

PYM Youth Programs Coordinator Supervisory Committee

Report to Representative Committee, March 2011

After years of preparation, the 2009 decision of PYM to launch the Youth Programs Coordination program for a three year trial period triggered much enthusiasm, attention and work.

The response within the teen group itself was immediate. Feeling newly respected and empowered by PYM's tangible support, they began to connect more with adult Friends, reach out to in-coming teens, to identify their own program goals, and to work through some of the challenges in their own program (most notably the sleeping arrangements).

Last year, it was Alyssa Nelson (Davis, CPQM) who reported as clerk to Representative Committee on the early work of this committee. After assessing our various strengths, we reassigned roles somewhat last fall. Alyssa is now serving as on-call support and advisor for our programs coordinator, Sarah Beutel. Kate Watkins (Santa Monica , SCQM) is committee clerk and meeting convener. Lanny Jay (Redwood Forest , PYM M&O) handles our legal and government relations.

Supervisory responsibilities have been divided. Mary Klein (Palo Alto , parent) is program supervisor, in touch with Sarah weekly. Elizabeth Boardman (Davis , ex officio) is operations supervisor and liaison to PYM. She also talks with Sarah often.

There are three teens, currently termed advisors, who are invited to participate in our bi-weekly conference calls. They are Mark Lichterman (Berkeley), Cara Arcuni (Palo Alto) and Rebekah Percy. We would be pleased to have them approved as full-fledged members as of March 5, 2011.

In addition to phone conferences at least every other week, we have met in person two or three times, and we met almost daily at the Annual Gathering in Claremont last July. We've also kept in close touch with the clerks of PYM and the two Quarters, with the adult teen committee clerks, and with PYM treasurers.

Since May 1, 2010, when Sarah Beutel stepped into the coordinator position, she has been part of all these meetings and relationships, and has been deeply involved as we laid out the infrastructure for this program.

We have established program goals and objectives (attached below), personnel policies, a budget, a benefit package, and support and supervision protocols. Trial and error have led to constant improvement of all these systems.

In cooperation with the PYM finance committee and treasurers Gary Wolff (last year) and Ed Flowers (recently), we have established bank accounts, an independent payroll system, expense reimbursement procedures, and a set of accounts for tracking expenditures vs budget. We are currently developing a non-profit status for PYM that will allow us to receive grant funds for programs.

Patience and perseverance are prime among the strengths Sarah Beutel has brought to this project. Coming from Denver, it took her several months to get established in housing and an office with functioning phone and Internet access. Sarah and her partner, Andrew Banks, are now established members of the Sierra Friends Center community in Grass Valley.

Sarah reported on her activities in an "Epistle" sent to all PYM monthly meetings early in December. A copy follows this report, and similar Epistles will be forthcoming in the future. Sarah's task is to coordinate the resources we all have to offer for the teens and young adults among us, so please let her know what you and your Meeting have got to share.

As scheduled before we even chose a Coordinator, the Supervisory Committee is currently engaged in a systematic performance and project evaluation. Here again, in-input from the Meetings is welcome. Your concerns, your suggestions, and your enthusiasm will support and nurture all of us on the YPC committee as we move into the second year of this program.

Submitted on behalf of the Youth Programs Coordination Supervisory Committee

by Elizabeth Boardman

February 16, 2011

Appendices below: Updated Goals and Objectives. Dec 2, 2010 Epistle;

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Mine is *eboardman@sbcglobal.net*, 530-759-1980.

PYM YPC report to Rep Committee March 2011

Youth Programs Coordinator – Goals and Objectives, Updated November 26, 2010

PYM's Youth Programming Coordinator (YPC) and the YPC Support Committee work together with youth and adult Friends throughout PYM to fulfill the following goals and objectives for year one:

- Goal 1: Provide opportunities for PYM teens to grow in faith and fellowship
 - Objective 1A: The YPC will facilitate strong attendance by teens at regular gatherings in PYM by publicizing those gatherings among teens and by supporting teens in obtaining transportation and sponsorships: 20-30 teens at PYM, 8-12 teens at SCQM, and 15-20 teens at CPQM.
 - Objective 1B: The YPC will organize one or two additional teen-centered gatherings per year, 10-20 teens per gathering, with teens from both quarters participating each year
 - Objective 1C: The YPC will support teens in planning and facilitating sessions that explore Quaker faith and practice, which might include sessions of service, during each of the gatherings described above.
 - Objective 1D: The YPC will help the planning committees of yearly and quarterly gatherings to design some plenary sessions at each gathering with a sensitivity to the needs and interests of teens, and will encourage active participation by teens in those plenary sessions.

