged sexual misconduct against any of your ministers, employees, or volunteers, and submitted a detailed written account?

10. Do you conduct any investigation or inquiry pending at the time of this application, or knowledge of any information which may lead to an investigation or inquiry, regarding an event or occurrence of sexual misconduct involving you, your officials, directors, trustees, elders, ministers, employees, or volunteers? If "yes," submit a detailed written account.

11. Have your insurance agent explained the requirements for carrying Sexual Misconduct coverage at these limits and if you are currently not in compliance will you be working on a written plan that will incorporate all of the requirements so that they can be implemented within the next 6 months? (The carrier may require a copy of your written plan for their files. Failure to provide evidence of compliance will result in a reduction in Sexual Misconduct Coverage.)
THE APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE FORGOING DISCLOSURES AND REPRESENTATIONS ARE
DEEMED TO BE MATERIAL, AND THAT THE CARRIER IS RELYING UPON THE ACCURACY AND
COMPLETENESS OF SAID DISCLOSURES AND REPRESENTATIONS IN REACHING A DECISION TO ISSUE
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT LIABILITY COVERAGE TO THE APPLICANT. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION IMPOSES AN AFFIRMATIVE DUTY TO MAKE FULL AND FAIR DISCLOSURES UPON THE APPLICANT. THE
INSURED IS OBLIGATED TO REPORT AND CHANGES IN ANY OF THE FORGOING RESPONSES TO THE
COMPANY.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Misconduct Coverage:</th>
<th>$2,000,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occurrence/Aggregate Limit:</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
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**Claims-made Coverage**

1. Retroactive Date: _________ (mm/dd/yyyy)
2. Are there any interruptions of claims-made coverage from the proposed retroactive date?
   If “yes”, submit written details including dates of such interruptions.
3. Are any claims pending of which you or any authorized person are aware? _________
   If “yes”, submit a detailed explanation.
4. Are there any incidents or circumstances known to you or any authorized person, that have not yet
   been reported to the prior carrier, and for which there is a reason to believe that such incident or
   circumstance may give rise to a future claim under the proposed coverage? _________
   If “yes”, submit a detailed explanation.

* This coverage is non-binding.

**Authorized Person**

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<thead>
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<th>Title/Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pastor/Board Member</td>
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<th>Date</th>
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**Authorized person means any employee that is elected, appointed or authorized to give notice or receive notice of
claim, offense, incident or circumstance.**
Nominating Committee comes into the session somewhat reduced. We started off with one vacancy, had three members resign and one who has needed to scale back her involvement, leaving us with four active members. Due to the increase in our per-member workload, our Job Descriptions subcommittee was relatively inactive, although we did adopt some clarifying changes to the Presiding Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk job descriptions. We are also working with the current Statistical co-clerks to refashion the Statistical Clerk job description to make co-clerking standard in that position. All current job descriptions will be available for review in a binder at Walker Creek Ranch, and corresponding versions should soon be on the website (an area we have not been signally successful at keeping up to date).

**PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES**

*To save space, the remainder of this preliminary Nominating Committee report is omitted from the Minutes Packet. It can be found on the PYM website www.pacificyearlymeeting.org. Only the final Nominating Committee report is included in the Packet.*
Lifting the Veil on the Peace Testimony Among PYM Friends

It is hard to assess how the Peace Testimony is faring among Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends since attendance at PSO’s monthly conference calls has dwindled to two or three besides the clerk and co-clerk, and very few reports have been received from our email blasts to clerks of Peace Committees. Some Peace Committees have been laid down. Appointed members of the PSO Committee have mostly not taken part in our calls. No minutes of concern have come to our attention, except for a minute on “Living Sustainably” from the FWCC World Plenary in Peru. The good news is that individual meetings and individual Friends are active in peace and social concerns (some doing extraordinary work), but we are not collaborating or communicating very well as a community of Friends.

It is worth noting that the theme of this year’s Yearly Meeting, “Lifting the Veil,” is related to the word “Revelation” (Apocalypsis in Greek), which means “to uncover or lift the veil.” The Book of Revelation was written when Christians were living under oppression and persecution during the dark days of the Roman Empire. Its coded message was that the spirit of Christ would prevail over the forces of empire—a message that early Friends took to heart, often at great personal risk. Experiencing the living Christ as their Teacher and Guide, Friends struggled so that there would be a “new Jerusalem,” God’s beloved community, on earth as it is in heaven.

Some questions arise: Do Friends still believe that is possible to transform our culture and system of war into a culture and system of peace? What sacrifices are we willing to make for the sake of justice and peace?

In our dark times there are some glimmerings of light and hope among Friends. Here are a few examples:

**Orange Grove Meeting** has a thriving Peace and Social Concerns Committee with adult studies on peace and social justice topics, and two members attending the FCNL Quaker lobby day. Orange Grove Friends approved minutes on the refugee crisis (endorsing FCNL’s position) and the “Facing the Climate Crisis” minute approved by Pacific YM.

