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Meeting of the Pacific Yearly Meeting Representative Committee
held Saturday, 5 March 2016 at Santa Monica Friends Meeting House

Summary

Annual Session

1. The theme for Annual Session 2016 is “Lifting of the Veil: Awakening to the Presence”. Early Friends believed in the presence of the Living Spirit, that it was not something seen but perceived through a veil. The speakers this year are: Carl Magruder and Darcy Stanley (both of Strawberry Creek Meeting). Both were raised in the Yearly Meeting. See Clerk's Call to Annual Session.

2. The schedule is intergenerational, exploring various spiritual topics together. The final schedule will be available shortly before Annual Session.

3. Registration for Annual Session 2016 is expected to open at the end of this month. Meetings and Representatives will receive email notification.

4. The registration fees for Annual Session 2016 have not changed from last year and can be found here. Online payment options will not be available. There is no first-time attender discount or early bird discount this year.

5. Finance Committee continues to explore possibilities to offset travel costs for Friends traveling longer distances to attend Annual Session. No proposal is brought at this time.

6. Children’s Program Committee announced that Nate Seacrest (Redwood Forest) will be program coordinator at Annual Session this year, with support from Chamba Cooke.

7. Children’s Program is exploring planning an evening program for children one evening during Annual Session.

8. See the Annual Session poster for dates and financial assistance information.

Committees & Related Business

All committee reports can be found on the PYM website here

9. The Naming Committee, which serves for one year and brings names for Nominating Committee, for 2016 is: Sarah Rose House Lightner (Orange Grove), convener, Trudy Freidel (Inland Valley), Kathy Runyan (Santa Cruz), (Eric Moon (Berkeley), alternate).

10. The interim slate of nominations brought be Nominating Committee was approved.

11. Committees were encouraged to explore meeting by phone conference/online meeting tools instead of in-person meetings, to reduce costs and acknowledge environmental concerns.

12. The augmentation requests brought by Finance Committee were approved. These amounts are drawn from reserves and/or unspent committee budgets.

13. The Travel Minute for Alyssa Nelson (Youth Programs Coordinator) to travel to Australia Yearly Meeting was accepted.

14. The Youth Programs Committee proposes three queries for Meetings and Friends to consider: a) What does PYM do uniquely or particularly well that Alyssa could share with Australian Friends? b) What do you hope Alyssa might bring back to PYM from this visit? c) What do you wonder
about the Religious Society of Friends in Austral, or about their youth programs, or anything else? Responses should be sent to Jim Summers (La Jolla).

15. The Ad Hoc Committee on Transitions between Children’s Program and Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) presented its draft report for informational purposes only.

16. PYM accepts the invitation of Friends General Conference to explore holding the 2018 FGC Gathering in California.

17. An invitation from Mexico City Meeting to host the 2017 meeting of Representative Committee was received and read. The Presiding Clerk will consult with several committees and discern the impacts of accepting the invitation.

Information for Meetings

18. All Friends are encouraged to participate in the Finance Committee Survey which asks about attendance at Annual Session, distribution of PYM funds, support for Quaker organizations, among other topics.

19. Finance, Ministry & Oversight and Nominating Committees brought for seasoning a proposal regarding PYM Delegates, Representatives and Observers, suggesting a possible reconfiguration in this regard. The proposal will be brought to Annual Session for approval. See the full proposal in the Finance Committee Report. Additional information will be provided prior to Annual Session.

20. The Statistics Co-Clerks remind Meetings that membership information must be submitted by May 12 to Lee Knutsen (Live Oak) or Don Bean (Conejo Valley Worship Group).

21. The PYM Visiting Friend, Roena Oesting (La Jolla) is available to visit Meetings between now and Annual Session. She also encourages Friends to visit other Meetings themselves to enrich our spiritual lives and those of the groups we visit.

22. Meetings are encouraged to suggest names of Friends to serve on the Visiting Friend Support Subcommittee of Ministry & Oversight. Contact Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City) or Leslie Zondervan-Droz (Humboldt).

23. Ministry & Oversight Committee encourages Meetings to consider hosting a meeting of the committee, which generally meets in early October, late January, and early May each year.

24. Youth Programs Committee reminds Friends of the Youth Activities & Calendar on the PYM website and Facebook.

25. Children’s Program Committee encourages Friends to apply to serve as teachers in the Children’s Program at Annual Session.

26. Ministry & Oversight Committee asks, What are the concerns we need to hear before bringing a formal proposal for PYM to affiliate with Friends General Conference? An informational packet will be provided to Meetings.

27. Unity with Nature encourages native plantings, local food production, and solar panels.

28. Peace & Social Order Committee asks how Meetings are serving and helping their communities.

To contact any of the people mentioned in this summary, please use the contact form on the PYM website.
List of Action Minutes

Minute RC 2016.01 The Nominating Committee slate was approved as amended.

Minute RC 2016.02 The 2016 Annual Session’s budget, keeping the fee schedule the same as last year’s and the five augmentations were approved.

Minute RC 2016.03 The meeting approved development of a Travel Minute for Jim Summers (La Jolla).

Minute RC 2016.04 The Clerk read a travel minute for Alyssa Nelson who has been invited by Australia Yearly Meeting to share our Yearly Meeting’s youth work experiences. We approved the travel minute with great appreciation.

Minute RC 2016.05 Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) would welcome having FGC come to California for their 2018 Summer Gathering.

[end of action minutes]
Opening worship began at 9:20 am.

2. Agenda revision: The Secretariat Report was added to the agenda.

3. Roll Call: The Presiding Clerk introduced the idea of roll call being celebratory on the occasion of gathering together in Beloved Community. This idea came from his experience at Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting. In the attached roll call document listing the Monthly Meetings with Worship Groups, “y” indicates present and “n” indicates absent at roll call.

4. Clerk’s Discussion of Vision, Theme, and Schedule of Annual Session:
Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro invited us to embark on a mystery, the mystery of Spirit revealing itself in our gathering. He reminded us that, as Quakers, this is what we do when gathering in a Meeting for Worship for doing business. He invited us to open ourselves, to let go of our expectations, and to be informed by our preparation, but not beholden to it. He reminded us to “speak when spoken through,” and reminded us that we can sit down if the spirit leaves us when we are speaking even mid-sentence, a practice of early Friends. He advised us to practice distinguishing the voices of our will, intellect and ego from that of Spirit. He encouraged our vulnerability in this work, and the faith this carries forward from early Quakers.

The Clerk reminded us to be here not with our hearts and minds decided but rather to be prepared to listen and discern. It is not important that we make a decision but to sit with the Spirit to see what we are called to do. One check on limiting ego and will is to see if you feel released or agitated after speaking.

The Clerk’s reminder of the context for our corporate discernment as well as the following protocols will be a practice he will engage in at the start of every plenary session at the Annual Session as well as at RepCom. The Clerk was exposed to this practice while attending the Young Friends of North America gathering in the late 1970’s.

The Clerk shared a few protocols: Please address the clerk when speaking. Do not cross talk. The Clerk may not acknowledge in a linear fashion those wishing to speak. Don’t worry if not called or not called in order. If you have a concern about the way the Clerk is clerking, please do bring it to his attention outside the session.

“That Friend speaks my mind” can be a useful way of moving us towards unity. The Clerk said he tended to not ask for approval right away but ask if there is ease in what is being proposed. In Britain Yearly Meeting those present do not respond “approve” actions but state “hope so.” He asked that we be gracious with the recording clerks. He also noted that he tends to write out action minutes himself.
1. **Annual Session 2016**

There has been discernment within the Yearly Meeting regarding our structure and its impacts upon attendance. It has been noted that weekend attendance at Yearly Meeting may be higher than weekdays. We are therefore experimenting with a new structure, in which the Annual Session will commence on a Friday and end on a Wednesday. It is hoped that this may result in a greater number of people able to attend all or part of the Annual Session. Annual Session this year will take place from Session Friday June 17 to Wednesday June 22. We will continue with the Friday-Wednesday structure in 2017.

The Clerk has given this year’s Annual Session the theme of “Lifting of the Veil: Awakening to the Presence”. The theme is inspired from a quote in Isaac Penington’s essay, “The Way of Life and Death.” Early Friends believed in the presence of the Living Spirit, but it was not something seen but perceived through a veil. Our Quaker language is a visceral language, as in “sense of the Meeting,” and “being spoken through.” Please see the full Clerk’s Call on the Yearly Meeting website. Speakers this year are drawn from our own community: Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek) and Darcy Stanley (Strawberry Creek). Both were raised in the Yearly Meeting.

At the Annual Session at San Diego years ago, there seemed to be a life outside the plenaries that was vital, with a sense of Spirit at work. When the Clerk was on Ministry and Oversight Committee he asked the Presiding Clerk how we might bring that type of vitality into the plenaries. The answer was that the Plenary agenda was full. After much consideration Diego has restructured the Annual Session with this in mind. The result is an intergenerational schedule centered around the movement of the Spirit among us. We will weave together plenaries and worship with the Children’s Program, Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) and Young Adult Friends (YAF). Typically intergenerational sessions at Annual Session are about games and sometimes the JYM has introduced to the Annual Session new practices like Chat Groups. In this year’s schedule the Clerk is establishing Intergenerational session that are spiritual in nature. The Clerk reviewed the proposed schedule with those gathered, and this is appended to the minutes. He noted that the schedule is likely to go through revisions until the Annual Session commences, and we were advised to stay abreast of these changes via the website.

It was noted that Meeting for Memorials has been moved to Sunday to allow more people to attend. The daily schedule includes a choice of either, Bible Study or Early Quaker Writings (based on Marcel Martin’s contemplative practice format). A concern was raised that Transformative Friends is not on the schedule. It was noted that Ministry and Oversight had understood that Anthony Manusos wanted a hiatus this year from this responsibility. This issue will be taken but up by Ministry & Oversight and the Clerk in consultation with Anthony Manusos.

Last year’s evaluation meeting at the end of the Annual Session noted that our Yearly Meeting would benefit from greater communication and coordination throughout the year. With that goal in mind, the Clerk has formed three coordination teams to facilitate more dialogue between and among the various stakeholders in the Yearly Meeting. The teams have been organized around the work of the YM, with one group focused on youth activities, one group focused on our work
with world issues, and one team comprised of those who are charged with the “nuts and bolts” of
the Yearly Meeting and Annual Session. These three teams hold a one 1.5 hour conference call
in both the Fall and Spring to report how things are going and to seek ways that others can be
informed by – or inform – their work. A fourth group is in the process of being created,
consisting of clerks of the two Quarterly Meetings and the clerks of the Quarterly Meetings’
Ministry & Oversight Committees, along with the Pacific Yearly Meeting Clerks and clerk of
Ministry & Oversight Committee.

Additional scheduling concerns and suggestions should be addressed to the Clerk. The final
schedule will be available at the Annual Session as well as on the website.

5. Check-in from Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM): JYM Co-Clerks attending were David Shaw
(Santa Monica) and Maya Price (Berkeley Friends Church). The third JYM co-clerk, Rose Nadis
(Santa Barbara), was absent. They are working this weekend on the schedule and activities for
the 2016 Annual Session. Please talk to them at lunch about ideas you may have and if you want
to present to JYM.

6. Naming Committee: The Presiding Clerk reminded us that this committee is nominated from
the Representative Committee gathering, with a term of one year (2016 RepComm to 2017
RepComm). We nominate three members each year, with one alternate.

We entered a short period of worship to allow nominations to arise from the floor.
Eight names were brought forward. Of those, the following accepted nomination:
Sarah Rose House Lightner (Orange Grove) who agreed to be convenor.
Trudy Freidell (Inland Valley)
Kathy Runyan (Santa Cruz)

Eric Moon (Berkeley) will serve as the alternate.

