

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Palo Alto, California, March 1, 2003

The meeting opened with worship at 9:30 a.m.

Presiding Clerk Shan Cretin welcomed Friends.

Assistant to the Clerk Kitty Bergel called the roll. All Meetings were represented except Big Island Monthly Meeting, Delta Monthly Meeting, Fresno Monthly Meeting, Grass Valley Monthly Meeting, Maui Worship Group, Hemet Worship Group, Los Angeles Monthly Meeting, Marin Monthly Meeting, Mendocino Monthly Meeting, Mexico City Monthly Meeting, Napa-Sonoma Monthly Meeting, Pacific Ackworth Monthly Meeting, Redding Monthly Meeting, Reno Monthly Meeting, Bishop Worship Group, Ojai Worship Group, and Whitleaf Worship Group.

MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Clerk Jim Anderson gave the attached report.

Tom Farley gave a brief description of the role of meeting representatives from Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to Pacific Yearly Meeting.

There was a brief discussion of factors to be considered in maintaining PYM archives. Friends seeking guidelines for their Monthly Meeting archives should consult an appendix to the most recent Faith and Practice.

Ellie Huffman presented a series of queries (attached) for Monthly Meetings to use, for getting feedback from Friends on proposed changes in the structure of Pacific Yearly Meeting to make PYM more useful to the work of Friends in the world.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Clerk Keith Wedmore reported for the committee.

RepCom 2003-1 Friends APPROVED the appointment of Leonard Joy of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting to the Peace and Social Order Committee for the partial term 2003.

RepCom 2003-2 Friends APPROVED laying down the position of PYM representative to Evangelical Friends International.

Nominating Committee proposes extending to 2004 the term of Sandy Farley as a PYM representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), so that she may continue as convener of our representatives. Sandy Farley of Palo Alto, Donna Smith of Orange Grove Monthly Meeting (attends Redwood Forest Monthly Meeting), and Gloria Kershner of Grass Valley Monthly Meeting are nominated to represent PYM at the session of FWCC in Auckland, New Zealand. All three of these Friends are affiliated with meetings in College Park Quarterly Meeting, so they will have to extend themselves to make first hand reports to Friends in Southern California Quarterly Meeting.

NAMING COMMITTEE

Presiding Clerk asked for nominations to a Naming Committee. At the 2003 PYM

sessions, these Friends will bring names of prospects to fill vacancies on PYM Nominating Committee and will propose one Nominating Committee member as clerk to that Committee for the coming year.

Names of those who agreed to serve are Eric Sabelman of Palo Alto Monthly Meeting (convener), Ellie Huffman of Monterey Peninsula Monthly Meeting, and Steve Smith of Claremont Monthly Meeting. Rolene Walker of San Francisco Monthly Meeting and Sue Scott of Inland Valley Monthly Meeting were named as possible alternates.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Gail Eastwood reported on a concern, presented several years ago by younger Friends when PYM discussed the role of the Religious Education for Children Committee, that older Friends are not sharing their faith with younger Friends. The Religious Education for Children Committee is now asking that its membership be increased from six to nine Friends, in order to have more contacts with Monthly Meetings. Visits to Meetings by this Committee will be intended to assist the entire Meeting, not just their children and young adults.

There were comments on the value of such visits and suggestions as to how they could be planned and conducted.

- Friends noted that relying on the Nominating Committee may not be the best way to address this concern. Does the Religious Education for Children Committee itself have ideas of who the new members might be?
- One of the reasons for asking for new members is that Southern California Quakers on the Religious Education for Children Committee are currently represented only by a Southern California Quarterly Meeting Friend who actually attends a meeting in Northern California.

Friends made suggestions for methods of contacting Southern California Quarterly Meeting Friends. We were reminded that PYM previously chose to reduce the size of this Committee and that now the scope of their work calls for a return to that former size.

RepCom 2003-3 Friends APPROVED increasing the size of the Religious Education for Children Committee from six members to nine.

It was suggested that the Finance Committee consider over lunch the possible need for an increase in the budget for this Committee.

RepCom 2003-4 The minutes were APPROVED to this point.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Clerk David Lederman distributed copies of a call for people to work with the Children's Program at the PYM 2003 session, which should be called to the attention of every Monthly Meeting and Worship Group. David noted that it is important to get this information out, because *we want Quakers teaching Quakers kids*.

There will be a new *Middle School Group* to meet the needs of the children too old for the Children's Program but not yet ready for the Junior Yearly Meeting program. Friends

supported this restructuring of the Children's Program for 2003 and will evaluate its success before approving it as a permanent change. Finance Committee is asked to consider the need for an increased budget.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE

Co-clerk Linnea Hanson gave a summary of joys and challenges of working with Junior Yearly Meeting Friends at the 2002 PYM session and made some suggestions for addressing them.