**Claremont Meeting** has demonstrated extraordinary stewardship and concern for the poor and the environment. They host a dozen homeless people in their Meetinghouse every night of the year and have helped birth the “Claremont Homeless Advocacy Program” that involved the Claremont community provides homeless people with wrap-around services. They also installed solar panels and partnered with a local group that plants fruit trees sustainably. They have reduced their water use by replacing lawns with permaculture berms and swales that capture rainwater for these trees.

**Santa Cruz** had laid down its Peace Committee but it was resurrected through the efforts of committed Friends. A retreat was held to help discern what Santa Cruz Friends care most deeply about. Adult studies were organized to explore these concerns. And the Peace
Committee is now thriving again. How was this accomplished? We are eager to learn more and to help other Meetings to do likewise.

Strawberry Creek Meeting had many adult education forums (climate change Paris COP20, solitary confinement, Quaker Bolivia tour, etc.), participated in climate change events, and raised and distributed Dime-A-Gallon grants re environment. It considered Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Priorities for 2017 and recommended focusing 1) on climate change that includes justice and sustainability concerns, 2) on economic equity that would include Native American, immigration, and racial justice concerns, and 3) on peacebuilding that includes efforts toward nuclear disarmament. Strawberry Creek Friends also approved signing an interfaith petition to the President and Congress asking for “legally binding solutions that reduce national greenhouse gas emissions” and providing “poor and vulnerable communities here and abroad support to build low carbon and climate-resilient societies.”

Other Meetings may have engaged in peace-related actions but have not reported them to the clerk of PSO. The co-clerks of PYM-PSO urge Peace Committees of every Meeting to report their activities to us so we can share this news and encourage others.

In many Meetings individual Friends are doing good work for peace and justice but are not supported by their Meeting, for various reasons. For example, David Hartsough of San Francisco Meeting toured the country with his remarkable memoir “Waging Peace: Global Adventures of a Lifelong Nonviolent Activist” and has been invited to go to Russia this summer to follow up on peace activities he undertook there in the 1960s. Jim Summers of La Jolla Meeting has been involved in an exciting project with Veterans for Peace: the re-launching of the Golden Rule, a ship that a Quaker named Albert Bigelow intended to sail into the forbidden nuclear test zone in 1958, and is now on a new mission for peace.

Questions worth exploring: Why are Friends reluctant to turn to their Meeting for support when they have a concern for peace and justice? How can we encourage individual Friends to work together as a community for peace and justice, under the care of their Meeting and of the Spirit?

The PSO Committee has sponsored the following interest groups with both local and global concerns:

How are Friends Helping and Serving the Community? David Brietzmann and Linnea Hanson are surveying Friends Meetings of Pacific Yearly Meeting to find out how meetings are serving and helping their communities. Their interest group will highlight some of the different ways that meetings are providing service. They would like to develop a spreadsheet that can be posted on the Western Friend website for all Friends to use to post their service activities. FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) and FCL-CA (Friends Committee on Legislation—California) lobby to influence elected officials at the federal and state levels and often make ballot recommendations for us. This interest group will focus on and train us to influence our local governments, especially our school boards. Friends will also get information on campaigning for like-minded candidates and/or running for office. Conveners: David Brietzmann (San Francisco Meeting) and Linnea Hanson (Chico Meeting).
Friends Peace Teams. FPT works for peace in many parts of the world. San Diego Meeting just gave FPT Peace in Latin America a grant to help with its work. FPT Asia West Pacific is establishing a Peace Center in Pati, Indonesia, where people from Asia West Pacific come to a yearly conference to learn about AVP and peaceful development. The African Great Lakes Initiative is working to hold together the peace in Burundi which is unstable because the President wants an unconstitutional 3rd term. Convener: Gay Howard (Central Coast).

67 Sueños Collective. The Oakland-based “67 Sueños Collective” (“67 Dreams,” after the 67 percent of young people who would not be affected by the DREAM Act) holds monthly encounters or “Encuentros” with undocumented youth from across the Bay Area. The focus is to build solidarity, and to record their testimonies/stories in hopes to build awareness about the issues they face and to bear witness to their American experience. Convener: AFSC.

Open Your Eyes to the Wider World of Quakers: Report on the FWCC Plenary in Peru. Are you curious about Quakers from all over the world? What’s it like to worship with over 325 Quakers from 37 countries? We are the children of God. We are who creation has been waiting for. We are called to reveal ourselves in our lives and in the work we do with our hearts and our hands. Although God can fill our hearts, God has no hands but ours to heal this broken world. We can be salt and light shining to the world and declaring the love of God. Conveners: Anthony Manousos (Orange Grove Meeting), Jan Turner (Humboldt Meeting), Hulda Muaka (Palo Alto), Janet Leslie (Chico) and Roena Oesting (La Jolla).