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- Goal 2: Provide opportunities for PYM young adults to grow in faith and fellowship
 - Objective 2A: The YPC will visit 1-2 MM's / WG's per month and will conduct one-to-one conversations with 2-4 young adults during at least half of those visits; through those conversations, the YPC will determine the types of events, activities and programs that young adults would like PYM to support, as well as the procedures by which young adults would like to develop those events, activities, and programs.
 - Objective 2B: The YPC will support young adults in planning and implementing at least one of the events, activities, or programs identified above.
 - Objective 2C: The YPC will facilitate strong attendance by young adults at regular gatherings in PYM by publicizing those gatherings among young adults: 10-15 young adults at PYM;
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- Goal 3: Provide opportunities for caring adults in PYM – as individuals, committees, and whole meetings – to grow in their abilities to support youth effectively and to develop corporate practices for doing so
 - Objective 3A: The YPC will organize day-long workshops for Friendly Adult Presences, two per year, 6-10 participants per workshop, with adults from both quarters participating each year.
 - Objective 3B: The YPC will visit 1-2 MM's / WG's per month and will conduct 5-10 one-to-one conversations with youth and adults in each of those meetings; in those conversations the PYC will identify successes and challenges that each meeting experiences in supporting its youth, and will explore potential solutions to any problems.
 - Objective 3C: The YPC will facilitate worship-sharing sessions in at least six Monthly Meetings per year in which 4-6 adults reflect on their successes and challenges in supporting youth effectively, and explore potential solutions to problems. In at least half of those sessions, 4-6 youth will also participate.

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- Goal 4: Provide opportunities for youth and adults in PYM to develop a spirit of mutual learning while seeking unity around matters of faith and practice
 - Objective 4A: The YPC will aid the planning committees of quarterly gatherings to plan and implement at least one intergenerational activity at each gathering.
 - Objective 4B: The YPC will facilitate intergenerational conversations at quarterly and yearly gatherings – one-on-one and small-group discussions between youth and adults – that provide youth with opportunities to participate in decisions about their readiness to “graduate into” and “graduate out of” JYM. The number of these conversations will vary according to the number of “transitional” youth each year.
 - Objective 4C: The YPC will facilitate strong attendance each year by PYM teens and adults at one weekend-long seminar/workshop on an issue relevant to both teens and adults, with participants drawn from both Quarters, with 6 – 10 teens and 6 – 10 adults participating.
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- Goal 5: Develop systems of communication with youth and Monthly Meetings of PYM
 - Objective 5A: The YPC will develop and maintain communications database of PYM teens and young friends, Youth Programs facebook page, and webpage.
 - Objective 5B: The YPC will create and manage a database of teen and young friend programs/opportunities at PYM Meetings and Worship Groups.
 - Objective 5C: Maintain updated listings for Quaker-related events and opportunities for PYM teens and young friends on facebook and webpage (including FGC, Pendle Hill, Young Friends Gatherings) one month, two weeks and two days before the event.
 - Objective 5D: The YPC, in cooperation with the YPC supervisory committee, will send out quarterly epistles (by the first of December, March, June, and September) to all member Meetings of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

First YPC “Epistle”

December 2, 2010

Dear Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting –

Upon completing my first half-year as PYM’s Youth Programs Coordinator, I write to share with you some of the accomplishments, delights, and challenges that I have faced – with my supervisory and support committees – in creating and filling this new position. My intention is for this letter to be the first in a series of brief quarterly epistles to everyone in PYM.

I love being on this journey with you. Over the past six months, I have visited and worshiped with one yearly gathering of PYM, three quarterly gatherings, five monthly meetings, and six ad hoc gatherings of adults and youth in PYM. I’ve held one-to-one conversations with adults and teens from all corners of California , Reno , and Las Vegas , and every conversation has been filled with ideas and excitement and hope about what PYM youth programs can be. This community cares deeply for its young people. Some themes that have come up again and again are: teens deeply value this community and want to continue strengthening those relationships, adults and teens would like more relationships with each other but at times aren’t sure how to proceed, and Monthly Meetings desire to support teens and want help knowing how to do so.

So far, the highlight of my time as PYM’s Youth Program Coordinator was a moment during the teen camping trip to Big Sur in August. We were sitting around a campfire after a period of worship, and one of the teens asked, “What goes on in your head during Meeting for Worship? Who do you pray to?” It was bliss...sitting back and watching the spiritual curiosity arise in a natural setting and listening to the group wrestle with those questions. That’s what this job is about for me—creating spaces and opportunities for youth to engage in spiritual exploration within the safety of community.

One challenge has become evident to me through a multitude of conversations: teens and adults in PYM have high expectations of each other. People of all ages have expressed a desire for more intergenerational engagement at Quarterly and Yearly gatherings, but sometimes feel disappointed with how those events turn out. I’m excited to be in a position to help facilitate communication and building of these essential relationships.

To that end, my supervisory committee and I are planning a workshop for Friendly Adult Presences (FAPs) and for anyone who wants to explore their potential inner FAPness. Our tentative plan is to hold this workshop in this upcoming February in Northern California and in April in Southern California . Contact me if you are interested. Our youth and intergenerational gatherings depend on having willing, able, and involved adults.

It is clear to me that PYM shares my belief that relationships between young people and adults are important. Teens who have told me that they are getting what they need from their Monthly Meetings have also said that the reason for this is that they know particular adults in their Meetings who will serve as their allies and will support them in asking for what they need. I look forward to working with you to make this scenario the norm throughout PYM, and I also look forward to devoting increased attention to the particular needs of young adult Friends as well.

I eagerly await the opportunity to write you again in a few months. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions, or concerns. I would love to hear from you.

In peace,

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