

Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends General Conference Representative Report to Representative Committee 2020

First of all, in case anyone has not yet heard, Pacific Yearly Meeting is now officially affiliated with Friends General Conference (FGC) after many, many years of carefully considering this move. FGC was delighted to welcome us, and we will now have representatives, rather than an observer, to the FGC Central Committee and to the Executive Committee Meetings.

FGC has continued to work on racial issues this past year. The Institutional Assessment Working Group helped FGC to perform assessment of the ways in which the thought processes and institutional structures of white supremacy persist within Friends General Conference. They have now asked to be laid down in the past year, and the continuing work left by the assessment is being carried on by an Implementation Committee. This Implementation Committee reported on the ways that they have been supporting Friends of color. At the Central Committee meeting the Implementation Committee also provided a couple of extensive exercises helping everyone to experience what it feels like to be a person of color in a meeting and how white allies might be supportive when they witness moments in which people of color are experiencing micro (or macro!) aggressions. I should also mention again that there are a number of Spiritual Deepening online courses that you can use in your meetings, available from FGC, and one of those is on Understanding and Healing White Supremacy.

FGC's Finance Committee presented a budget that had expenses exceeding income by nearly \$70,000. Some members of the Central Committee expressed strong concerns, because we had passed a minute in 2017, saying that we would reach a sustainable budget by 2019. The Finance Clerk argued that with the amount of money that FGC has in reserve, drawing out 5% every year is sustainable. He said that to bring the budget to \$0, FGC would need to cut more programs than they already have cut in the past few years, and they didn't want to do that. If Friends are interested in this issue, a number of us were at Central Committee this year and can help make the materials available to you. We will also be looking for new FGC representatives from PYM this year, since this was my last year in the position, and you can let me know if you're interested.

Finally, please don't forget that Friends General Conference for their annual gathering is coming up quickly. You can see the workshops now on their website, and early registration usually starts April 1. The gathering will be June 28 to July 4 in Radford, Virginia.

The Representative to FGC is Heather Levien