There is a great need for more people to be *Friendly adult presences* to work with Junior Yearly Meeting. The proposed Middle School Group, additional adults working with the children, more care in assigning facilities, and working with the university or other site management to allow for variations from their normal schedules can help a great deal.

Friends are glad to note that the needs for additional staff and programs are occasioned by the recent increase in the number of children in these age groups attending PYM.

A flyer asking for Friends to become Friendly adult presences to JYM is attached.

STATISTICAL CLERK

Statistical Clerk Gary Wolff gave the attached report, which corrects figures submitted at our 2002 session.

SITE COMMITTEE

Steve Smith, reporting for Site Committee Clerk Pat Smith, brought their recommendation that PYM sessions for 2004 and 2005 be held at Mount Madonna.

Comments were made after a period of silence:

- There are always complaints and no perfect site.
- In recent years the practice has been that the Sites Committee chooses a site.
- Mount Madonna presents a health hazard for some Friends and many difficulties for others.
- Mount Madonna prevents some Friends from going to PYM when held there; however, it has advantages for others.
- Examples were given of Friends with needs for special foods who became ill or had other health problems because of the diet.
- Changing sites changes the nature of PYM. If we take away those who may have something to say to newer or younger Friends, Quakerism in PYM increasingly comes from books and not from transmitted experience.
- The comments of several Friends strongly implied a concern for the importance of having older Friends participating in the work of Pacific Yearly Meeting.
- Perhaps housing off site with transportation provided and other food available when off campus would help the situation.

- It is important that the needs of all be considered, but it is more important that all be together. Often young people are more adaptable in the long run.

We have accepted the report from Site Committee. We will schedule an interest group at the 2003 session of Pacific Yearly Meeting and will discuss ways in which more Friends can be accommodated at Mount Madonna.

ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Co-clerk Frances Forster reported. Since we have been at the University of San Diego before, we know what to expect. Some of the problems, especially those with meeting spaces, have already been addressed. Arrangements Co-Clerks (Frances and Gene Gilmore and Karen Thompson) welcome comments by email or in other forms.

The Assistant to the Clerk offered to share the evaluation sheets from the last session of Pacific Yearly Meeting for perusal by the various Friends preparing for the 2003 session.

EAST WEST RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Clerk Carl Andersen gave the attached report.

PYM UNITY WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

Clerk Eric Sableman gave a status report on the activities, planned activities, and current projects of the committee (Attached).

Friends are urged to remember environmental concerns in the urgency of working on peace issues at this difficult time. Earth Day would be a good opportunity to bring them together.

LATIN AMERICAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Co-clerk Carin Anderson gave a brief report for the committee. The full report is being distributed to all Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups. A copy is attached to the minutes.

FWCC PEACE CONFERENCE

Sandy Farley reported on the "Friends Peace Witness in a Time of Crisis" conference held by FWCC January 17-20 at Guilford College in North Carolina. PYM designated four official representatives, but about 20 PYM Friends attended, and several were among the presenters. Attendance by 50 young Friends from across the nation was also encouraging.

RepCom 2003-5 The minutes were APPROVED to this point.

The morning session closed with a brief period of silence.

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The afternoon session opened with a brief period of silence.

#### NAMING COMMITTEE

**RepCom 2003-6** Friends APPROVED Eric Sabelman of Palo Alto Monthly Meeting(Convener), Ellie Huffman of Monterey Peninsula Monthly Meeting, and Steve Smith of Claremont Monthly Meeting as members of the Naming Committee. Rolene Walker of San Francisco Monthly Meeting and Sue Scott of Inland Valley Monthly Meeting were APPROVED as alternates.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

PYM Treasurer Sherri Sisson presented the attached report.

We spent more money than we took in, but we had planned to spend more money than we took in.

Corrections and comments about the report:

- In the PYM session report for 9/30/2002, the total assets do not balance liabilities. This is a software problem that will be corrected.
- Page 5. Session account. Some of the numbers are wrong. We made about \$1000 on the 2002 session. Corrections will be made as soon as possible.
- If scholarships are included in the session accounts, we are including money we pay ourselves, we do not make a profit.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Clerk Steve Birdlebough reported for the committee.

Regarding Friends General Conference scholarship funds (line 2735), Finance Committee is asking M&O Committee to set up guidelines (in consultation with the donor) and to administer the awarding of these scholarships to young friends so that they will know how to apply for funds.

Steve reviewed the 2003 session budget (page 5 of Treasurer's Report) and summarized differences in costs between our 2002 sessions and those proposed for 2003. Costs of the 2003 session will be about \$15,000 more than last year.

- Funds for the Middle School Program have been included in the Children's Program budget (line 6223).
- Funds for Junior Yearly Meeting (line 6225) have been increased to \$4700. This increase is necessary if we are to provide the supervision needed.
- Session attendance subsidy expenses (line 6231) have been eliminated to clarify the actual sources of the funds.

Contributions for 2001 appear high because they include time volunteered in the Mount Madonna kitchen. Contributions received with registrations have not been precisely accounted for, so that figure is estimated; PYM Registrars will record the data in more detail for 2003.

