Representative Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting
March 3, 2001

Representative Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting opened with worship at 10:00 am at the Visalia Meetinghouse, Clerk Margaret Mossman presiding. Stephen McNeil, Assistant to the Clerk, read epistles from New England Yearly Meeting and the Western Young Friends New Years Gathering. Greg Seastrom, Clerk of Visalia Monthly Meeting, welcomed Representative Committee to Visalia.

The following meetings and worship groups were represented:
- Berkeley
- Big Island
- Central Coast
- Chico
- Claremont
- Davis
- Grass Valley
- Humboldt
- Inland Valley
- La Jolla
- Monterey Peninsula
- Orange County
- Orange Grove
- Palo Alto
- Redding
- Redwood Forest
- Reno
- Sacramento
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Santa Cruz
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Monica
- Southern Humboldt
- Strawberry Creek
- Visalia

Regrets were received from Marloma/Long Beach, San Diego, Whitleaf, Marin, Delta, and Fresno Meetings, as well as from Sarah Corbett, Young Friends Clerk, Jeannie Graves, Recording Clerk, and Joe Magruder, Co-Registrar.

The agenda was reviewed and revised. Junior Yearly Meeting Committee adjourned at this point to plan their program for PYM. Noming Committee reported that they had not yet found a replacement for Chuck Orr, who resigned from Nominating Committee.
Nominating Committee presented mid-year nominations (attached), to be reviewed later in the day. Helen Currier was proposed for East-West Relations Committee (2002), and John Mackinney as convener of Friends Committee on National Legislation (2001). Pat Wolff has resigned as clerk of Sites Committee, but will continue on the committee, and Marlene Philley has resigned from Peace and Social Order Committee. Friends suggested Mary Lou Moses, Jane Mills, Kitty Bergel, Pat Smith, and Sue Scott as possible members of the new Naming Committee. These names will be considered later today.

Janet Leslie, last year’s assistant to the clerk, spoke about the evaluations of last year’s PYM sessions. Overall responses were varied, but generally positive. Intergenerational sessions tried to be active and inclusive as well as intergenerational, but occurred on the night JYM and Young Friends were at the Boardwalk. Responses were nonetheless enthusiastic. Interest Groups were made accessible by good publicity and were well-appreciated. Some people were conflicted by the simultaneous occurrence of tabling by groups and the intergenerational dance, but both were appreciated. Unscheduled time was viewed positively. Most responses to the site and housing were positive, but some concerns remained. The Arrangements Clerks were greatly appreciated, but probably need more support. Orientation to prepare newcomers for Yearly Meeting might be important. Face to face evaluations were not scheduled this year, but written evaluations were helpful. Various comments were read on aspects of the PYM program and activities. Community Night was again wonderful, but some concerns arose with scheduling, time management, location, disruptions, childcare, and inclusion of children.

One of the themes of this report seems to be how we bring different groups (generations, newcomers, etc.) of Friends together during PYM. The possibility of art events at interest group times, after dinner performances, and scheduled resource persons (perhaps consulting with JYM or Young Friends) to deal with childhood conflicts or other problems were discussed. Janet is asked to offer her presentation to JYM this weekend. We are reminded that we need to facilitate the presence of JYM and Young Friends in the wider meeting rather than give them a lot of responsibility with children. The upper elementary group has provided challenges, and the Children’s Program is providing more resources for the teachers for dealing with conflict. The more caring, loving adults we have, empowered to help deal with conflict, the better. Workshops on nonviolent communication were suggested. The Children’s Program welcomes the participation of other adults, and will take this discussion back to their committee. How are we helping parents take responsibility for their children?

The tentative schedule for Pacific Yearly Meeting 2001 was reviewed. Mt. Madonna’s requirements constrain us from major changes from the 2000 schedule. Schedules for both years are attached. Although many committee members would also like to attend, those workshops offered during committee time are intended for newcomers and others not on committees. Monday evening has been lightened a little, to include only the traditional roll call and necessary orientations. Affinity groups will continue to be
scheduled early and late, with the understanding that these small groups may reschedule themselves as convenient. Community activities have been scheduled for Thursday, with interest groups filling in on Tuesday. Discussion ensued on the possible focus of the four plenaries scheduled for business. We may have a better sense of priorities for this after committee reports this afternoon.

Dan Richards, Arrangements Clerk, distributed a report on planned improvements in the arrangements (see attached). Several suggestions were made. Pond safety is a big issue, involving children, parents, JYM and Young Friends. We will discuss these issues this afternoon when JYM Committee is present. The suggestion of an energy gift, perhaps in the form of participation in a building project, was made. The west-end deck might be a possible cabaret space during meals. The east patio could be a silent room. The Hiroshima/Nagasaki vigil is missed.