7. Nominating Committee: Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), is co-clerk of Nominating
Committee with Nora Cooke (Grass Valley). He presented the report noting that the current
roster of officers and committee members is posted on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website.

Stephen added some information about changes during the year since Annual Session. A vacancy
on the Board of Western Friend was filled in the fall by Doug Smith (Reno Meeting).

Some committees have vacant positions. Some vacancies are acceptable and to be expected;
however, the extent of and timing of some vacancies listed on the Nominating Slate is
problematic. The following are crucial spots to fill before Annual Session.

a. An Arrangements Co-Clerk is needed. Laura Kohl (La Jolla) is willing to serve and be
nominated. Rick Altherr (San Jose) is the current Arrangements Clerk.

b. A Co-Recording Clerk is needed to serve during Annual Session to replace Stephen
McNeil. Jim Anderson (Chico) has been nominated for this position
c. The Children’s Program Committee is in serious need of filling vacancies. Chamba Cooke (Grass Valley) is nominated as Clerk of Children’s Committee to serve one year term as clerk. Those present were encouraged to assist in the search for additional committee members. Chamba Cooke described the main committee tasks, including assisting with program development, hiring of teachers and coordinator of program, and providing oversight. In addition to the committee members, past and current coordinators serve as ex-officio members. An ex-officio member not shown on the report is Nate Secrest (Redwood Forest), who has accepted the position of Children’s Program Coordinator for AS2016. Chamba Cooke will serve as elder for Nate. An update later in the session from the Nominating Committee co-clerk provided us with a nomination for the 2018 term which was Peggy Craik (Conejo Valley Worship Group).

A Friend suggested that the committee needs strong leadership, and someone who can represent the diversity of the children attending.

d. The Secretariat Committee received a resignation this year and Martha Carey (La Jolla) is nominated to fill that position.

e. Western Friend Board. The schedule and needs of the Western Friend Board were described.

Attendees were asked to offer names to Stephen Matchett or Elaine Emily. Also, if there are any concerns about the above mentioned nominations, please contact Stephen or Elaine. At the end of the day the co-Clerk of Nominating Committee came forth and expressed that there were not concerns raised about the nominating slate.

1. Minute RC 2016.01 The Nominating Committee slate was approved as amended.

The report is appended.

8. Treasurer: Roy Allen (Berkeley), Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Treasurer, called attention to the Treasurer’s Report, appended.

Roy described what is needed to get reimbursed for travel expenses. Reimbursements can be made to individuals or given as a gift to PYM.

The Annual Session 2015 financial results. Generally the budget and expenses worked out well. Expenses were covered and $18k was put into reserves. The Treasurer described the importance of increasing our reserves because our current reserve is still too small for the size of PYM’s budget.

The Treasurer noted that for Annual Session the Unity with Nature Committee asked for a voluntary offset for covering the use of fossil fuels in attending Annual Session. The result was a $338 donation which was contributed to the UWN project fund.
Balance sheet for general account. He reminded Friends that there are two Pacific Yearly Meeting accounts: a General Account and an Annual Session account. He summarized general balances and some small changes that have occurred.

Income and Expense. The Treasurer called attention to just a few items including some “losses” due to fluctuations in market value which were not real losses. Generally PYM has operated within the budget. With regard to travel reimbursements they are sometimes higher than budgeted but still need reimbursement. Higher amounts needed have come from the travel supplements line item. This year the travel supplements have been drawn upon heavily. Now the amount left is only $100 and the fiscal year is only half way through. Some committees do their work now by phone conference which is a major cost saving. The Treasurer encourages use of phone conferences.

A Friend asked about possibility of more reimbursements for those from Southern California to attend Annual Session. The Finance Committee is currently discerning how to provide this and will be bringing a recommendation at some point in the future.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented.

The report with accompanying parts is appended.

9. Finance Committee - Budget: David Barrows (San Diego), Co-Clerk of Finance Committee, summarized the written report. Five augmentation requests to the General Account budget were made. Augmentation amounts are drawn from reserves and/or unspent committee budgets.

The Finance Committee conducted a survey of Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) members in order to gather information concerning reasons for attending or not attending Annual Session, and questions about distribution of PYM funds, e.g., travel subsidies, support for Quaker organizations, support for delegates and representatives, etc.

About 250 responses have been received from members of College Park Quarterly Meeting. Unfortunately, due to a technical glitch the survey has not yet been distributed to members of Southern California Quarterly Meeting. Thus, we have no definitive results yet. It is hoped that the survey will be distributed to SCQM and the analysis of the survey to be available at this year’s Annual Session.

The five requests for Augmentation of budget, 2015-2016, are:

- General Reunion of Friends Mexico, line 5281, requests budget be changed from $0 to $500. (The Reunion meets every 18 months, so annual budget should be two-thirds cost of travel to a gathering.)
- Travel to Rep. Com, line 5208, increase from $11,000 to $12,500
- PYM Attendance Assistance Fund, line 5213, increase from $8,000 to $9,000
- Committee Supplemental Expenses, line 5237, increase from $300 to $1300 (Unexpected expenses depleted account and its reserve, line R2714)
- Young Friends Officers' Expense, line 5209, increase from $100 to $200
The Finance Committee Clerk called attention to the proposed Annual Session’s budget and attenders’ fee schedule which are basically the same as last year and appended to the minutes. Since the Annual Session will be held in June we will not see an increase in the Walker Creek fee since their new fees begin in July. However, in the 2017 Annual Session we will have the effect of two year’s of increase to accommodate. We did end last year’s Annual Session’s budget with a surplus of $18,000 that went into reserves. There had been a fear that the Session would end with a deficit. Robust attendance in 2015 led to the surplus. The final Annual Session’s cost is hard to predict, but the Finance Committee felt comfortable in proposing keeping a budget and fee schedule similar to last year’s. In response to a question it was noted that attendance assistance funds come from General Yearly Meeting budget, not the Annual Session’s budget.

MINUTE RC 2016.02 The 2016 Annual Session’s budget, keeping the fee schedule the same as last year’s and the five augmentations were approved.


- PYM policy is to fully fund travel expenses of all delegates, representative, and observers named by Yearly Meeting, but in a given year only a portion of those Friends named actually travel and attend their gathering.
- Nominating Committee finds it increasingly difficult to find Friends willing and able to serve in positions.
- M&O Committee has been discerning how PYM is served by the delegates, representatives, and observers we send to other organizations. They are discerning the query, Is this the work we should be doing?
- M&O, Nominating, and Finance Committees are jointly proposing the number of delegates, representatives, and observers be reduced.
- For Western Friend (Friends Bulletin Board of Directors), PYM would continue to name and fund three persons.
- For FWCC, Section of the Americas, PYM would name and fund two representatives and two alternates (who would be available to attend gathering if one or both of the named delegates were unable to attend); travel expenses for two delegates would be fully funded.
- For American Friends Service Committee Corporation, PYM would name two representatives and two alternates.
- For Friends Committee on National Legislation, PYM would name two representatives and two alternates.
- For Quaker Earthcare Witness, PYM will continue to name and fund two delegates.
- For William Penn House, FGC Central Committee, Friends United Meeting, General Reunion of Friends Mexico, Evangelical Church Southwest, and Friends Peace Team Board, PYM will for the present continue to name and fund one position.

A Friend asked if there was a fuller report on the rationale used for the recommendations and what this means to the Friends organizations. The Clerk noted that the Finance Committee survey currently underway includes asking Meetings about distribution of PYM funds, e.g.,
travel subsidies, support for Quaker organizations, support for delegates and representatives, etc. A current Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) delegate reported that FWCC asks for five delegates from Pacific Yearly Meeting based on the Yearly Meeting membership. FWCC can appoint from that pool of five, positions on FWCC working committees. She suggested that the Pacific Yearly Meeting FWCC proposed group of four delegates/alternates could better choose the two delegates.

We went into worship. There is a tension between the Meetings supporting representatives’ travel to Quaker organizations and what the Meetings get in return. One Friend shared her perception that in the Friends World Conference on Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas meeting in Mexico City representatives from the U.S. outnumbered those from Latin America because FWCC only funds one representative from each Latin American country. This has resulted in an imbalance with too many North Americans being represented and Latin American Friends being underrepresented. One Friend shared that we might want to take the savings from the decrease in FWCC delegates and donate it to FWCC to be used for Latin American representative attendance.

The Clerk stated that this proposal is presented for seasoning between now and the Annual Meeting Sessions. Another Friend cautioned that this has been a contentious topic within the Yearly Meeting for years and that we need to be tender with one another as we are moved forward.

A Friend noted that we might look at this not as a financial or number of representatives matter, but how representatives share their experiences with Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings. We remain in discernment regarding these proposals.

10. **Statistical minutes:** Statistical Co-clerk, Don Bean (Conejo Worship Group) reported. It was noted that Co-clerk, Lee Knutson’s term is ending this year. If Friends are so led to fill the position, they are asked to make themselves known to the Nominating Committee.

The difference this year from last year is that membership information is needed earlier due to Annual Session happening almost a month earlier.

The report is appended.

12. **Ministry and Oversight Committee (M&O Committee):** Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City) presented the report. Bronwen described the role and responsibilities of PYM’s M&O Committee. We were encouraged to contact her or Shayne Lightner (Santa Monica) or Joe Magruder (Berkeley) with any comments or concerns.

**Visiting Friend Program.** The M&O Clerk highlighted the Visiting Friend (VF) Program, asking for indication of possible interest in the VF program from those attending the meeting. Several Friends from meetings having received visits from the Visiting Friend this year spoke. They variously described the usefulness of the VF experience to their meeting, the really interesting
Elizabeth Fry presentation and other programs. Another friend spoke of the importance of visitors from the outside one’s own meeting who can bring to the meeting the bigger Quaker picture. A comment from the floor was that there is a craving for this kind of outside visitor. Other comments included a suggestion to include Young Adult Friends as possible Visiting Friends, the coordination of the schedules of the Youth Program Coordinator and the Visiting Friend and that these visits are especially valuable for those who do not attend Annual Session.

The M&O Clerk stated the need for a strong support committee and encouraged Friends to serve. Interested parties should contact Leslie Zondervan-Droz.

Golden Rule, the historic peace sailing boat. Jim Summers (La Jolla) has been exploring a leading regarding the Golden Rule sailing vessel. He would like to travel to other yearly meetings and other venues to advocate for the Golden Rule project and would like to have a prepared PYM Travel Minute to take.

**Minute RC 2016.03** The meeting approved development of a Travel Minute for Jim Summers (La Jolla).

The M&O Clerk highlighted other main points from the report. She presented the posters for Annual Session for reps to take to their monthly meetings. They have good and inviting information and are also available in Spanish.

PYM M&O Committee enjoys visiting Meetings when they gather for their tri-annual meetings. These visits can be valuable for the Meeting. Through these visits, M&O can listen to Friends with concerns or issues, especially those who cannot attend Annual Session.

Shayne Lightner (Santa Monica) also shared that the committee works on spiritual discernment about the needs of PYM, and Annual Session.

From the floor a request arose for clarification of the meaning of “Community Expectations” was made. The Expectations are for all ages and persons attending Annual Session.

Another Friend commented, pertaining to Jim Summers’ leading regarding the Golden Rule, that the internet shows the great diversity among Quakers.

The Visiting Friend challenged each attender to visit another meeting including other meetings very different from the one with which we are most comfortable. She said that this will enrich your spiritual life and those of the groups that are visited.

The PYM Ministry and Oversight Report was accepted.

The report is appended to these minutes.

13 and 14. **Youth Programs Coordinating Committee (YPCC) & Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC) report:**

Alyssa Nelson (Davis), Steve Leeds (San Francisco), and Jim Summers (La Jolla) presented the report. There is an online calendar on the website as well as an active Facebook page. It was
noted that the next application for disbursements from the Youth Programs Fund is March 20th. They encouraged Friends to contact them to discuss ideas even before submitting the application, as they can help develop the project plan and application.