The 2016 FWCC Gathering in Peru and the Sustainability Minute. Presentations by PYM Friends who took part in this world-wide Quaker gathering, which unanimously agreed on a sustainability minute calling for specific actions by individuals and meetings. What does this minute, and the work of FWCC, mean for the Society of Friends? This minute calls for specific actions by individuals and meetings. How can Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends best respond to this call? Conveners: FWCC reps, QEW, and PSO.

A final note of hope, and a challenge: Friends throughout the world are now united around two Testimonies: Peace and Sustainability. Friends may differ theologically and culturally, we may have different approaches to worship, but we feel a unifying spirit that calls us to care for our earth and for those who are suffering from the effects of war and climate disruption. For this reason, PSO, FWCC and QEW have worked together to lift up FWCC’s minutes on Sustainability, Eco-justice and Peace that Friends world-wide are taking to heart. We are calling upon our Yearly Meeting to take two concrete actions that demonstrate our commitment to sustainability. The earth is in crisis, and we are urging our Yearly Meeting to act now.

Yours in friendship and peace,

Anthony Manousos
PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING HOLDING CORPORATION

Pacific Yearly Meeting Holding Corporation
Report To Pacific Yearly Meeting
June 14, 2016

PYMHC, a 501(c)(2) non-profit corporation incorporated in 1966, was created to hold title (bare legal title) to assets of meetings, worship groups, and other compatible Quaker entities within the area of Pacific Yearly Meeting. PYMHC’s primary focus is on unincorporated Quaker entities, as incorporated meetings’ assets and members are protected by the incorporation. We also hold title to assets from former meetings. In all cases, PYMHC invests and disburses the assets and/or their earnings in accordance with the instructions given PYMHC by the actual owner (or former owner) of the property or asset.

PYMHC has 3 financial accounts in addition to the mortgage on the former meeting house of San Fernando Valley Friends Meeting. One Everbank account holds mortgage receipts; the other Everbank account holds PYMHC’s own moneys, which are available for any extraordinary expenses — legal or otherwise; the third account with Friends Fiduciary Corporation holds some of the residue of Marin Friends Meeting’s money entrusted to PYMHC.

As of March 31, 2016, the latest date of statements, the Friends Fiduciary Corporation account value was $9,635.01; the PYMHC account held $1,093.71; the former San Fernando Valley Friends Meeting meeting house mortgage account held $10,971.25. The last of these accounts if available for PYMHC to make grants to meetings which need to improve their facilities.

In February we noted that the “church” which owns the former San Fernando Valley Friends meeting house had fallen behind in payments; earlier in 2016 we worked with them to get back on track. Their check for the remaining past due payments is now in the mail to us; they appreciate our patience.

Every year we are expected to elect officers for the coming year. I have recently received notice for the California Secretary of State that we must file a form and report our officers this year by August 31, 2016. (I last did this several years ago when I was first elected President.) Thus we held a board meeting this month to elect officers and keep our registration up to date. We reelected officers as follows:

President   Stratton Jaquette
Treasurer   Beth McCleary
Secretary   Jeff Kroeber

with Lanny Jay appointed Agent for Service

Stratton C. Jaquette
President, PYMHC
Quaker Earthcare Witness Representatives Report to PYM's Annual Session 2016

June 17, 2016

Dear Friends,

Inspired by sessions at PYM in 1985 and PYM's nascent Unity with Nature Committee and Earthlight Magazine, Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW] was founded in July 1987 at Friends General Conference [FGC]. During the 1987 FGC, Marshall Massey called for a Quaker testimony on unity with nature. A week-long workshop led by Alice and Bill Howenstine formed the vision statement and founding core group. This earliest vision statement includes, “We believe right relationship with our natural environment is basic to the achievement of peace and a just social order, and the equitable distribution of the world’s resources, both today and through generations to come.” They called on Friends to live in unity with nature. They soon began the “Befriending Creation” magazine/newsletter (August 1987), a major channel for disseminating information to Friends and other interested parties about all topics related to the next steps in more fully living our Earthcare testimony. PYM’s Bob Schutz was a part of this founding group. According to records, Bob had been already working with PYM’s Unity with Nature committee’s [UwN] publication “Unity with Nature” since 1985.

QEW provides Friends throughout the North American continent a network to share environmental information, inspirations, concerns, and views. An overwhelming number of Friends agree on the urgent necessity to stop climate warming. Although individual and small group actions to live more sustainably are commendable and needed, the entire global economic system is the cause of the climate disruption, so to fix one, you have to fix the other. Both systems - world climate/ecosystem and world economy are massive and complex. QEW facilitates collaborations for Friends to discern the best views, strategies and courses of action to slow climate change. QEW supports Friends in living more sustainable lives and supports Friends' leadings to bring faith into action as well as searching for global solutions.