We have many requests for housing that cannot be accommodated at Mount Madonna. Higher levels are more difficult. Pricing issues and concerns about division within the Yearly Meeting arise. It has been suggested that we arrange for a block of rooms in a motel in Watsonville or Gilroy for those whose needs would be better met this way. Roena Oesting, registrar would appreciate input. Finance committee recommends not listing single rooms as an option, points out that motel rooms would have been cheaper than single rooms last year, and offers to assist in arranging motels. Proposed rates for housing were distributed (attached). Eric Sableman reported on Green Tortoise bus lines as an alternative. This line, which provides buses containing sleeping accommodations, could collect Friends and serve as a dormitory for the duration of the meeting. The discussion will continue this afternoon.

The Clerk passed out check-lists for representatives, clerks, and officers of PYM (attached). Most items need to be approved and arranged two months in advance. Copies of policies on reimbursements and travel expenses are available from Steve Birdlebaugh.

The Representative Committee reconvened after lunch with JYM present. While the Yearly Meeting has been quite vocal about sites for yearly meeting, Sites Committee has been relatively inactive over the last few years. Our policy of alternating between Northern and Southern California every two years and our practice of arranging sites two years in advance have not been followed lately. A threshing session on the role and function of Sites Committee, and possible sites for Yearly Meeting took place. Friends were reminded that Sites Committee faces a difficult job, with limited possibilities to choose from, and with conflicting requests from Friends, which can often seem like non-negotiable demands. Are we asking them to do an impossible job? How far do we trust them? Their reward sometimes seems to be criticism when they cannot please everyone. Although the Committee has corresponded and considered several sites, it has not met in the last two or three years. Coloring the whole discussion is the idea that Visalia might become a permanent site, although Yearly Meeting has not yet made a decision on this, and it is not the real subject of this discussion. Various advantages and
drawbacks of Mt. Madonna as a site for Yearly Meeting were mentioned, and we were reminded that by staying at one site year after year, we exclude the same people every time. Using temporary sites may provide relief from this and provide the opportunity to consider various features for possible inclusion in a permanent site. Temporary sites near Visalia could be particularly helpful in this regard. Some alternative arrangements for site and schedule to fulfill the functions of Yearly Meeting were suggested, but are we sure what those functions are? Friends spoke passionately about their experiences of PYM. It was pointed out that delaying our decisions until the last minute is irresponsible both to meeting and to the site. The importance of trust in the process of discernment was reaffirmed, and the query “Was thee faithful? Did thee yield?” reminded us of the basis of our business process. Two Friends volunteered to serve on the Sites Committee.

Representative Committee approves that up to two new members of Sites Committee may be appointed by the Clerk in consultation with Nominating Committee and Sites Committee for terms ending in August 2001.

Representative Committee authorizes Sites Committee to reserve a site for PYM 2002 and one for 2003, with the agreement of the Clerk and Assistant to the Clerk.

A topic from the morning was reintroduced, this time with JYM Committee present. Water safety at Mt. Madonna was discussed. The buddy system was proposed. We were reminded that no body of water is completely safe. A request was made that we seek expert opinion. Last year, it was difficult to get a lifeguard. Do we need to season our fears through our Monthly Meetings? Could we do a water safety program at Mount Madonna, to increase the safety of the children at other times as well? Could we sponsor the expenses of a Quaker lifeguard, perhaps from another part of the country, to yearly meeting? The Children’s Program, JYM and Arrangements Clerks are asked to consider these concerns when planning for this year’s sessions.

Jim Anderson reported for Ministry and Oversight Committee. The report is attached. Two new sub-committees have been formed, one on electronic communications (Stratton Jacquette, clerk, Gary Wolff, and Vashek Cervinka) and one on mental health and illness (Chuck Fredell, clerk, Ellie Foster, and Dorothy Callison). Children’s Religious Education sub-committee has been very active, and requests a budget augmentation. M&O is trying to facilitate a gathering of representatives of independent Friends boards, with the assistance of the Friends Boards Training and Support project in Philadelphia. It asks for participation, a minute of support, and some funding for this gathering. Meeting approved the following minutes:

Pacific Yearly Meeting approves offering its support of the Friends Boards Weekend project and encourages participation by Friends Boards that have ties with PYM or one of its Quarterly Meetings.
Pacific Yearly Meeting **approves** offering financial support of up to $500 total to representatives of Pacific Yearly Meeting and the Holding Corporation to participate in Friends Board Weekend Project when there is sufficient commitment from other boards to move ahead and proportional costs are established.

M&O asks Yearly Meeting to support visitation with Mexico City Monthly Meeting and Casa de los Amigos. Much good peace and justice work has been done by Casa de los Amigos over the years, and Mexico City Monthly Meeting believes that visitation could be helpful in continuing this work. Pacific Yearly Meeting reaffirms the importance of the Friends in Mexico City in our hearts.