Three interest groups are proposed for the 2016 Annual Session: one on the work in Visalia with Native Americans; a second entitled *Betwixt and Between: Transitions for Children (and their Adults!)* in our Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings, and with Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) and Young Adult Friends (YAF); and a third entitled *Resources to Support your BIG or little Idea*, exploring how to fashion a proposal to the Youth Programs Fund.

The committee tries to meet face-to-face twice a year, piggy-backing with other Quaker events to cut back on travel costs. They also hold monthly calls. They are looking at how to serve far-flung Meetings in Guatemala, El Salvador and Hawaii.

Alyssa Nelson then spoke as the Youth Programs Coordinator, calling attention to her report appended to the minutes. They have nine Quaker youth for the Spring Visalia workcamp and are seeking $700 in donations to meet their current workcamp budget.

**Youth Program Coordinator Travel to Australia.** Jim Summers (La Jolla) presented a travel minute for Alyssa Nelson (Davis). Australia Yearly Meeting invited Alyssa to visit, requesting to learn about PYM’s youth programs; this includes an invitation to attend AYM in July 2016 along with visits to local and regional meetings and the Friends’ School in Hobart, which Alyssa and the YPC Committee accepted. AYM will pay Alyssa’s costs. As reciprocity, Alyssa has asked to learn about Australian Friends’ relationships with First Nations Peoples and their work toward reparations and healing. Cathy Walling (Alaska Friends Conference) and possibly a Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) young adult will accompany Alyssa.

The Youth Program Committee has proposed three queries that Monthly Meetings and Friends are invited to consider:

1. What does PYM do uniquely or particularly well that Alyssa could share with Australia Yearly Meeting Friends?

2. What do you hope Alyssa might bring back to PYM from this visit?

3. What do you wonder about the Religious Society of Friends in Australia, or about their youth programs, or anything else?

Please send responses to Jim Summers (La Jolla).

We accepted the Youth Program Committee and Youth Coordinator report.

The report is appended.
MINUTE RC 2016.04  The Clerk read a travel minute for Alyssa Nelson who has been invited by Australia Yearly Meeting to share our Yearly Meeting’s youth work experiences. We approved the travel minute with great appreciation.

Ad Hoc Committee on Transitions between Children’s Program and Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Draft Report

Alyssa Nelson called attention to the ad hoc Committee’s draft report appended to the minutes. It is presented for informational purposes only. JYM has not finished its seasoning of the proposed statement with which the Children’s Program Committee is in unity. A concern was raised from the floor regarding what was perceived as an inaccurate description of the JYM sleep practices and expectations at Yearly Meeting as described on page eight of the ad hoc Committee draft report. The Friend felt strongly that earlier feedback given was not reflected in the draft report. It became clear that this matter required loving attention to be resolved. The concern was referred for later consideration by the Ministry & Oversight Committee. Later the clerk of Ministry and Oversight reported that M&O will meet and listen deeply with Friends’ regarding their concerns.

Youth Program Coordinating Committee member Steve Leeds (San Francisco) clarified that Alyssa Nelson is not a JYM Coordinator (there is none) and that the JYM Committee, not Alyssa Nelson, is responsible for the draft report.

15. Young Adult Friends (YAF): Rebekah Percy (La Jolla, Vancouver) and J.T. Dorr-Bremme (Orange Grove, Mexico City) Co-clerks of Young Adult Friends, reported

YAFs have 2 clerks at any one time, serving two year overlapping terms, thereby having a junior and a senior clerk consistently.

The co-clerks provided the list of activities they are working on.

a. In Annual Session, they are planning some joint and some separate activities with the larger yearly meeting body.
b. With Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) at Annual Session (AS) the first activities will be a community building and an exercise on boundary setting at the opening plenary.
c. There will be interest groups, some hosted by YAF and some by JYM.
d. Also some intergenerational activities besides games will be offered,

YAF is also planning an interest group with the Discipline Committee on the God question.

A question came up about the age range covered in YAF. According to one definition the YAF target age range is 18 – 25, but in operation it can be 18 – 35. It is less an age group and more an affinity group.

The report was accepted.

16. Children’s Program Committee: Chamba Cooke (Grass Valley) reported that this small committee is doing a big job, but they are also getting help from others.
In summary, Nate Secrest (Redwood Forest), is coordinator with support from Chamba, who will be filling an official position in that role during the 2016 AS.

Appreciation was shared regarding the draft Middle School to JYM Transition document. The middle school ages are honored in the document and this may help them want to stay in their program rather than move on to JYM. Nate Secrest is also planning outdoor programs appealing to that group. They also need to allow that group to make decisions somewhat on their own.

He noted the one night during Annual Session an evening program with fun activities will allow parents to have some free time to engage in adult activities.

He ended the report by making a request to those gathered to share the need for teachers with their monthly meetings. An ad will be sent to Monthly Meetings newsletters. One has already gone to Western Friend.

The report was accepted.

The report is appended to the minutes.

17. **Discipline Committee:** Co-Clerk Chuck Orr (La Jolla) presented the report, appended. Co-Clerk Liz Baker (Sacramento) was unable to attend. He read from Pacific Yearly Meeting’s current *Faith and Practice* which the Committee is engaged in revising. He noted that it is more important for us to rediscover the Light and Life as found in our Meetings than to discover what we should put onto paper. The Committee will post draft revised sections of Faith & Practice and then invite comment. They are holding an interest group called the “God Question” to find unity among theist and non-theist Friends at the Annual Sessions.

We accepted the Discipline Committee report.

18. **Registrars’ Report:** Heather Levien (Berkeley) and Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) reported that there was one application for providing the registration service. It was from Berkeley Friends Meeting and it has been accepted. Some changes have been made to the registration form (such as adding a donation to the Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) line and clearer information requested from children for proper placement). Registration will be open soon with an email blast to Representatives notifying all. Deadlines for registration are on the poster. Online payment options will not be available. There is no first time attender discount and no early bird discount. There will a late registration fee. A Friend emphasized that Representatives now need to inform Meetings and Meeting Committees of the earlier deadlines. It was noted that we may require more hearing assistance headsets than provided last year. Worship sharing assignments will again be made on site.

We accepted the Registrars’ report.

19. **Latin American Concerns Committee (LACC):** Donna Higgins-Smith (Redwood Forest) and Ann Boone (Redwood Forest), Co-Clerks of the LACC, presented the report.

They summarized the two interest groups being sponsored. One will be produced by the Child Refugee and Immigration Subcommittee. At that interest group Reverend Debra Lee will speak.
She led a group to Central America to investigate the causes of the refugee surge on the southern border.

Robert Broz, Field Director of the El Salvador Projects, will be offering an interest group on these projects.

The report is appended to the minutes.

20. Friends General Conference (FGC) 2018 Gathering and Affiliation: Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City), Clerk, and Joe Magruder (Berkeley), Ministry and Oversight Committee member, brought two items regarding FGC.

PYM received an invitation from FGC to bring the summer gathering to California in 2018. This is in the planning stages. FGC will be reaching out to committees and monthly meetings for planning assistance.

From the floor the comments were positive with a recognition that much effort would be required and that, possibly, some Friends may attend the FGC gathering instead of Annual Session.

**Minute RC 2016.05 Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) would welcome having FGC come to California for their 2018 Summer Gathering.**

The PYM Presiding Clerk will contact the Clerk of FGC’s long range planning committee regarding the invitation to have FGC in California. The Host and Planning Committees for this event will each have two members from PYM on them.

Affiliation with Friends General Conference. Bronwen raised the second item by posing a query to the gathering: What are the concerns that Ministry and Oversight (M&O) Committee needs to hear before bringing an official proposal to PYM to affiliate with FGC?

After hearing comments from the floor, M&O Committee stated that they will put together a package on this subject and will send it to monthly meetings.

From the floor the questions were asked about what it would mean to affiliate with FGC and if PYM should also affiliate with Friends United Meeting (FUM).

21. Pacific Yearly Meeting Holding Corporation: Secretary Jeff Kroeber (San Jose) presented the informational report. It was noted that the Holding Corporation does not seek approval from the Yearly Meeting, as it exists as an independent corporation. The three accounts presently open were noted. The Secretary summarized the three actions that occurred in the past year.

The report is appended.

22. Unity with Nature Committee: Committee Clerk, Catya de Neergaard (Strawberry Creek), called attention to the report and accompanying documents appended to the minutes. They have
had four phone conferences since the last Annual Session. They have revamped the Mini-Grant Program, upping the maximum amount to $300. The criteria have been widened to:

Adding support for young Friends (under 30) in their environmental ministry; increasing the maximum grant to $500 for travel expenses for young Friends (under 30) to attend environmental conferences and actions such as Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) or Environmental Justice or other such environmental ministry; lengthening the previous application deadline to Sept 30; awards may be made as needed, i.e, if time sensitive for a ministry or planting; favoring projects that include environmental action, consciousness raising, and innovative design.

In response to the three challenges sent to all yearly meetings from Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) last spring, we encourage native plantings, local food production, and solar panels.

We are proposing the following three interest groups for Annual Session 2016 at Walker Creek.

a. "How We are Living Our Earthcare Testimony Today " Bringing forward the Earthcare minute and endorsement approved by Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Annual Session 2015, especially what we are doing to divest from fossil fuel energy companies."

b. "Environmental Justice: What Are We Called to Do?" Environmental catastrophes almost always impact disadvantaged people disproportionately. Friends have traditionally been very active in promoting peace, equality and justice. At the intersection of peace, equality and earth care, what are we called to do to support environmental justice? and


The Committee Clerk read the first two paragraphs from the Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) “Living Sustainable and Sustaining Life on Earth” statement from the January 2016 Peru gathering.

The statement is appended to the minutes.

23. **Peace and Social Order:** Anthony Manousos (Orange Grove) and Steven McNeil (Strawberry Creek) are Co-clerks of this committee. Anthony presented the report and noted some highlights.

The Committee has monthly phone meetings through out the year. The size of the committee has been declining and they are asking for help on this committee.

The Committee is surveying Friends Meetings of Pacific Yearly Meeting to determine and record how meetings are serving and helping their communities.

The committee is sponsoring six interest groups at Annual Session.
The report was accepted by the group. The report is appended.

24. **Site Committee:** No report

25. **Secretariat:** Raph Levien (Berkeley), Secretariat, presented the report. There has been a suggestion to possibly use “Slack” for real time information during Annual Session which would be in addition to the usual hard copies posted. Questions came up about charging abilities for phones and about cellular reception at Walker Creek.

The report is appended.

26. **Administrivia:**

The Clerk reported that Annual Session in 2017 will be Friday, July 14th through Wednesday, July 19th.

Assistant to the Clerk, Amy Cooke, reminded us that requests for attendance assistance should be made to local Meetings by April 1 in order for them to act before coming to the Yearly Meeting by May 16.

Sarah Rose House-Lightner introduced Santa Monica Clerk Kate Watkins-Shaw, Gale Thomas, Henry Yang, and Avishag, this weekend’s food crew volunteers. We expressed our great appreciation for their service.

The Clerk reported an invitation from Mexico City Friends to hold the 2017 Representative Committee there. The event could be streamed online for those unable to attend due to cost or distance. A Friend reported that Ministry & Oversight recently held one of its meetings at Mexico City Meeting and it was a revelation that is most worth our stretching to accept the invitation. Could the Bob Vogel Endowment Fund be used to support Junior Yearly Meeting Friends going and stay a little longer to meet with Mexican youth? The Clerk will consult with several committees (Finance, Ministry and Oversight, Youth Programs, and the Latin American Concerns Committees) to review impacts of accepting the invitation. Stay tuned.

Representatives expressed appreciation for the clerk’s successful inaugural clerking, done with grace, caring, spiritual depth, and due speed.