Paying Friends serving youth programs is not intended to prevent them from applying for assistance.

The Registrars will consider a request to get better data on the number of people attending

and how long they attend.

If a Friend does not make a request for reimbursement, no reimbursement is made. Reasonable requests may be reimbursed without receipts, but it is best to submit receipts.

Variations, even large variations in expenses between years are sometimes explained by few requests for reimbursement in one year and requests for full reimbursement the next.

## REGISTRAR

Registrar Stephen Matchett presented the report and began by introducing Kim Lacey, Assistant Registrar, who will be Registrar for the 2004 PYM session.

The session fees this year are expected to be:

|                                                                               |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Single occupancy                                                              | \$100.00/night* |
| Double occupancy (adult)                                                      | 80.00           |
| Double occupancy 5-12 (bed)                                                   | 70.00           |
| Youth on floor (Middle School<br>Program and under; beds<br>in room occupied) | 35.00           |
| JYM (bed or floor in JYM dorm or<br>floor in parent/sponsor's<br>room)        | 55.00           |
| Under 5 (on floor; beds in room<br>occupied)                                  | No charge       |
| Commuter                                                                      | 30.00**         |
| Commuter under 5                                                              | No charge       |

\*3 meals included

\*\*only lunch included

These fees reflect increases in fees charged by University of San Diego and budget increases the PYM program itself.

Is attending Pacific Yearly Meeting the way we do God's will in the world?

Special information about scholarships will be sent to Meetings and may be included on registration forms. A question was raised: Do we think of considering other than financial needs when we plan to assist people to attend yearly meeting, such as helping someone find care for an aging parent?

Stephen Matchett must receive by 4-5-2003 any enclosures to be sent out with registration forms. Registration information will be made available on the PYM website, sent to Monthly Meetings as hard copy to be copied and distributed, and sent to individuals by e-mail insofar as possible

Copies of our contract with University of San Diego will be sent to those who need it for planning, as soon as the contract is signed.

**RepCom 2003-7** Friends APPROVED the proposed budget and fee schedule for the 2003 session of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

The afternoon session closed with silent worship.

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The evening session opened with silence.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (continued)

The Finance Committee has prepared guidelines for Friends wishing to be reimbursed for expenses.

RepCom 2003-8 Friends APPROVED asking Finance Committee to find an accountant familiar with nonprofits accounting and QuickBooks software to set up a simpler chart of accounts for PYM and to provide advice on tax law. To cover the expense of this help, Friends also APPROVED adding \$2500 to line item 5203 and balancing this with a transfer from Reserves.

A Friend suggested that the information gained from this consultation be shared with Quarterly Meetings and Monthly Meetings.

The Finance Committee is planning a retreat in July, 2003 to consider a number of technical items, some of which may affect the structure of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

RepCom 2003-9 Friends APPROVED creating a position of Assistant Treasurer and requested that Nominating Committee bring forward a name.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

RepCom 2003-10 Considering again nominations heard this morning, we APPROVED extending the term of Sandy Farley as FWCC representative, term ending in 2004. Sandy Farley, Donna Smith, and Gloria Kershner were APPROVED to represent PYM at the session of FWCC in Auckland, New Zealand.

PEACE AND SOCIAL ORDER COMMITTEE

John Holding gave the attached report.

He gave a brief history of the Alternatives to Violence Project in California. The Committee has appointed a subcommittee to publicize and support the work of the AVP Project. A copy of the AVP subcommittee report is attached to these minutes.

John also gave information about several opportunities for Friends to carry our principles into action.

The Committee recommends that all Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups study and discuss the meaning of the Peace Testimony with a focus on discernment and prayer. Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups are asked share their insights and reports of actions taken with the Peace and Social Order Committee and with other Friends. Friends spoke with great feeling about the actions their meetings are taking with regard to present situation of our nation and of the world.

We were powerfully reminded that our most meaningful task is to examine our faith and to live what we believe, not just to oppose what is wrong. Need for action is everywhere, as often in our own communities as in national or international scenes.

We must go to the still place within and examine our testimonies and find the unity within us. Then we act. Only then can we act together.

MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT (continued)

Jane Peers reminded Representatives of Meetings -- and those from Meetings whose Representatives are not with us -- of their tasks. Talk with your meeting; ask previous PYM attenders to speak; bring in children to share their experiences; give the information from today's session. Remind your Meeting about stipends, scholarships, ways to help at PYM (e.g., Secretariat, Children's Program, reaching out to new people).

Friends expressed appreciation to Shan Cretin for her clerking. We thank Palo Alto Friends for their hospitality.

RepCom 2003-11 The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

After a time of silence, we adjourned, to meet again at the Pacific Yearly Meeting session on August 4, 2003.

Faithfully submitted,
Shan Cretin, Presiding Clerk and
Anne Friend, Recording Clerk