Pacific Yearly Meeting **approves** providing up to $1500 to cover the travel expenses of up to three Friends to be appointed by M&O to visit Mexico City Friends on behalf of PYM.

These funds will be provided from reserves. We may need to see what the needs of other meetings might be in this regard. Friends are especially encouraged to visit the far-flung meetings of PYM.

Julia Bazar, Archivist, reported that she has visited our archives at Whittier College Library. Materials are in 13 filing cabinets and a few boxes. They are in fair condition, and loosely arranged. Due to renovations, all material will be inaccessible for one and a half to two years, unless we give them a temporary home. The AFSC office in Pasadena and Pacific Ackworth are possible temporary sites. Cost of moving would be $300-400.

Pacific Yearly Meeting **approves** moving PYM archives to a temporary site arranged by archivist Julia Bazar and appropriates up to $500 to cover expenses of moving.

Julia would also like an **ad hoc** committee to assist her in formulating long-term plans and recommendations for policies, care, and long-term storage of PYM archives.

Representative Committee **approves** that the clerk will appoint, in consultation with the archivist, an **ad hoc** committee to assist the archivist in formulating long-term plans concerning policies and care of the PYM archives.

Eric Sableman spoke for Unity with Nature Committee. The report is attached. A list of potential internships involving Quaker testimonies on stewardship has been generated, and one young Friend has been matched up with a project. The incorporation of *Earthlight* magazine, which was established by the Unity with Nature Committee, is complete. A survey on sustainability is being sent to Monthly Meetings. Interest continues to be strong in interest groups on mysticism at PYM, and the committee would like to see co-sponsorship from other committees or groups who can continue the work...
throughout the year. Committees and clerks are encouraged to contact Eric about this concern.

*Friends Bulletin* may wish to send free copies to everyone in the three Yearly Meetings it serves. Representative Committee was comfortable with *Friends Bulletin* mailing to everyone in PYM, although PYM does not have its own directory. The directories of Friends are published by Quarterly Meetings, which have their own policies.

Shan Creton presented the Treasurer’s Report (attached). We underspent our projections, still have a healthy reserve fund, and have no large expenses except the cost of publishing the revised *Faith and Practice*, and this cost came from earmarked reserves. The new budget increases the amounts allocated for delegate and representative travel because these funds were completely spent this last year. We have many earmarked reserve funds. Total reserves at this point are about $175,000. The reserves for the annual session, which include deliberate transfers from the general reserves to the session reserves, are lower.

Steve Birdlebaugh, Clerk of Finance Committee, presented the FY 2001 budget projection (also on the Treasurer’s Report). Annual session fees are increased slightly, reflecting cost of living increases. The Children’s Program has asked for an $800 augmentation of their budget. There are other minor changes.

Representative Committee approves the annual session rates for 2001, as presented by Finance Committee.

Representative Committee authorizes the transfer of $3,500 from the general reserves to the sessions budget, earmarked for attendance assistance scholarships.

Representative Committee approves asking Ministry and Oversight, in consultation with Finance Committee, to review policies regarding how attendance at annual session is paid for and subsidized.

Representative Committee approves the annual sessions budget and augmentations to the annual PYM budgets for FY2001 as amended.

Stephen McNeil read several announcements (attached).

The incoming Naming Committee will take responsibility for filling the vacancy on Nominating Committee.

The following nominations are approved by Representative Committee:

Helen Currier as Clerk of East West Relations Committee for a term ending in 2002

Mary Lou Moses and Sue Scott to Naming Committee for terms ending in 2002.

The Clerk will name one alternate to Naming Committee from among Kitty Bergel, Pat Smith and Jane Mills.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting has begun contributing to the Brinton Visitor Fund, hoping that the Brinton Visitor will travel north. Hawaii meetings inquire if the Brinton Visitor will visit them.

A question was raised about when copies of the new Faith and Practice will be distributed. Final revisions have been made, the book is ready to be presented for acceptance, and copies will be available for sale at the annual sessions. Some formal ending of the process may need to occur to recognize the substantial achievement and loving care of the Friends on the Faith and Practice Revision Committee over the years.

A Friend raised the question of a hold-harmless agreement with parents regarding use of the pond. Although such agreements may not be upheld in court, they may still have value in raising the awareness of parents. Are such instruments consistent with Friends process and testimonies? We may be able to inform parents in other ways. Children's program is asked to consider these concerns in planning for the summer session.

Representative Committee heartily thanks Visalia Meeting for its wonderful hospitality.

Representative Committee closed with worship at 8:30.

Margaret Mossman, Clerk

James Summers, Recording Clerk