The major vehicles for these functions and goals are the Befriending Creation Newsletter, epistles, various publications, many in trifold form, and the QEW website with its active forum for discussions and many informative pages. QEW has twice yearly steering committee meetings in which the yearly meeting representatives [YM Reps] are automatically members. Hence PYM and other yearly meetings, in sending Reps, give something more important than money: working advocates. The steering committee meetings are also collaborations. The Fall meeting has some programming. The YM Reps are two-way conduits of information and inspiration to and from QEW & YMs and to each other.

The two current PYM representatives to QEW, Rick Herbert and Catya de Neergaard are not just attending a three day meeting twice a year. Both are actively engaged in bringing forward the work of QEW. Rick is QEW's representative to FCNL and has recently become clerk of QEW's FCNL working group. Catya is clerk of the Spiritual Nurturance committee, somewhat analogous to an oversight or care of meeting committee, and has recently become convener of the Sustainability, Faith, and Action Working Group which is a birthing ground for supporting
concerns into Leadings, Faith into Action. As clerks, both Rick and Catya are members of the Continuing Council, the ongoing executive committee of the steering committee.

So PYM generously supports QEW by sending YM Reps and a donation. QEW shares PYM's Earthcare Leadings and inspirations with other YMs. QEW is available to YM members as a resource in many ways. QEW helps PYM's UwN committee provide the latest thinking and programming to PYM. QEW provides a platform for PYM Friends to call out to far flung Friends and to hear Friends' voices speaking about Earthcare across the continent, to collaborate, and to explore solutions. QEW and its contributing YMs form a web of creative interdependent co-arising.

In the last fifteen months, QEW has sent us the Epistle "The Three Challenges" asking for Monthly Meetings to plant edibles and natives, especially to support pollinators and ecological diversity and switch to renewable energy in Meetinghouses; work on climate action plans on the municipal and state level, and to divest from fossil fuel companies. PYM's Unity with Nature Committee brought "The Three Challenges" as an interest group to Annual session 2015.

Among other updates and publications, QEW wrote an epistolary response to Pope Francis's encyclical on climate and justice Laudato Si ("Praised Be"). In early May, QEW approved a new brochure advocating for women's reproductive choice which in turn is linked to lowering population growth which in turn lowers a whole host of problems including global warming. We feel privileged to serve as your QEW Representatives. Along with Shelley Tanenbaum, general secretary of QEW, we are here at Walker Creek 2016 and would be happy to answer any questions and talk about Earthcare.

Thank you.
Gratefully submitted,
Catya de Neergaard, QEW Representative
and on behalf of Rick Herbert, QEW Representative
Pacific Yearly Meeting Statistical Report - 2016

This report summarizes membership information within the monthly meetings of Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) for the statistical year ending May 31, 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 (29% of the total membership), and four meetings are not affiliated with a Quarterly Meeting (Big Island, Honolulu, Guatemala, and Mexico City are 6% of the membership).

There are 15 Worship Groups in total:

CPQM – 8 Worship Groups
- Sierra Foothills, under the care of Delta Meeting
- Placer County, under the care of Grass Valley
- 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 Monthly Meeting
- Ojai, under the care of Santa Barbara Monthly Meeting

Unaffiliated with Quarterly Meetings – 4 Worship Groups
- Maui, Kauai, and Molokai under the care of Honolulu Meeting
- Oaxaca, under the care of Mexico City.

The largest Meetings are: Strawberry Creek (105), and Berkeley (90). Eight Meetings have 10 or fewer members.

Overall membership within Pacific Yearly Meeting has increased by 7, for a total of 1,292, up from 1,285 for 2015.

Fifty-two people joined by Convincement, up thirty-one from last year. Twenty-one members died, the same as last year, and 24 members were released or withdrew, down from 43 members last year.

Within the past 10 years, Pacific Yearly Meeting membership was at its highest, 1,518 members, in 2006. The lowest was in 2015 at 1,285. Total membership was up 0.5% for this statistical year.

A 10-year Year-over-Year view of PYM membership changes, and the number and types of changes per Meeting, will be available on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website.

Respectfully submitted, Don Bean and Lee Knutsen, Statistical Co-Clerks

6/10/2016
## Pacific Yearly Meeting

### Statistical Report - Summary of Meeting Responses

#### Statistical Year: June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Park Quarterly Meeting</th>
<th>Gains</th>
<th>Losses</th>
<th>Total Adjustments (Note 1)</th>
<th>Change in Number of Members</th>
<th>Percent Change in Number of Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth to Member</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferred from</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joined by Convincement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Members as of May 31 2016</th>
<th>1,292</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Change in Number of Members</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Members as of May 31 2015</th>
<th>1,181</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Change in Number of Members</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Adjustments include gains and losses that occurred in prior years and were not reported at that time.

* Marin MM was laid down during the 2014/2015 Statistical Year. Members have not yet appeared in Meetings within PYM as either "transfers in" or "new members."
Dear Friends,

We entrust to your loving care our faithful Friend Jim Summers who has been blessed by God with a broad ministry of non-violence and caring for those who are wounded and hungry. Jim's commitment to obeying Spirit fuels his wide-ranging work. Jim brings with him warm greetings from Pacific Yearly Meeting.