We minuted our appreciation for Santa Monica Friends Meeting and volunteers for their gracious hosting of Representative Committee.

27. **Hearing and approval of Minutes:** The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

The Clerk expressed appreciation to Bronwen Hillman and the Ministry & Oversight Committee, Assistant to the Clerk Amy Cooke, Sandy Kewman for providing ongoing tea service, Elaine Emily as his Elder and for holding the gathering in the Light, and the Co-Recording Clerks Leslie Zondervan-Droz and Stephen McNeil for their service.
We closed in worship.

Respectfully,
Stephen McNeil (Strawberry Creek) and Leslie Zondervan-Droz (Humboldt), Co-Recording Clerks.
Diego Navarro (Santa Cruz), Presiding Clerk.
PYM Children’s Program Committee Report to Rep Comm

March 2016

Chamba Cooke (clerk), Carol Cruickshank and Heather Aymie

This year’s committee is comprised of three members who are coming in without any history on the committee. We are grateful for the continuing involvement of Keenan Lorenzato, the outgoing Children’s Program Coordinator; along with the participation of Alyssa Nelson (YPC) and Sally Kingsland (as M&O rep).

After engaging in a deep discernment process, and expanding our search, we came to unity that Nate Secrest should be one of two Children’s Program co-coordinators for the upcoming Annual Session. Nate has given valuable insights in our meetings, and has been fully participating in the committee’s work. Because we have not found a co-coordinator, as was our hope, we have appointed Nate as the full Coordinator for the Children’s Program. Chamba Cooke, currently clerk of the committee, is willing to fill a position (yet to be created) as an active support for Nate during PYM itself. We are thankful to Nate for his patience and fortitude during this discernment period.

We are excited about the transition document created by the AdHoc committee of M&O. Along with the structure it creates for the transition, we are putting together a middle school program which will both respect the individuals in their transition to JYM and create engaging activity for them. Nate is enthusiastic about giving this age group a program they will want to come back to.

Another new addition being developed is a night program for Children’s Program participants, giving them a sense of community and their parents more ease in participating with the adult activities during the evening hours. We will begin with offering one evening program during Annual Session. Assuming it is well received we will look at having more than one night in future years.

The most important factor for the program to be a success is developing a healthy applicant pool to draw the teachers from. Do you know someone who is inspired by working with young people? Does your meeting have individuals who have contributed to your Children’s Program? Please send them our way! Chamba has an advertisement coming out in Western Friend and he will send an electronic version of it to each representative. We request that you pass the announcement on to your newsletter editor for inclusion in the March, April and May newsletter of every PYM meeting.

Our committee is dedicated to furthering the Annual Session’s Children Program as a healthy and vibrant part of our Yearly Meeting. We are eager to work with Diego Navarro’s vision of more inclusion of the children into the plenary sessions. Together, we look forward to doing our part in “Lifting the Veil” and bringing us all closer to the Spirit moving among us.
PYM Discipline Committee is deeply engaged in the process of revising our *Faith and Practice*. Joined by our yearly meeting clerk, Diego Navarro, we moved into a discernment process involving the reorganization of our book’s contents. Who reads *Faith and Practice* and for what reason? Often our ‘discipline’ is an introduction to the Society for new attendees. For this introduction we feel led to provide a narrative of a seeker’s experience. Seasoned members refer to sections for Spiritual insight. Meetings depend upon its guidance regarding process. We have recorded our long history. And, we need to address the wider organizations of quarterly and yearly meeting.

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

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

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

Our Committee is also led to address the Testimonies. We are admonished by George Fox to “let our lives speak.” When we are so led our lives become Testimonies of how the Light has moved through us. Yet this is a life lived in community—we submit our truth to collective discernment. Prophetic ministry is tested in community and there is tension: “A prophet is not without honor save in his own country, and in his own house.” Mathew 13:57. This is Jesus’ response when challenged with the age-old question ‘with what authority do you speak?’ We may find we may be called to live a life where for
forty years we speak our truth, never to see the transformation called for in our ministry. Such was the Truth spoken by John Woolman.  
Remembering our keynote speaker of last year I now seek to listen in tongues. But our challenge on the Discipline Committee is to find words that can bridge differences in understanding.

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

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted, Chuck Orr, co-clerk,

Liz Baker, co-clerk, Robin DuRant, Carl Magruder, Bob Runyon, Carolyn Stephenson, Jan Tappan, Historian Archivist.
## Proposed Budget for 2016 Annual Sessions

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PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING FINANCE COMMITTEE
Report to Representative Committee, March 4-5, 2016

Survey of PYM Members
In order to gather information from members of Pacific Yearly Meeting, Finance Committee developed a questionnaire inquiring about attendance at annual session, reasons for attending or not attending, and questions about distribution of PYM funds, e.g., travel subsidies, support for Quaker organizations, support for delegates and representatives, etc. About 250 responses have been received from members of College Park Quarterly Meeting. Unfortunately, due to technical glitch the survey has not yet been distributed to members of Southern California Quarterly Meeting. Thus, we have no definitive results yet. Eventually it is hoped that survey results can guide future decisions.

Requests for Augmentation of budget, 2015-2016
• General Reunion of Friends Mexico, line 5281, requests budget be changed from $0 to $500. (The Reunion meets every 18 months, so annual budget should be two-thirds cost of travel to a gathering.)
• Travel to Rep. Com, line 5208, increase from $11,000 to $12,500
• PYM Attendance Assistance Fund, line 5213, increase from $8,000 to $9,000
• Committee Supplemental Expenses, line 5237, increase from $300 to $1300 (Unexpected expenses depleted account and its reserve, line R2714)
• Young Friends Officers' Expense, line 5209, increase from $100 to $200

Proposal re: PYM Delegates, Representatives, and Observers
• PYM policy is fully fund travel expenses of all delegates, representative, and observers named by Yearly Meeting, but in a given year only a portion of those Friends named actually travel and attend their gathering.
• Nominating Committee finds it increasingly difficult to find Friends willing and able to serve in positions.
• M&O Committee has been discerning how PYM is served by the delegates, representatives, and observers we send to other organizations. Is this the work we should be doing.
• M&O, Nominating, and Finance Committees are jointly proposing the number of delegates, representatives, and observers be reduced.
• For Western Friend (Friends Bulletin Board of Directors), PYM would continue to name and fund three persons.
• For FWCC, Section of the Americas, PYM would name and fund two representatives and two alternates (who would be available to attend gathering if one or both of the named delegates were unable to attend); travel expenses for two delegates would be fully funded.
• For American Friends Service Committee Corporation, PYM would name two representatives and two alternates.
• For Friends Committee on National Legislation, PYM would name two representatives and two alternates.
• For Quaker Earthcare Witness, PYM will continue to name and fund two delegates.
• For William Penn House, FGC Central Committee, Friends United Meeting, General Reunion of Friends Mexico, Evangelical Church Southwest, and Friends Peace Team Board, PYM will for the present continue to name and fund one position.
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 continues to work with Casa de los Amigos, El Salvador Project and Guatemala Friends Scholarship Program. Since Annual Session 2014, the Child Refugee and Migration subcommittee has been very active in disseminating information and involvement in immigrant rights. The following are their reports:

**Casa de los Amigos**
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 of Palo Alto Meeting**
pafmelsalvadorprojects.org
The El Salvador Projects of Palo Alto Meeting currently support 13 university students from poor rural communities with student loans that can be repaid either in cash or through community service or financial support for another student. Of the current university students, eight are new students from the rural communities of Suchitoto and five are continuing students from 2015. Fields of study of the students are varied, including law, business administration, art, medicine, accounting, social work, nursing, agricultural engineering, teaching, civil engineering and architecture, and international relations. Twenty-two students live in a house in San Salvador that we rent in partnership with several other programs that also support university students from the municipality of Suchitoto. Our Field Director, Robert Broz, is the principal organizer of an annual university fair in Suchitoto, El Salvador, that brings prospective university students together with representatives of institutions of higher learning and representatives of programs that offer financial aid.

A small part of our budget goes to enable rural villages to organize periodic skills workshops with socializing for elderly people, workshops on production of inexpensive and efficient “rocket stoves” to reduce the labor of gathering fuel for woodfires and reduce smoke that contributes to childhood asthma, and to help fund Alternatives to Violence training in El Salvador.

We collect unneeded reading glasses in the United States and send them to El Salvador, where they enable older people to resume work and activities that had been beyond them due to vision loss.

The Projects are overseen by a committee of Palo Alto Meeting that supports the Field Director in discernment and planning and raises funds, largely through a newsletter that is sent to supporters 2-3 times per year and periodic visits by Field Director Robert Broz to Pacific Yearly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, monthly meetings of these two yearly meetings, and other supporters in the US.

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

Progresa is soon to celebrate 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.

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.

For more information call Donna Smith (707)542-2874 or Harriet Lewis (707)526-1066 Co-Clerks of the program at Redwood Forest Meeting.

**Child Refugee and Migration Subcommittee**

Lynnette Arnold (Santa Barbara Meeting), convener

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 begun to plan for an Interest Group for 2016 Annual Session.

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.

Donna Smith and Ann Boone, Co-Clerks of LACC
Pacific Yearly Meeting  
Ministry and Oversight Committee  
Report for Representative Committee 2016

The role of Ministry and 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. Upon request, Ministry and Oversight committee may assist any PYM committee, Meeting or individual of the Yearly Meeting. The committee also considers and reports on any other matters brought to it by the Yearly Meeting, Representative Committee, Quarterly or outlying Meetings.

Annual Session 2016  
Annual Session 2016 is Friday, June 17 to Wednesday, June 22. Meeting for Memorials will be held on Sunday, June 19. Ministry and Oversight Committee will need the names of Friends to be remembered prior to the start of Annual Session as it will be difficult to add additional names on site.

The sign-up for worship sharing will once again be managed on site. More details on this will be provided with the registration materials.

The first time attenders discount will not be offered this year. Ministry and Oversight Committee believes the limited funds available will be better used to make it possible for Friends of limited resources to attend Annual Session.

We are exploring inviting the local First Nations People, the Miwok, to speak at the Opening Plenary at Annual Session in recognition and appreciation for the original keepers of the land on which we meet.

We look forward to receiving and reviewing the State of the Meeting reports from all PYM Monthly Meetings by early May in order to prepare and share the state of the society report at Annual Session this summer.

Ministry and Oversight Committee is consulting with Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Adult Friends to prepare a set of Community Expectations for Annual Session so that together we will create a safe and healthy container for the Beloved Community.

Attendance Assistance Fund  
Ministry and 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 application process has changed this year. Applicants are asked to submit their forms to their Monthly Meetings preferably by April 1 to allow time for the Meetings to process requests and consider their contributions. Applicants will then receive their forms back from their Meetings and send these to the Attendance Assistance Fund Committee by conventional mail or email, postmarked by May 16. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. The Attendance Assistance application form will be available on the Pacific Yearly Meeting, Annual Session website.

M&O Sponsored Interest Groups at Annual Session  
Ministry and Oversight committee sponsors the following interest groups at Annual Session this year: a) Feeding the Presence in Meeting for Business; b) Visiting Friend program; c) an interest group hosted by the Racial Justice Subcommittee, and d) Continuing the discussion on the theme “Lifting the Veil”.

Structure of the Pacific Yearly Meeting Organization  
Ministry and Oversight Committee is examining the structure of our Yearly Meeting organization. We struggle as a body to fill positions and recognize some efforts are duplicated or even triplicated with the Monthly Meetings and Quarterly Meetings. There are approximately 165 positions within the Yearly Meeting, serving a membership of 1,285 Friends. Does the number of positions translate into a high degree of participation or involvement? 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?

