

# Pacific Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Order Report to Representative Committee 2020

## **Summary**

The Peace and Social Order Committee (PSO) recognizes the need to balance the outward work in the world with the inward work of self-examination and growth. PSO supports initiating widespread reflective work to implement multicultural awareness. We request PacYM leadership implement institutional changes in our Quaker culture that targets deconstructing white supremacy culture and provides antiracism resources and trainings.

## **Key items for Meeting Representatives to convey:**

PSO recognizes the Quaker voice of conscience is needed! We want to highlight the need for us, people led by Spirit, to make political comments addressing the issues of our time.

Specifically, at the Pacific Yearly Meeting level, PSO looks forward to increased capacity for communication, networking within ourselves, our own communities and families more effectively. Thank you to those who have emailed PSO and shared minutes of concerns passed by their monthly meetings.

Narratives matter, and providing minutes of concern that not only name injustice but articulate visions of a preferred future can provide hope, inspire action, and give ourselves and the world a sense of direction. Whether minutes are aimed at economic justice, a world of peace maintained by justice, right relationship with nature and with the original inhabitants of the land, or changing the culture of ourselves as Quakers to account for the reality of truly creating multicultural worshipful spaces (to name a few), our minutes provide narratives that need to be heard. We recommend wide dissemination and the use of social media.

PSO appreciates the insights of the Ministry & Oversight Committee that processing the wording of minutes of concern during annual session is not the best use of time at our gathering. We are considering the possibility that approved minutes of concern from Monthly or Quarterly Meetings be distributed by PSO to all Monthly Meetings within PacYM with the intention that individual Monthly Meetings can review and sign on if they so choose. Might it be that the communications improvements being proposed would facilitate this option in the future? This would take into account the fact that PSO learned in the past that when minutes were approved at Annual Session, they represented the views of those in attendance and not the views of all members of PacYM. In addition to being a voice of conscience, PSO supports Monthly Meeting taking actions that address the issues identified in approved minutes of concern. Therefore, we endorse the creation of minutes of concern with specific recommendations that meetings can then use to measure their own accountability. For example, PSO recognizes that youth consider Climate Justice a priority. Recommendations might include divesting from any investments in the fossil fuel industry, and Monthly Meetings working towards accomplishing zero carbon footprints.

In addition to Climate Justice - Racial Justice, Just Immigration, Economic Equality and Housing issues are the top priorities identified by various Monthly Meetings.

The committee consists of Elizabeth Guthrie, Brian Johnston, Graciela Martinez, Zae Illo, Linnea Hanson, and Shannon Frediani (Clerk).