We have witnessed Jim's ministry within our Yearly Meeting, particularly in service with our youth, for twenty-five years. We endorse Jim's leading, under which he is traveling, that he has seasoned at local, regional and yearly Meetings. Jim's leading involves exploring the role of Western Quakers today in ending war, particularly through the anti-nuclear sailboat the Golden Rule as a powerful tool to be used to that end. Jim has been active in the inspiring and courageous story of the recovery of the Golden Rule. It has led him to explore the question that others in the project have asked: "so where are the Quakers now?"

Jim is a member of La Jolla Monthly Meeting. He has recently organized and co-directed three Peace Action Camps to teach nonviolent direct action to Quaker teens and has facilitated joint service camps with California First Nations peoples exploring better ways to live together. He is a founding member of San Diego Veterans for Peace.

We trust Jim will be faithful to his Guide and profit your Yearly Meeting. We trust we will profit also when he returns, enriched through his time with you.

In the Light,

s/Diego Navarro
Presiding Clerk, Pacific Yearly Meeting
# General Account Budget vs. Actual

## FY 2014-2015 (ending 9/30/2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Item</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Transfer to Reserves</th>
<th>FY 2015-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4100 — Miscellaneous Contributions to PYM</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>4,486</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4101 — Contributions from Member Meetings</td>
<td>118,646</td>
<td>118,390</td>
<td></td>
<td>122,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4102 — Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>108,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4104 — Return on Invested Capital</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>4,306</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4105 — Transfer from (to) PYC Reserve</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>126,646</strong></td>
<td><strong>122,569</strong></td>
<td><strong>6/03/2016</strong></td>
<td><strong>131,175</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assessment per member

( Calif. and Nev., Guatemala and Hawaii, Mexico City)

- $95, $39, $30

## FY 2015-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Item</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>FY 2014-2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$100, $41, $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5202 — Clerk's Travel &amp; Discretionary R2713</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5203 — Expenses of the Officers</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5204 — Website Hosting</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5206 — Young Friends PYM Attendance Assistance</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,825</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5208 — Travel-Repcom - Mar. &amp; Ann. Sess.</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>12,223</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5209 — Young Friends Officers' Expense</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5210 — Audit Account R2723</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5212 — Latin America Concerns Outreach R2749</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>669</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PYM Attendance Assistance Fund (M&amp;O)</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,787</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5214 — Holding Corporation Expenses</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5215 — Western Friends</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5216 — Misc. Operating Expenses</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5217 — Insurance - Sexual Misconduct</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,191</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,320</strong></td>
<td><strong>222</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Expenses</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>FY 2014-2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5221 — Ad Hoc Committees</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5222 — Children's Program</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5224 — Discipline</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5225 — Finance</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5227 — Junior Yearly Meeting</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5228 — Ministry &amp; Oversight</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,483</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5229 — Nominating</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5230 — Peace &amp; Social Order</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5231 — Religious Education for Children</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5232 — Secretariat</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5233 — Sites</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5235 — Unity with Nature</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5237 — Committee Supplemental Expense R2714</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5238 — Latin American Concerns</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,525</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,706</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,050</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support of Friends Organizations</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>FY 2014-2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5251 — Friends Committee on National Legislation</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5252 — Friends Committee on Legislation of California</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5254 — FWCC</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5255 — Quaker United Nations Office NY</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5256 — William Penn House, Washington</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5260 — AFSC</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5261 — Friends House Moscow Support Ass'n</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5262 — Casa de los Amigos</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5264 — Friends General Conference</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5266 — Quaker Earthcare Witness</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL SUPPORT OF FRIENDS ORGS.</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## General Account Budget vs. Actual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONFERENCE TRAVEL/ PYM DELEGATES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5277 — Western Friends Board R2748 (3)</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5275 — AFSC (5)</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5277 — FCNL (6) &amp; William Penn House (1)</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>3,365</td>
<td>1,135</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>3,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5278 — FGCC Central Committee R2744 (1)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5279 — FWCC, Section of the Americas R2743 (6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>-1,500</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5280 — Friends United Mig. (Triennial) R2745 (1)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5281 — Gen. Reunion of Friends Mexico (1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5282 — Evangelical Friends Church Southwest (1)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5283 — Quaker Earthcare Witness (2)</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>1,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5287 — FWCC World Plenary R2747 (4)</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5288 — Young Friends Travel R2742</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,249</td>
<td>-749</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5289 — Friends Peace Team Board (1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL CONFERENCE TRAVEL/ PYM DEL</strong></td>
<td>14,200</td>
<td>14,273</td>
<td>-802</td>
<td>25,500</td>
<td>9,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOUTH PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6105 — Youth Program Supervisory Committee</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>1,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6110 — Personnel Costs</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>59,236</td>
<td>1,764</td>
<td>61,540</td>
<td>43,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6140 — Insurance</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6150 — Professional Development</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6160 — Office</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>2,587</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>1,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6170 — Events</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6190 — Administration &amp; Travel</td>
<td>7,100</td>
<td>6,402</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>7,300</td>
<td>4,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL PROGRAMS</strong></td>
<td>73,210</td>
<td>70,836</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>75,150</td>
<td>51,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>148,126</td>
<td>144,135</td>
<td>-1,144</td>
<td>164,920</td>
<td>100,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSFER TO (FROM) GENERAL RESERVES</strong></td>
<td>-21,480</td>
<td>-21,567</td>
<td>-33,745</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expense accounts with a bold face R27XX following the account name have that associated reserve fund on the following page. Transfers from these special reserves are negative (-) 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. In Conference Travel, (n) is the number of representatives/delegates now appointed.