Our discernment on this issue is ongoing and Ministry and 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 and Oversight Committee appreciates the comments received and is currently talking with the Children’s Program Committee, Junior Yearly Meeting, Young Adult Friends, and the Youth Programs Coordinator to incorporate their inputs into the policy, which will be brought to Annual Session 2016 for comment. 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 and 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? Minutes of Concern should reflect and inspire action and not merely state a position for or against something. They should lead Friends to examine our own values and how we live them. Ministry and Oversight Committee continues to explore this issue.

Monthly Meeting Representatives to Pacific Yearly Meeting
Ministry and 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 looking at how these representatives are selected and potential development for these positions. We are consulting with the Monthly Meeting representatives, asking “What would help you to better represent your Meeting?”

Other Ministry and Oversight Concerns this Year
We are laboring with a concern about communication with the Yearly Meeting and its community. How do we communicate with each other and what should we be communicating about? We would also like to build relationships with and between the Quarterly Meetings.

The committee supports the multiple committee proposal to examine the role, number, and cost of Pacific Yearly Meeting’s delegates to outside Quaker organizations. How is representation to Quaker bodies part of our function? Not only do we share the concern of financial responsibility, but also being responsible for our time and energy. Is our energy being spent in ways that most support us as a spiritual community?

Several of Pacific Yearly Meeting’s constituent Meetings either have explored or are exploring affiliation with Friends General Conference. As a result, we are considering whether to recommend that Pacific Yearly Meeting formally affiliate with Friends General Conference.

Visiting Friend Program
Roena Oesting (La Jolla) is serving as Visiting Friend for Pacific Yearly Meeting this year. She is visiting Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, offering discussions on a variety of topics and presenting her Elizabeth Fry program. Friends are encouraged to follow Roena on her travels via her Facebook page “The Visiting Quaker”. Since Annual Session 2015, Roena has visited: Friends House Worship Group, Humboldt Meeting, Las Vegas Worship Group, Santa Barbara Meeting and Ojai Worship Group, San Diego Meeting, Big Island Meeting, Kauai Worship Group, and other Hawaiian groups and Friends.

Subcommittees
Electronic Communications: The subcommittee is exploring the Yearly Meeting’s online presence with particular attention to making our website both accessible and informative. The subcommittee is also looking at our Yearly Meeting’s communication systems and privacy policies.

Racial Justice: The subcommittee is working on 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). The subcommittee also recommends attendance at the White Privilege Conference, which will be held this year in Philadelphia, April 14-17.

Representative Support: The subcommittee serves as a resource for Meeting representatives. Request is made for Meetings to provide the names and contact information for their representatives, along with the dates of service, in order to help the Yearly Meeting maintain a current, complete, and accurate directory of Meeting representatives.
Visiting Friend: The subcommittee stewards the Visiting Friend program. The subcommittee will soon be evaluating the first year of this program and its continuation.

Ministry and Oversight Committee 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 and 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. Listening with these Friends has enriched both the members of Ministry and Oversight Committee and our service to the Yearly Meeting. We invite other Meetings to consider hosting a meeting of Ministry and Oversight Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Bronwen Hillman

on behalf of PYM Ministry & Oversight Committee
Listed below are offices, committees and delegations with current vacancies only. Those for which Nominating Cmte. has names for your consideration at this meeting are underlined, with nominations italicized. Friends currently serving are listed in regular type, for information only. Terms of service are through annual session of the year to the left of each name, year at right is date of first appointment. Reason for vacancy is given to the right of each blank.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Cooke and Stephen Matchett, Nominating Committee co-clerks

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<tr>
<th>Arrangements Clerks (two-year terms)</th>
<th>Secretariat Committee (3 members, 3-year terms)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017 Laura Kohl, La Jolla (2016)</td>
<td>2017 Martha Carey, La Jolla (2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(current &amp; immediate past Arrangements Clerks serve ex officio on Site Committee)</td>
<td>2018 Elisa Jo Harkness, Santa Monica (2015)</td>
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<th>Recording Clerks (two-year terms)</th>
<th>Other committees/delegations with current vacancies:</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016* Stephen McNeil, Strawberry Creek (2013)</td>
<td>Peace and Social Order Committee (9 members, 3-year terms)</td>
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<td>*through Representative Cmte. mtg. only</td>
<td>2016 Jeff Kroeber, San Jose (2009)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Children’s Program Committee (6 members, 3-year terms)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Carol Cruickshank, San Francisco (2015)</td>
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<td>2017 Heather Aymie, Santa Monica (2015)</td>
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<td>2018 Chamba Cooke, Grass Valley (2015) clerk</td>
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<td>2017 Bill Spencer, Humboldt (2011)</td>
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<td>2017 Anthony Manousos, Or. Gv. (2014) co-clerk</td>
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<td>2018 ______________________ (unfilled in 2015)</td>
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<td>(Ex officio: clerks CPQM &amp; SCQM P&amp;SO (unk.), 1 PYM FCNL rep. (unk.), &amp; PYM FCL rep.: 2016 Steve Birdlebough, Rdwd. For. (unk.))</td>
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Religious Educ. for Children Cmte.
(9 members, 3-year terms)
2016  Cate Wilson, Orange Grove (2010)
2016  Melanie Cantu, Santa Cruz (2013)
2016  Anthony Chang, Honolulu (2013)
2017  Ramona Hussey, Honolulu (2011)
2017  Elizabeth Bills, La Jolla (2014)
2017  ___________________ (unfilled in 2015)
2018  John Cantu, Santa Cruz (2012)
2018  Delcy Steffy, Sacramento (2013) clerk
2018  ___________________ (unfilled in 2015)

Site Committee
(6 members 3-year terms)
2016  Pat Wolff, Orange Grove (2010)
2016  Sherri Sisson, Orange County (2013) clerk
2017  Paul Harris, Redwood Forest (2011)
2017  ___________________ (unfilled in 2015)
2018  John Pixley, Claremont (2009)
2018  Sue Torrey, Central Coast (2015)

(Ex officio: current & immediate past Arrangements Clerks:
2017  Rick Altherr, San Jose (2015)
2018  see Arrangements Clerk nomination)

Unity with Nature Committee
(9 members, 3-year terms)
2016  Alice Rosenthal, Berkeley (2013)
2016  Shelley Tanenbaum, Strawberry Ck. (2013)
2016  ___________________ (resignation)
2017  Cedar Rose Selenite, Chico (2012)
2017  Meagan Fischer, Chico (2014)
2017  Rick Herbert, Strawberry Creek (2014)
2018  Catya de Neergaard, Str. Creek (2013) clerk
2018  Kathy Trisolini, Orange Grove (2015)

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  ___________________ (death of Jim Mangis)

PYM Nominating Committee report to Rep.Comm. 4-5 Third Mo. 2016
Report of PSO Committee for PYM Rep Com

submitted by Anthony Manousos and Stephen McNeil

The Peace and Social Order Committee of PYM has had phone conference calls on a more or less monthly basis, but attendance has been down. (All are welcome to take part.) Peace Committees seem to be languishing in many Meetings. Hence, the relevance of the title of an interest group proposed by David Hartsough, lifelong Quaker peace activist from San Francisco: How do we rekindle the fire and spirit of the Peace Testimony in our Friends Meetings, our communities and our nation?

David Brietzmann (San Francisco Meeting) and Linnea Hanson (Chico Meeting) are surveying Friends Meetings of Pacific Yearly Meeting to find out how meetings are serving and helping their communities. Your input would be greatly appreciated. Orange Grove Meeting approved a minute, based on a statement by FNCL, calling on our elected officials to allow at least 10,000 Syrian refugees, along with other refugees (including those from Latin America), to find a safe haven in our country. We are wondering: what other minutes have been approved in other Monthly Meetings? What are Meetings doing to promote peace and justice?

PSO is encouraging Meetings to consider priorities for FCNL and send them to Washington, DC, before the April 15 deadline. This year the focus of FCNL is on Atrocity Prevention.

Follow-up on the 2015 minute "Facing the Climate Crisis" approved by PYM. Sacramento Friends Meeting, at its Business Meeting on October 11, 2015, approved endorsing the Citizens’ Climate Lobby’s Carbon Fee and Dividend letter with the Clerk signing on behalf of the Meeting. Orange Grove Meeting Friends came to unity in support of this minute approved by Pacific Yearly Meeting and over 40 other Quaker groups and organizations. During the FWCC gathering in Peru in January, 2016, Friends approved a statement calling for each Yearly Meeting to take at least two concrete actions to support sustainability. It is becoming increasingly clear that the environmental crisis and sustainability have become global concerns felt by Friends world-wide. What action has your Monthly Meeting taken in response to the climate crisis?

The PSO Committee approved the following interest groups:

1. **How are Friends Meetings Serving and Helping Communities?** David Brietzmann (San Francisco Meeting) and Linnea Hanson (Chico Meeting) 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.

2. **The 2016 FWCC World Plenary in Peru and its minute on sustainability.** 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? Led Anthony Manousos (Orange Grove Meeting), Jan Turner (Humboldt Meeting), Hulda Muaka (Palo Alto), Janet Leslie (Chico) and Roena Oesting (La Jolla).

3. An AFSC presentation by "67 Suenos," an organization of high school in the Oakland area that raises the voices of undocumented high school students. See http://afsc.org/video/67-sue%C3%B1os-introduction

4. Waging Peace: How do we rekindle the fire and spirit of the Peace Testimony in our Friends Meetings, our communities and our nation? When the US is bombing seven Muslim nations, when the US and Russia are threatening nuclear war, the time is NOW when we must Speak Truth to Power with our words, our actions and our lives. Facilitated by David Hartsough (San Francisco Meeting) and Anthony Manousos (Orange Grove Meeting)/

5. Quaker Involvement in Government. 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. I propose an interest group which focuses on and trains us to influence our local governments, especially our school boards. Friends should also campaign for like-minded candidate and/or run for office. Led by Janet Gastil (San Diego Meeting).

6. Friends Peace Teams 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. Led by Gay Howard (Central Coast).
Pacific Yearly Meeting Holding Corporation
Report To PYM Representative Committee
March 5, 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 December 31, 2015, the latest date of statements, the Friends Fiduciary Corporation account value was $9,745.08; the PYMHC account held $1,092.48; the former San Fernando Valley Friends Meeting meeting house mortgage account held $8,564.21.

Since our last report to Pacific Yearly Meeting, PYMHC granted San Jose Friends Meeting $10,000 to help upgrade their facilities, especially a bathroom needing to be ADA compliant.

We note that the “church” which owns the former San Fernando Valley Friends meeting house has fallen well behind in payments, perhaps largely because of federal regulations which has required them to obtain a new separate EIN (taxpayer identification number) and bank. (We know of a monthly meeting in PYM which had the same issue and unable access funds.) We are working with them to get back on track.

Stratton C. Jaquette
President, PYMHC
Roll Call of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups

PYM RepCom - Roll Call – March 5, 2016
“Y” indicates present at roll call, “N” indicates absent

Roll Call List

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<td>Claremont</td>
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<td>Redwood Forest</td>
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<td>Davis</td>
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<td>Friends House</td>
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<td>Delta</td>
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<td>Lake County WG</td>
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<td>Carson City WG</td>
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Report of Secretariat Committee
Representative Committee, Pacific Yearly Meeting
5 March 2016

Official packets are still not prepared, apologies, though the individual reports are available from the website. Secretariat hopes to get these done soon.

One idea that emerged during last session was having an increased online presence. Many, if not most people, carry internet enabled devices. In addition, such devices are extremely helpful for those with vision and other impairments. For all attendees, having information go out in real time could supplement the Miracle and announcements. An example, 10 minutes before interest group time, we could send an up-to-date listing of the groups and locations.

Elisa Jo Harkness has suggested creating a Slack channel for PYM session. People do need to sign up for the service, but it is free of charge. Some preparation will be required before session, and of course it would be responsibility of Secretariat to provide content. I believe it is worth trying.