**COMMENTS ON ACCOUNT LINES HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4101 — Contributions from Member Meetings</td>
<td>A few meetings' contributions for this year have not yet been received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5206, 5208, 5213</td>
<td>Travel and attendance assistance grants for Annual Session not yet reflected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5275, 5277</td>
<td>Not all delegates for which we budgeted actually attended these events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5279, 5280, 5281, 5287</td>
<td>For non-annual events, we budget a portion of anticipated expenses annually.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Treasurer's Report to Annual Session
June 18, 2016

### General Account Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number and Title</th>
<th>9/30/13</th>
<th>9/30/14</th>
<th>6/3/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1701 — General Account Checking (Wells Fargo)</td>
<td>44,146</td>
<td>8,721</td>
<td>42,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1704.6 — Invested Capital (Pax World)</td>
<td>19,481</td>
<td>23,012</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1704.01 — Invested Capital (Friends Fiduciary)</td>
<td>50,228</td>
<td>76,026</td>
<td>79,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1704.7 — Vogel Endowment (Friends Fiduciary)</td>
<td>460,192</td>
<td>432,229</td>
<td>441,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1706 — Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>2,073</td>
<td>2,055</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1705-1710 — Accounts Receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1720 — Inventory of Faith &amp; Practice</td>
<td>2,068</td>
<td>2,068</td>
<td>2,068</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>1751 — Friends House Note</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>608,188</td>
<td>554,110</td>
<td>575,537</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **LIABILITIES AND RESERVES**                                                            |         |         |        |
| Reserve Caps                                                                            |         |         |        |
| 2400 — Payroll Withholdings                                                            | 2,908   | 0       | 501    |
| 2500 — Payroll Taxes Payable                                                           | 1,093   | 0       | 155    |
| 2701 — Accounts Payable                                                                | 0       | 2,395   | 0      |
| 2704 — Credit Cards                                                                    | 174     | 186     | 874    |
| 2712 — Student Conscience Fund                                                         | 17,843  | 17,843  | 17,843 |
| 2723 — Clerk's Travel & Discretion (5202) Reserve                                      | 1,364   | 1,261   | 1,281  | 2,000  |
| 2724 — Committee Supplement (5237) Reserve                                            | 1,191   | 1,071   | 1,071  | 2,000  |
| 2721.1 — Pre-Publishing Reserve (F&P)                                                  | 4,068   | 4,318   | 4,318  |
| 2722 — Equipment Purchase (5207) Reserve                                              | 1,500   | 1,500   | 1,500  | 1,500  |
| 2723 — Account Audit (5210) Reserve                                                   | 3,590   | 3,590   | 3,590  | 4,000  |
| 2732 — PYM Traveling Friend Fund (M&O)                                                 | 3,924   | 3,450   | 2,321  |
| 2733 — Fund for Concerns (M&O)                                                        | 4,146   | 4,237   | 4,742  |
| 2734 — Sharing Fund (M&O)                                                              | 1,846   | 1,981   | 2,116  |
| 2735 — FGC Scholarship                                                                 | 828     | 828     | 828    |
| 2736 — Unity with Nature Project Fund                                                  | 730     | 1,058   | 1,193  |
| 2742 — Young Friends Travel (5288) Reserve                                            | 1,979   | 1,230   | 1,230  | 2,500  |
| 2743 — FWCC, Sect of Amer Travel (5279) Reserve                                       | 1,500   | 0       | 0      | 1,500  |
| 2744 — FGC Travel (5278) Reserve                                                      | 500     | 500     | 500    |
| 2745 — PUM Travel (5280) Reserve                                                      | 189     | 589     | 589    | 2,500  |
| 2746 — Gen. Reunion Fr. Mex. Travel (5281) Reserve                                     | 908     | 908     | 908    | 1,000  |
| 2747 — FWCC World Plenary Travel (5287) Res.                                          | 2,000   | 2,800   | 2,800  |
| 2748 — Western Friend Board Travel (5271) Reserve                                      | 93      | 718     | 718    | 1,000  |
| 2749 — Latin Amer. Concerns Outreach (5212) Res.                                       | 646     | 578     | 578    | 1,500  |
| 2750 — PYM Attendance Assistance Fund (M&O)                                            | 0       | 0       | 0      |
| 2780 — Youth Program Coordinator Reserve                                               | 9,383   | 5,383   | 1,383  |
| 2781 — Bob Vogel Endowment                                                            | 460,192 | 432,229 | 441,673|
| 2782 — Vogel Youth Work Reserve                                                       | 9,121   | 9,565   | 6,986  |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES**                                                     | 612,344 | 554,110 | 575,537|

**Note:**

The Yearly Meeting's principal income (the assessments 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 at this time of year than 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.
# 2015 Annual Session Budget vs. Actual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6110 — Miscellaneous Contributions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6111 — Fees from Attendees</td>
<td>109,150</td>
<td>111,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6112 — Fees from Session Accts.</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>10,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6113 — Fees from PYM General Funds</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6114 — Interest on PYM Sessions Accts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6116 — Contributions to Annual Session</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6116a — Carbon Offset donations received</td>
<td></td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6239 — Carbon Offset donations pd to UWN Project Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>-338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income:</strong></td>
<td><strong>128,150</strong></td>
<td><strong>135,649</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6220 — Registrar's Expenses</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6221 — Secretariat's Expenses</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6222 — Arrangement Clerk Expenses</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6223 — Children's Program</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>11,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6224 — Cost of Facilities</td>
<td>103,000</td>
<td>95,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6225 — Junior Yearly Meeting</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>4,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6226 — Young Friends</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6227 — Breakage and Equipment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6228 — PYM Clerk's Invited Guests</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6229 — Insurance</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6232 — Bank fees</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6234 — Fee for registration</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6235 — Contingency Expenses</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense:</strong></td>
<td><strong>128,150</strong></td>
<td><strong>117,335</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXCESS (DEFICIT):**  
18,315

## Session Balance Sheets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>9/30/13</th>
<th>9/30/14</th>
<th>9/30/15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'1001' — Session Checking Account</td>
<td>27,694</td>
<td>24,052</td>
<td>44,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'1100' — Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>100</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>2,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>29,794</td>
<td>26,052</td>
<td>44,467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Reserve</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6450 — Accounts Payable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6451 — Loan Payable to General Acct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6485 — PYM Session Reserve</strong></td>
<td>29,794</td>
<td>25,052</td>
<td>44,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Reserve</strong></td>
<td>29,794</td>
<td>25,052</td>
<td>44,467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unity with Nature report to Annual Session 2016

Dear Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting,

Unity with Nature Committee’s function is to encourage, support, share, and bring forward Pacific Yearly Meeting [PYM] Friends’ concerns, witness, and leadings for Earthcare. Central to our concerns for the last many years is to slow and eventually stop global warming and its horrific proliferation of dire consequences for both humans and the whole ecosystem. Transitioning to sustainable living systems, net zero energy use, keeping fossil fuels in the ground, permaculture, acting locally, and a carbon free future are among the solutions that many Friends envision.

It has been a hopeful year of some progress. Several Friends from Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW] and Quaker United Nations Offices [QUNO] both in New York City and Europe, including PYM member, Strawberry Creek MM member, and Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW] General Secretary Shelley Tanenbaum, attended the Paris Climate Summit in December 2015. Shelley will be here with us at Walker Creek. As one wit, George Monbiot, described the Paris COP 21 Climate Summit agreement, a historic first for the world’s nations to unite to slow and hopefully eventually stop climate change, “By comparison to what it could have been, it’s a miracle. By comparison to what it should have been, it’s a disaster... The talks in Paris are the best there have ever been. And that is a terrible indictment.” According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (www.c2es.org), if the Nationally Determined Contributions [NDC] submitted so far by 188 countries were fully implemented; it would result in a warming of 2.7 degrees Celsius. The Climate Summit’s reaffirmation of the commitment to keep global warming to 2 degrees Celsius over 1850 levels should keep 80% of the world’s fossil fuel reserves in the ground where they belong. (See 350.org’s website for details.) Many environmentalists feel that we really need to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The big surprise at the Climate Summit is that it agreed to the goal in principle of 1.5 degrees. We are already almost a full degree Celsius over 1850 levels. To meet even the moderate goal of holding to 2 degrees Celsius of warming means we need to take strong steps forward now.

We hope Friends in Pacific Yearly meeting can discern together what is needed and support each others’ leadings and actions to live our Earthcare testimony and save the Earth from turning to toast.

In the 2015-2016 cycle, Unity with Nature committee [UwN] is down to only four active or semi-active members, which limits how much we can do. But all of our members are passionately engaged in caring for the Earth and working to stop climate change. We would welcome new members who want to help with our goals and tasks or who bring to UwN their own Earthcare and Sustainability-related leading or project for support and nurturance. We would especially welcome new members from Southern California Quarterly.