Faithfully submitted,
Raph Levien
Improved Process for Transitions between Children’s Program and JYM: Statement of Unity and Background Summary

DRAFT

for Pacific Yearly Meeting
from the Ad Hoc Committee Appointed for this Purpose

3 March 2016

Overview

Difficulties arose at PYM Annual Session 2015 regarding the transition of children from the Children’s Program (CP) to Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM). Different people used different processes for discussing, negotiating, and implementing choice of program for 11, 12, and 13 year old children which led to some confusion, distress, and conflict for a number of Friends. Some of this difficulty and confusion has been going on for at least a few years, and the larger question of programming for middle school aged children has been of concern for many years. Underlying the difficulties in program placement seems to be that processes have been unclear so people have taken different routes and ended up upsetting each other. This document therefore includes strategies for both process and outcome.

Note that a somewhat similar challenge has arisen from time to time regarding transitions out of JYM and into Young Adult Friends. While this proposal does not specifically address that issue, it may contain some relevance to it.

In addition to a strategy for how to move forward, this document contains an appendix that includes a summary of the history of this conflict; descriptions of the problem, challenges, and opportunities as we understand them; explanation of the process of creating this document; and notes about the various ideas we heard. These varied, sometimes seemingly conflicting points were all taken into consideration in framing the proposal.
Strategy for PYM 2016

In considering varied possibilities, concerns, and hopes, the ad hoc committee appointed for this purpose brought this proposal to Children's Program Committee (CPC) and Junior Yearly Meeting Committee (JYMC) for approval. Once united, we intend to ask the Registrars to work with the Youth Programs Coordinator and the CPC and JYMC adult clerks to include the necessary questions and information in registration materials that will allow the youth, parents, and our programs to make appropriate placements and have time to plan accordingly.

This will be for a trial year in 2016 and adjusted for 2017 and beyond as needed.

The process

Age 13 will be considered a “choice year” for young Friends, with permission of their parents/guardians. This means that a Friend who will be age 13 during annual session may choose to register for either Children’s Program or JYM, *without having to get express permission from either program*. This will need to be made clear in the registration process. (Note, however, that CP and JYM reserve the right to work together to determine if a particular Friend -- of any age -- is better served by one program or the other.)

Normally, children 12 and under will participate in the Children’s Program, and children 14 and over will participate in JYM, *unless* they have been through the following negotiation process. Deadlines for requests for exceptions will be 6 weeks prior to the event (and the earlier they are requested the better). If a request coming in after the deadline cannot be easily resolved by the above process, the default answer will be that the child will be placed via the basic age guideline.

*Children who want to participate in JYM* before the usual cutoff (i.e., at age 12 or under) may ask JYM (via their parent/guardian, by the deadline) to be included in JYM. The JYM adult clerk (or their designee) will discuss this with the child and/or parent/guardian, posing queries to get at the root of what needs the child/parent/guardian have that they believe will be met by JYM, as well as any questions or concerns. If the child has participated in Children's Program in the last 2 years, the JYM adult clerk (or designee) will also ask the Children’s Program clerk (or designee) for input about readiness for JYM. The JYM clerk/designee may also ask for input from a reference such as a Friend in the child’s home Meeting. The ultimate decision whether to accept the child into JYM will be made by a JYM subcommittee drawn from the JYM adult and teen clerks. *For this to work, the receiving program needs to feel empowered to say no, if need be.*

*Youth who want to participate in Children’s Program* after the usual cutoff age (i.e., at age 14 or older) may ask CPC (via their parent/guardian, by the deadline) to be included in CP. The CPC clerk (or their designee) will discuss this with the child and/or parent/guardian, posing queries to get at the root of what needs the child/parent/guardian have that they believe will be met by CP, as well as any questions or concerns. If the child has participated in JYM in the last 2 years, the CPC clerk (or designee) will also ask the JYM clerk (or designee) for input. The CP clerk/designee may also ask for input from a reference such as a Friend in the child’s home Meeting. The ultimate decision whether to accept the child into CP will be made by the CP committee or subcommittee appointed at the CPC’s discretion. *For this to work, the receiving program needs to feel empowered to say no, if need be.*
If after the start of Annual Session the child/parent/guardian feel their needs aren’t being met by the program they are in, they should meet with their current program’s adult committee clerk (or designee, ideally a committee member or coordinator rather than a teacher or FRAP) to discuss how to meet the child’s needs. If, based on that meeting and other efforts, a change in program enrollment seems needed, the clerk/designee and parent/guardian will contact the clerk/designee of the other program to find a way forward. For continuity and for the sake of minimal disruptions to the sense of community within each program, changing programs mid-session should be rare and is strongly discouraged. Within reason, every effort will be made to adjust the child's original placement program to facilitate their comfort and enjoyment. Only after trying out some program modifications will a move be considered between the two programs. The initial program should do its best to make reasonable adjustments and accommodations to meet the needs of their participants, and both the initial and potentially receiving programs need to feel empowered to say no, if need be.

Children’s Program Committee and JYM Committee are asked to record and share such situations with each other and the Youth Programs Coordinator for incorporation into future programming decisions.

Registration
Registrars need a clear guideline on how to place children and a clear directive as to whom to talk to if a child registers for a non-usual program placement for their age. Their first point of contact should be with the adult clerk of the relevant committee.

Parent/guardians will be provided program descriptions and placement guidelines with the registration material along with contact information for the clerks of the programs.

We would like the registrars to provide CPC and JYMC access to the registration database (or if that is not possible, then regularly updated registration reports) at least weekly starting 8 weeks before the event, and daily as any registration information changes during the week leading up to the event. If a registration comes through with a non-standard program choice, the Registrar will highlight it for both programs, and the programs will follow the guidelines herein.

If conflicts arise…
An ad hoc committee consisting of the JYM Adult Clerk(s), JYM Teen Clerk(s), CPC Clerk(s), and CP Coordinator make a decision, supported by the YPC, YPCC Clerk, and/or a member of M&O if needed.

When concerns arise they should be brought to the related committee clerk(s), and clerks should communicate directly with each other. (Staff from either program should not go directly to the other program’s staff with concerns.)

Rationale
The History section in the Appendix summarizes the key points behind the rationale for this proposal.

Of all the recommendations we heard, the rationale for choosing a non-firm process is that there are too many known exceptions and that rigidity does not seem in keeping with Friends’ recognition of the guidance of Inner Light or continuing revelation. Numerous Friends have told us that if they or
their child were told there was no exception to firm age- or grade-based program placements, that it is likely that that family/child would choose not to attend at all. Because this opting-out would coincide with the usual timing that young Friends are at risk of leaving Friends altogether (adolescence), we would rather consider accommodating varied needs than risk losing their participation entirely.

Practically speaking, with the numbers of participants in each program being rather small in recent years (~15-20 for JYM including an age span of about 5 years, and 25-30 for CP including an age span of 12+ years) there is not critical mass to effectively absorb outliers who are forced by a strict guideline to be in one program over the other, such as may exist in larger programs like FGC. The reason we recommend that the receiving committee/program make the initial decision on accepting a Friend outside the usual age range (rather than the other program releasing them) is that we trust that the child/parent/guardian has a reason for requesting a certain placement that deserves to be considered. It is also more streamlined than asking JYMC and CPC to come to unity on each individual when their energy needs to be focused mainly on preparing for their programs, not engaging in a mandated unity or conflict resolution process.

To minimize/optimize the number children/parents/guardians asking to move up to JYM before they normally would, a careful review of programming for middle schoolers within CP, including input from middle schoolers themselves, will be undertaken. The goal is to create a program that most middle schoolers will not want to leave early, one with plenty opportunity to think for themselves and be treated as nearly-teens, as compared to aching to get out of CP without fully knowing what they’d be going into. CP has heard increasing requests for more Quaker elements in its curriculum and classroom culture. One option is to create a middle school program that is a ‘light’ version of JYM or a ‘hybrid’ version of CP and JYM in terms of youth leadership and decision-making, in a developmentally appropriate manner; such models have been tried in the past and could be drawn upon. As it is commonly understood that there is a spectrum of emotional, mental, and physical developmental stages for middle school aged youth, middle school programming must be different from elementary, and there must be understanding (and exceptions) that welcome and allow for great diversity and variability during adolescence, including but not limited to program choice.

In our discernment process, this ad hoc committee spent a considerable portion of time on whether to use age or grade (or both) as the placement marker. It became clear that there are pros and cons to each of these options, a number of which are mentioned in the appendix. Though it might be most useful to provide a list of abilities a Friend should have in order to be in JYM or CP, that seems too complicated and has the potential for unintended negative consequences (though written and other information about the programs are available). Friends on the ad hoc committee with experience in education gave some input from their perspectives, for example that unlinking age from grade can give respite to youth who have been held back grades but are socially at or above typical age level. Through this discussion, age came to be seen as slightly simpler and good enough given that we now will have a clearer process for handling exceptions.

A query, “which age is appropriate?” and a concern about pushing to end childhood too soon or too quickly prompted us to consider a choice year at age 13, allowing more flexibility since adolescence doesn’t follow neat age breaks. Structurally, an explicit choice year will likely also encourage more conscious choosing, and it respects that childhood is an important time and that choice is important for teens. Children near the transition age must be given a clearer sense of what JYM is like so that they can make their choice, knowing that JYM has more mature and complex conversations while
still providing space for fun. CP and JYM should continue to find ways to have some joint activities that include middle schoolers. This would help to facilitate smoother transitions in general by introducing middle schoolers to the programmatic style of JYM and by creating cross-program relationships among the youth, the adults, and between youth and adults of both programs. There has also been a suggestion that a sort of graduation or transition ceremony be created to ease and acknowledge the transition, and this idea is being considered by Children’s Program. Rites of passage might be useful in other areas of our community as well.

--end of main text--

Ad Hoc Committee:
Alyssa Nelson, YPC (Convenor)
Jim Summers, YPCC Clerk
Sally Kingsland, M&O Liaison to Children’s Program
Chamba Cooke, Children’s Program Clerk
Keenan Lorenzato, Outgoing Children's Program Coordinator
Nate Secrest, Incoming Children's Program Co-Coordinator
Kylin Navarro, M&O Liaison to JYM
Steve Leeds, JYM Adult Co-Clerk
Erika Tarabini, JYM Adult Co-Clerk
Maya Price, JYM Co-Clerk
David Shaw, JYM Co-Clerk
Rose Nadis, JYM Co-Clerk
Diego Navarro, Presiding Clerk (Ex-officio)

Friends who have questions or ideas about anything in this document please contact Sally Kingsland (M&O) and Alyssa Nelson (YPC).
Appendix

Discernment Process for Creating a Recommendation

In Fall 2015, an ad hoc committee was formed by the Presiding Clerk and M&O Liaisons with input from key youth-serving Friends to hear concerns and propose guidelines for how children are placed in the various programs at Annual Session 2016. It is hoped that the process can be evaluated, improved, and continued into the future. The ad hoc committee bringing forward these recommendations included the PYM Presiding Clerk, adult Clerks of both Children's Program Committee (CPC) and JYM Committee (JYMC), JYM Co-Clerks (teens), outgoing and incoming Children’s Program Coordinators, Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC), Youth Programs Coordinating Committee Clerk (YPCC), and Ministry & Oversight Committee (M&O) liaisons to both the Children's Program and JYM.

Also consulted were some teachers of the Children’s Program, former CPC clerks, some JYM committee members and Friendly Responsible Adult Presences (FRAPs), some parents, and some youth from JYM and CP.

The M&O Liaison to CP, the Youth Programs Coordinator, and the Presiding Clerk worked on assembling the pieces to present to the ad hoc committee, which then met to discern a proposal to present to CP and JYM for review and approval.

History

The placement of individual young Friends into youth programs, as well as the existence or lack of a middle-school ‘program’ per se, has varied over the years. In recent years, 13 has typically been the age at which Friends enter JYM (and is also the typical transition age for SCQM and CPQM teen programs). At the last publishing of PYM’s Faith & Practice in 2001, the recorded practice was that “Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) is composed of Friends of junior high and high school age” (p. 170) and that “the Children’s Program Committee is responsible for coordinating an educational program and activities for infants and children up through sixth grade” (p. 180). In the early 2000s, some parents and committee members created a middle school program because they did not want their tweens and young teens to participate yet in the JYM of that time period, while their children had outgrown the standard children’s program of that time. The JYM of today has evolved and resolved many of the issues that parents were concerned about in the past. Some parents/guardians still have concerns about their young adolescents being in the same group as 17-18 year olds, who are at a significantly different stage of development, while other parents/guardians specifically want their young adolescents to be in the group with older youth.

Regardless of (or despite) the creation of a middle school program, there have been some young adolescents and their parents/guardians who have chosen to participate in JYM over the last 15 years. Meanwhile, some youth old enough for JYM have chosen to stay extra time with the Children's Program. At times the programs have been designed such that older children could participate with JYM for discrete activities and have a sort of flow between the programs. All along, it has been unclear exactly who gets to decide what and how.

Youth and parents/guardians have expressed various reasons for their preferred program choices, for example: perceived ‘fit’ with the style/format of one program over another, a sense of belonging with a particular peer group or cohort, or better relationships between the young Friend and adults in a particular program. Some of these same reasons for choosing a program for one young Friend
have been pointed to as the ‘cause’ of difficulty for other individuals or the programs. Both CP and JYM have expressed a sense of ‘losing out’ when particular Friends with leadership and other skills or qualities are placed in one program instead of the other.

Various Possible Solutions We Heard

This section contains notes on the variety of ideas and concerns we heard in our discernment process, retained here for reference.

- **Have a firm line...**
  - ... so that some children do not feel that they are being denied admission to JYM while others are accepted
  - ... to make it simple
  - ... to not take away middle school leadership
  - Where should the line be placed as to allow CP and JYM to each have ideal numbers of participants? e.g., JYM includes 4, 5 or 6 program-age years? CP includes 11, 12 or 13 program-age years?

- **Have a firm line based on age**
  - e.g., 12 and under = Children’s Program, 13-17 = JYM, 18+= Adult or YAF)
    - Or some other age as the division point
  - What if someone is more/less mature than average?
  - What if they are in a different school level than their age peers (e.g., someone who skipped grades or was held back, such as a 12 year old high schooler, a 14 year old 8th grader, or 13 year old 6th grader).

- **Have a firm line based on grade**
  - e.g., Entering 7th or 8th = Children’s Program; entering 9th through finishing 12th = JYM; left high school previous year = Adult or YAF)
  - What if they are more/less mature than average?
  - What if they are ahead or behind in grade for their age?
  - What about homeschoolers who don’t correspond to mainstream age/grade groups, or teens who leave high school without graduating?

- **Have a firm line based on age OR grade**
  - To deal with the age-grade variability, make a minimum standard for moving up based on either age or grade (but not both), whichever is higher, above a certain limit. E.g, the 12 year old high schooler would be in JYM, the 14 year old 8th grader would be in JYM, and the 13 year old 6th grader would be in Children’s Program.

- **Have a lower age/grade guideline....**
  - ... to not deprive JYM of participants who are developmentally ready
  - ... to allow youth more time in JYM to develop leadership skills and less loss of leadership as participants age out
  - ... to have enough youth in JYM to have a viable program

- **Have a higher age/grade guideline...**
  - ... to not deprive CP of participants who make valuable contributions
  - ... to allow youth more time in CP to develop readiness for JYM style
  - ... to have enough youth in CP to have a viable program

- **Have a suggested line based on age/grade, with a process for exceptions**
  - ... to allow some older youth to continue in CP if it’s a better developmental fit (assuming CP is equipped to accommodate or if the child has an assistant or attendant)
○ ... to allow mature middle school aged youth to participate in a program that better meets their needs.
  ■ “I was forced to stay in Middle School Program and carve pumpkins when I wanted to be sitting in deep conversations like JYMers were having.” (paraphrase)
  ■ “JYM is boring! I want to go swimming every day, not sit in meetings!” (paraphrase)
  ■ “If I’d been told my children weren’t allowed in JYM at that time, we would have stopped attending altogether.” (paraphrase)
  ■ “One year all my friends moved up to JYM and I wasn’t allowed to. I was so sad and angry.” (paraphrase)
○ What if the exceptions process is a burden on JYM or CP? Or a burden on youth or parents/guardians? How can burdens be reduced?
○ What to do if a youth ‘left behind’ or not allowed to move up is upset?
○ Who decides, and how? What if some affected parties disagree?
● Other ideas to smoothe the process
○ Have a middle school program that is more JYM-like in terms of youth leadership and decision-making, in a developmentally appropriate manner. (Note: Children’s Program Committee for 2016 is taking this on)
○ Middle school could be a separate committee from CP and JYM
○ Graduation ceremony from children’s program to JYM
○ Children who want to move to JYM before the agreed age or grade must first ask the Children’s Program Committee Clerk for a release, and then they can ask JYM to be included. The same applies in reverse for older children wanting to remain in Children’s Program only they have to go to the JYM committee for release and then request from Children’s Program. I.e. both committee clerks have to agree.
  ■ Variation: a process for asking to move into a program, but not having to ask to be released.
○ When concerns arise they should be brought to the related committee clerk, and clerks should communicate directly with clerks. (In other words, the staff from either program should not go directly to the other program’s staff with concerns.)
○ Registration forms need to include the following questions:
  ■ Age at time of event?
  ■ Grade this year?
  ■ Choose: Children’s Program or JYM? (see criteria)
  ■ JYM: Sleep with JYM or parent/guardian/sponsor? (Sleeping with parent/other is often chosen by younger JYMers in the program for the first time, or those who prefer going to sleep at a time before JYM supervision structure can accommodate).
    ● JYM could require anyone under 13 to sleep with parent/guardian/sponsor.
    ● Having different requirements for different ages within JYM could be burdensome and disruptive. The option to sleep with parent/other has worked fine, however.
○ Have a deadline for submitting requests for exceptions, otherwise the Friend will be placed in the program based on age.

--end appendix--

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### General Account Budget vs. Actual

**REVENUE**

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**Assessment per member**

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

- $95, $39, $30
- $100, $41, $20

### EXPENSES

**GENERAL EXPENSES**

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### COMMITTEE EXPENSES

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### SUPPORT OF FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS

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<tr>
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## General Account Budget vs. Actual

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<td>Budget Actual Transfer to</td>
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<td>Budget Actual to Reserves</td>
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<td><strong>CONFERENCE TRAVEL/ PYM DELEGATES</strong></td>
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<td>5271 — Western Friend Board <strong>R2748</strong> (3)</td>
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<td>5282 — Friends House Moscow (2)</td>
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<td><strong>TRANSFER TO (FROM) GENERAL RESERVES</strong></td>
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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.

### Contributions to PYM Restricted Funds

**October 1, 2014 — September 30, 2015**

**2733 - Fund for Concerns**
- Strawberry Creek Meeting 160.00
- San Francisco Meeting 100.00
- Strawberry Creek Meeting 170.00

**2734 - Sharing Fund**
- Palo Alto Meeting 135.00

**2736 - Unity With Nature Project Fund**
- Carbon Offset donations via PYM 338.00
- Palo Alto Meeting 135.00
- Berkeley Meeting 50.00
- Various individuals 5.00
2015 Annual Session Budget vs. Actual

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<td>6111 — Fees from Attendees</td>
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<td>6112 — Fees from Session Accts.</td>
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<td>6113 — Fees from PYM General Funds</td>
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<td>6114 — Interest on PYM Sessions Accts</td>
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<td>6116 — Contributions to Annual Session</td>
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<td>6116-A — Carbon Offset Donations</td>
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<td>6226 — Carbon Offset Contrib to Projects Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income:</strong></td>
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<td>6221 — Secretariat's Expenses</td>
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<td>6222 — Arrangement Clerk Expenses</td>
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<td>6223 — Children's Program</td>
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<td>6224 — Cost of Facilities</td>
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<td>6225 — Junior Yearly Meeting</td>
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<td>6226 — Young Friends</td>
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<td>6227 — Breakage and Equipment</td>
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<td>6228 — PYM Clerk's Invited Guests</td>
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<td>6229 — Insurance</td>
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<td>6232 — Bank fees</td>
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TRANSFER TO (FROM) RESERVES

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Session Balance Sheets

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<th>9/30/15</th>
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<td>1100 — Accounts Receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500 — Deposits on Future Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>29,794</td>
<td>26,052</td>
<td>44,467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Liabilities and Reserve     |         |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 6450 — Accounts Payable     |         |
| **6455 — PYM Session Reserve** | 29,794  | 25,052  | 44,467  |
| **Total Liabilities and Reserve** | 29,794 | 25,052  | 44,467  |
Unity with Nature Committee
Report to PYM’s Representative Committee 2016

March 4-6, 2016, at the Santa Monica Meeting House

Unity with Nature Committee [UwN] brought two concerns for consideration to AS 2015.
1. PYM AS 2015 came to Unity that, “We hold a deep concern for over-reliance and investment in fossil fuels. We ask monthly meetings and individuals to engage in discernment on how to reduce their dependence and investment in fossil fuels. Meetings and individuals are asked to share their efforts with the greater community.” (Minute 2015-5)
2. Annual Session followed Strawberry Creek [SC] and five other monthly meetings of PYM and came to Unity to endorse “Facing the Challenges of Climate Change, a Shared Statement by Quaker Groups” written by Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW], QUNO, and FCNL. Outgoing Presiding Clerk, Steven Smith, has sent our Yearly Meeting’s name to be added to the now long list of Friends’ organizations who are in Unity with this statement.

Issues
Since AS 2015, UwN has met four times in phone conferences and are seasoning the following issues.

People named to the committee both brand new and old who have no apparent interest in the committee and don’t respond at all to emails or calls. Despite nine names on our roster, we only have five active or semi-active members. This means that many of the former projects and activities of UwN either can’t be accomplished or put too much of a burden on a few people, potentially causing burn-out.

We ask that Nominating Committee [Nom Com] no longer feels obliged to fill out the UwN roster with names – unless they are people who understand the service of UwN and are really interested in serving. Having a name who never participates is useless, regardless of geographical considerations. We are giving Nom Com more information to give to prospect UwN members.

Towards a more robust and engaged committee, we came up with a number of ideas for recruitment and more communication, including using Facebook. We hope that more young Friends will join UwN.

We hope to have a Spring Retreat.

Actions

UwN Charter and membership
There is now a handout ‘blurb’ describing UwN membership. Coupled with our 2014 proposed Charter’s intentions, goals, and tasks, it makes a good packet to give to Nom Com and prospective members. We wish to present the 2014 proposed UwN Charter to appropriate channels for possible approval. For comparison, the 2005 UwN Charter, the 2009c UwN Statement, the 2014 Proposed UwN Charter, and 2016 blurb with further information are all up on the PYM website.

**Reducing fossil fuel dependence for meetings and worship groups**
We are planning to contact all MMs and WGs with the AS minute 2015-5, asking Friends, what they can say about reducing their dependence and investment in fossil fuels in order to share that at AS 2016.