In previous years, we have had a weekend retreat to plan our year’s activities. This year we met and communicated in phone conference calls and emails. This worked well because we already knew one another.
We have continued with our usual activities of sponsoring interest groups at College Park Quarterly and PYM’s annual session, appointing and supporting the Quaker Earthcare Witness representatives, and bringing information to PYM such as the 2015 QEW suggestions embedded in its epistle, “The Three Challenges,” and the FWCC Pisac 2016 Sustainability Minute, similarly urging concrete actions.

**Sponsored Interest Groups at Walker Creek 2016**

- This year at Walker Creek we are sponsoring the interest group [IG], “Environmental Justice: What are we called to do?” led by Shelley Tanenbaum and Carl Magruder on Wednesday at 8 AM.

- We, along with QEW Representatives [Reps] are supporting Peace and Social Order Committee’s IG exploring the FWCC Pisac 2016 Sustainability Minute on Saturday immediately after dinner.

- Instead of another IG, on Saturday at 8:30 PM we are offering an affinity group for Meetings and individuals to share what they are doing to reduce dependence on fossil fuels as per our last annual session’s minute, “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). Sharings may also include actions and experience about reducing carbon footprints, divestment strategies, and earthcare in general. If there is interest, the Reducing Dependence on Fossil Fuels Affinity Group could continue on another evening.

- Instead of the experiential walk, fully opening the senses, and Worship in Unity with Nature IG, this year during the day, we are supporting the outdoor worship in nature before breakfast. We hope you can join us.

**Taking Two Concrete Steps**

UwN is considering the FWCC Pisac 2016 Sustainability Minute.

UwN supports the ‘ask’ of the Pisac 2016 Minute which is the idea of PYM, monthly meetings, and individuals making two concrete actions to stop climate warming in the coming year. The minute uses the term ‘sustainability’.

For PYM, we thought of:

1- Support a traveling Earthcare Friend position to go around to MM’s and WG’s to educate about the how-tos for sustainability. This could include bringing workshops on native plantings, edible planting, solar power, water catchment systems, the green Meeting House, and working locally at the county level to promote sustainability and a carbon free future.

2- Focus on how to reduce the carbon footprint to and from PYM’s AS, Rep Com, and other in-person meetings. Possible programs (some of which M&O is already working on) are:
a- Have Friends pick up Friends from the train (ie at Emeryville or Richmond) to and from Walker Creek.

b – Promote no or low carbon travel options. Bikes (which most can’t do to Walker Creek), Trains, then Carpooling, in that order have a much lower carbon footprint than flying.

c- Consider renting a shuttle van to bring So-Cal Friends to Walker Creek

d- Asking Friends buying motor vehicles to buy vehicles which get at least 40, preferably 50 MPG on the highway.

**Appointments**

We appoint the PYM representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW], the continent wide organization to bring forward Friends’ concerns for the earth and for climate change. This year we re-established alternate year appointments as per suggestion from Nominating Committee.

This year’s appointments are:

2 representatives serving 2-year terms, appointed by Unity with Nature Committee.

2017 Rick Herbert, Strawberry Creek (2014)
2018 Catya de Neergaard, Berkeley (2014)
2018 Meagan Fischer, Chico (2016)

Note: UwN’s plan is that the 3 Reps will share (take turns) with the full funding currently provided for 2 Reps for the 2 QEW steering committees yearly. UwN will help the unfunded Rep find alternate funding sources. This plan meets with the approval of QEW’s general secretary. UwN trusts that PYM is OK with this plan.

Muriel Strand, Sacramento MM, is UwN’s appointee to the Earthlight Board.

**Fundraising, Mini Grants, and other Nuts and Bolts**

- We deeply appreciate your participation in the carbon-offset education and fundraising project in this year’s and last year’s PYM registration. Another education and fundraising project from last year that we hope to repeat is the dime-a-gallon project. Thank you all – Meetings and individuals – who contributed to UwN’s special projects fund. Among other things, the UwN special projects fund supports the UwN Mini-Grant program. It could also be for young Friends (under 30) scholarships to environmental actions or conferences.

- We hope you can visit UwN and QEW’s table in Maple for free tri-folds and other offerings and projects.

- We are planning to bring out the new round of mini-grant applications in the near future.

- After we re-wrote our charter and goals (Proposed Unity with Nature Charter, October 2014) using the 2005 Charter from PYM as a template, Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro suggested we send it to Nominating Committee for review and possible approval. This we have done and look forward to Nominating Committee’s feedback.
• Having a PYM-maintained list of monthly meeting and worship group email addresses available online or by email, would be a big help for committees to communicate with monthly meetings and worship groups.

• Please see our March 2016 report to Representatives Committee for more information on our activities this year.

Gratefully submitted,

Catya de Neergaard

Clerk, Unity with Nature Committee