**Quarterly meeting interest groups**
We sponsored an interest group at College Park Winter Quarterly on responses to the climate crisis, facilitated by Muriel Strand with 15 to 20 in attendance.
We are proposing the following three interest groups for AS 2016 at Walker Creek.
- “How We are Living Our Earthcare Testimony Today” Bringing forward the Earthcare minute and endorsement approved by PYM Annual Session 2015, especially what we are doing to divest from fossil fuel energy companies.” There will be several presentations from Monthly Meetings, including Strawberry Creek, and time for further presentations and discussion.
  ~ facilitated by Catya de Neergaard and Shelley Tanenbaum
- “Environmental Justice: What Are We Called to Do?”
  Environmental catastrophes almost always impact disadvantaged people disproportionately. Friends have traditionally been very active in promoting peace, equality and justice. At the intersection of peace, equality and earthcare, what are we called to do to support environmental justice? We will explore how Friends are lifting up these concerns and taking action.
  ~ presented by Shelley Tanenbaum, general Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness
- “Silent Worship in Unity with Nature: Walking the Land, Sitting, Opening, & Listening”
  Developing spiritual sensitivity in a natural setting in harmony with Nature as the expression of Divine Worship.
  ~ convened by Catya de Neergaard & Friends

**Mini-grants**
We are distributing new Mini-Grant applications for the 2016 Mini-Grant Program with the following changes:
- Adding support for young Friends (under 30) in their environmental ministry as a goal of the Mini-Grant program
- Increasing the maximum grant per year to $300 and the max grant to $500 for travel expenses for young Friends (under 30) to attend environmental conferences and actions such as QEW or Environmental Justice or other such environmental ministry.
- Lengthening the previous application deadline to Sept 30 this year.
- Awards may be made as needed, i.e., if time sensitive for a ministry or planting.
• We favor projects that include environmental action, consciousness raising, and innovative design. In response to the three challenges sent to all yearly meetings from QEW last Spring, we encourage native plantings, local food production, and solar panels.

Carbon offset tax
Last year Rep Com approved adding a choice to PYM registration of contributing to a voluntary carbon offset tax. This was both educational and a fundraiser for the UwN Special Projects Fund, raising $338 last year. Thank you for this support for the UwN Projects Fund and the opportunity for us to reflect on the carbon footprint of various modalities of travel.

Finances
We ask that Finance Committee to continue to support the two QEW Reps by proposing a budget for the 2 QEW Representatives that cover travel to the two QEW steering committees a year. We ask $3200 for the QEW Reps line item budget in FY 16-17. In July, we are planning to stagger the two year terms of the QEW Reps. Rick Herbert and I deeply appreciate all QEW does to further our Earthcare testimony, carry concerns, and support Earthcare programing at PYM and its Monthly Meetings.

Our budgets for both UwN committee and QEW reps for this FY year are working well, thanks to the efforts of last year’s Finance Committee and frugality. The Unity with Nature Special Projects Fund has $1193, thanks to both the $338 from the ‘Carbon Offset Tax’ and to Palo Alto and other yearly meeting’s generous donations.

FWCC important Minute “Living Sustainability and Sustaining Life on Earth” was received via Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW] and is appended to this report.

It is a privilege to work on this committee with so many visionary Friends willing to be God’s hands to save the planet.
Gratefully submitted,
Catya de Neergaard
Clerk of Unity with Nature Committee

These documents are appended to this reports from Unity with Nature Committee:
2005 UwN Charter from PYM approved
2009c UwN Description (approved by ?)
2014 UwN PROPOSED Charter from PYM – needs approval
2016 Blurb about what its like to be a member of UwN (just FYI)
FWCC Minute “Living Sustainability and Sustaining Life on Earth” January 2016
Unity With Nature Committee – 2005 Charter

This committee acts on behalf of Yearly Meeting on spiritual concerns related to the environment. It strives to keep alive in the consciences of F(f)riends the spirituality of and kinship with all creation.

The Committee has several subcommittees: (1) Sustainability, (2) Service projects and internships, (3) Nature experiences and outings, (4) Education and interest groups. The committee has nine members, serving three-year overlapping terms, with three members appointed annually. Two PYM representatives national Friends Committee on Unity with Nature are members ex-officio, if not already members of this PYM Committee.

Tasks

- Supports publications such as Earthlight Magazine.
- Nominates candidates for Earthlight Magazine’s Board of Directors.
- Raises funds to further its work.
- Sponsors an internship program for Young Friends.
- Provides means for communications among PYM F(f)riends concerned about the environment.
- Conducts interest groups and nature-oriented worship at Quarterly and Yearly Meeting sessions.
- Encourages change toward sustainable lifestyles by members and attenders of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups.
Unity with Nature Committee – 2009 Charter

QUALIFICATIONS

JOB DESCRIPTION
Established in 1985 in response to yearly meeting members' concerns for the environment and dangers to it, this committee is empowered to act on behalf of the yearly meeting on spiritual concerns as related to the environment and to develop its charge as way opens.

In 2009, key activities of the committee included following a directive to it by the Yearly Meeting in 2007 to facilitate dialogue in monthly meetings about the "emergent testimony" of Harmony with Nature (Faith and Practice, p. 62-63) and continued discussion and implementation of the global "Climate Crises" minute approved also in 2007 by the yearly Meeting. These issues became the central theme of both quarterly meetings this past year, and a weekend retreat, "Walking Lightly on the Earth" was sponsored by the committee at Quaker Center in October 2008. Virtually every monthly meeting has now appointed a "contact" person who serves as a conduit of information between it and Unity with Nature. For several years the committee has sponsored two interest groups at the Yearly Meeting gathering and will do so again at the gathering in July 2009.

Nine members, appointed for three-year overlapping terms, serve on the committee. Up to two members are appointed by the committee to be Yearly Meeting representatives to the national Quaker Earthcare Witness.

TASKS
Facilitates communication among monthly meetings and with the Yearly Meeting, which may include electronic communication, conferences, and publications.

May sponsor plenary sessions or interest groups at the Annual Session of PYM

The committee encourages the leadings of individuals within the Yearly Meeting with earthcare concerns.

It may solicit and raise funds to further its work.

EXPECTATIONS AND TIME INVOLVED
Generally holds one one-day retreat per year.
All other work is done by conference call and e-mail.

Rev 2009
Unity with Nature Committee – Proposed Charter Revision Oct 2015

Appendix A
Note: this proposed Charter from PacYM was revised by Unity with Nature Committee on 10/25/2014. It is based on UwN’s 2005 Charter from PacYM.

Unity with Nature Committee’s Charter from Pacific Yearly Meeting
This committee acts on behalf of Yearly Meeting on spiritual concerns related to the environment. It strives to keep alive in the consciences of Friends the spirituality of and the kinship with all creation. It has the function to educate, inform, inspire, and give Witness about earth care and the environment.

The Committee may have several subcommittees such as:
1. Sustainability,
2. Service projects and internships,
3. Nature experiences and outings,
4. Education and interest groups.

The committee has nine members, serving three-year overlapping terms, with three members appointed annually. Two Pacific Yearly Meeting [PYM] representatives to the national Quaker Earthcare Witness [QEW] (formerly named “Friends Committee on Unity with Nature”) are members ex-officio, if not already members of PYM’s Unity with Nature Committee.

Tasks
- Appoints PYM’s representatives to QEW
- Supports publications such as Earthlight Magazine and QEW newsletter.
- Encourages and supports QEW and other Friends’ environmental initiatives such as Friends Committee on National Legislation [FCNL], Friends Committee on Legislation in California [FCL-CA], and Quaker Institute for the Future [QIF].
- Nominates candidates for Earthlight’s Board of Directors
- Provides means for communications among PYM Friends concerned about the environment and with Friends similarly concerned nationally and internationally
- Proposes and conducts interest groups and nature-oriented worship at Quarterly and Yearly Meeting sessions.
- Encourages change toward sustainable lifestyles by Meetings and their members and attenders.
- Raises funds to further its work.

Goals
Goals and Projects may include:
- Sponsoring an internship program for Young Friends
- Responding to queries such as recommendations for books and other educational materials related to care of the earth
- Proactive educational programs such as the mini-grant program
• Proactive educational and fundraising programs such as the dime a gallon carbon credit program
• Seasoning concerns arising out of Witness, we nurture the process of taking those concerns towards a minute at annual session.
What It Is Like to Be a Member of Unity with Nature Committee

[Blurb approved by UwN 2/18/16 to distribute to Nominating Committee and Friends who may be interested in joining UwN]

Description of what it is like to be a member of PYM's Unity with Nature Committee

Please first read the 2014 statement of Unity with Nature's (Proposed) Charter and Goals for the content of our work.

Pacific Yearly Meeting's Unity with Nature Committee usually meets in person at the annual session and has a one to two day retreat usually in the Fall, preferably in Nature, to plan its year. Committee funds are available for travel expenses for distant members to attend this retreat. The committee has 4 to 8 conference calls a year of 1-2 hours in length, usually on a weekday evening, paid for by PYM to further its goals and plans. Members are expected to attend these meetings and calls in order to help discern and come to unity on a variety of issues related to the goals and Charter.

Besides whatever special educational projects may be on offer, the committee has ongoing smaller tasks such as fund raising for the mini grant program, the mini grant program itself, doing the minutes, and the master mailing list. At a minimum, members are expected to take on a small task. Members are very welcome to bring their leadings for new special projects which they are willing to work on and that further the goals and Charter.
FWCC Minute “Living Sustainability and Sustaining Life on Earth” January 2016

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.*
Youth Programs Coordinating Committee  
Report to Representative Committee 2016

Download:
- **Full Report with Attachments:** Youth Programs Report — Representative Committee 2016 (PDF, 8 pages)
- See main Youth Programs page for links to other YPC and YPCC reports and information.
- See also: AdHoc Committee on Transitions between CP and JYM: Report to RepCom 2016

Web Version (Summary Only):  
Youth Programs Coordinator & Coordinating Committee  
Pacific Yearly Meeting – Representative Committee 2016  
5 March 2016

**SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS**
This report focuses mainly on new items and updates from the Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC) and Coordinating Committee (YPCC). Friends are encouraged to review the Youth section on the PYM website and our past reports for further details on our ongoing work and for background on of the YPC and YPCC’s functions. See expanded details [in full PDF download] and list of weblinks included below.

**Action Item for RepCom:**
- Proposed Travel Minute for Alyssa’s upcoming visit to Australia Yearly Meeting: for the Presiding Clerk to present for consideration at Representative Committee (see attached)

**Requests and Announcements:**
- Our online calendar has supplanted epistles as the main communication tool for events and activities: pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/. YPC Epistles may still be sent out periodically. Our Facebook page is also active – follow us!
- Please reply to Jim Summers and Alyssa Nelson in response to three queries about our collective hopes for Alyssa’s visit to Australia Yearly Meeting. (See subsection [in full PDF download].) We will also be asking Friends for input at Annual Session.
- Next application deadline for the Youth Programs Fund is March 20th. We encourage Friends to contact us to discuss ideas even before submitting the application: we can help you develop your project plan and application. pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/
- Meetings wishing to host a “Becoming Adult Allies to Youth” workshop should contact Alyssa

[Please see link above to download the full report with expanded details and attachments.]

Jim Summers, Clerk, Youth Programs Coordinating Committee  
& Alyssa Nelson, Youth Programs Coordinator

**YPCC REFERENCE MATERIALS**
- PYM Web Pages Maintained by the YPC  
  o Main Youth Page: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/
• Calendar (list and table formats):
  http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/calendar/
• JYM/Teens: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/jym/
• YAFs: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/young-adult-friends/
• Adult Allies to Youth / FRAPs:
  http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/adults/
• Children’s Program: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/children/
• Resources & Funding: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/resources-funding/

  • Facebook Pages Maintained by the YPC:
    • PYM Youth Programs Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pacific-Yearly-Meeting-Youth-Programs/114350215310651?fref=ts
    • Also helps moderate Facebook pages for JYM, CPQM teens, SCQM teens
  • Links to our epistles, other reports, and other documents from main YPCC web page: http://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/youth/
  • Recent Reports:
    • Report to Annual Session 2015
    • Report to RepCom 2015