

REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

Saturday, 1 March 2014

Orange Grove Meetinghouse

Pasadena, California

Record and Minutes

Worship

Hosts' comments: Sharon Doyle of Orange Grove Meeting welcomed Friends. She reviewed logistics for the weekend. Sharon also introduced us to the bi-monthly Orange Grove Record and invited Friends to submit articles.

Agenda Review: Steve Smith, presiding clerk, thanked Sharon Doyle for her efforts preparing for the weekend. He reviewed the agenda and made some changes to the ordering of items for business.

Clerk's Remarks: The clerk spoke with deep appreciation of work done by individuals, committees and officers in preparation for Representative Committee and Annual Session. He reminded us of the important work of the 2013 Annual Session, especially laying down PFOS and approving the continuation of the Youth Program Coordinator. An unresolved issue from that Annual Session is whether, and how, we may find unity on "Minutes of Concern." "What does it mean for us as a body at Annual Session to endorse minutes?" This is more than an issue of good procedure – it is about the nature of this body. Can those gathered at Annual Session be a collective prophetic voice?

With this topic in mind, we will be welcoming a keynote speaker to the 2014 Annual Session: Jonathan Vogel-Borne, who grew up in Pacific Yearly Meeting. He is a former secretary of New England Yearly Meeting and has led FGC workshops on "Practicing Prophetic Listening" and "Practicing Prophetic Ministry."

The clerk spoke to our tendency at Annual Session to lean on those with many years of experience. We need to think in a new and fresh way. Is the Annual Session essentially run by a continuing body of elders, or are we a vital prophetic body who can discern unity under the Spirit? A new direction is coming to Yearly Meeting, reflected in the call to our Annual Session 2014: "Youth and Prophecy: Awakening to a New Creation." We need to encourage new voices, welcome youth and revitalize our corporate body.

Roll Call: The Roll Call is appended.

Guests:

Check in from JYM: The following were introduced: Hannah Mackinney, co-clerk of JYM, Natasha Herrera, clerk of Ministry and Oversight, Jarod Rischpater, M&O member, David Shaw (Santa Monica), and Samuel Sisson (Orange Grove). Alex Gillespie (San Diego) participated with JYM via Skype.

Hannah Mackinney reported that JYM will meet separately today, joining us later to share their report. They are very grateful to adults who are meeting with them today.

Nominating Committee: Elaine Emily, co-clerk of Nominating Committee, offered the following names for first reading: Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek) for Discipline Committee and Sarah Hawthorne (Strawberry Creek) for the Board of Western Friend.

Naming Committee: The presiding clerk reminded us that we need to fill positions for the Naming Committee from the floor today. The usual committee size is three, with one alternate. We entered a short period of worship to allow nominations to arise from the floor. The following were nominated: Marilee Eusibio (Davis), Liz Baker (Sacramento), Jim Summers (La Jolla), and David J. (DJ) Bloom (Apple Seed). All except Liz Baker were present and agreed to serve; Liz Baker will be contacted by phone later today.

Treasurer's Report: PYM Treasurer Roy Allen (Berkeley) presented several financial documents, all of which are appended to these minutes. He reviewed the reimbursement protocol for travel to this gathering as well as to the Annual Session, noting that we can donate the reimbursement back to PYM through the same form. He asked that all officers and representatives fill out the form so that costs can be tracked effectively.

The treasurer reviewed the General Account Budget vs. Actual Budget. A correction was made to the YTD monthly meeting contribution line. With one exception, all monthly meetings are expected to make their full contributions. Our expenses were slightly less than anticipated and we were able to transfer into our reserves as a result.

The Balance Sheet was reviewed and several items highlighted, including the Bob Vogel Endowment. When PFOS has completed the process of laying itself down, the remainder of the endowment will be transferred, expected to be approximately \$8000.

The treasurer presented the Annual Session 2013 Budget and Actual Budget. We came close to breaking even. Deposits have been made on the sites for 2014 and 2015.

Alyssa Nelson (Davis) thanked the committee for its work and asked to clarify the various scholarship accounts. She will work with the YPC Committee on this clarification.

Alyssa also spoke to the need for clarification on the algorithm used to determine how much money would stay in the Bob Vogel Endowment and how much would be disbursed. Is this the task of the Finance Committee or is it up to the Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee? There are several ways to address this issue, including maintaining the balance or matching inflation so that the same amount of

buying power remains consistent. This process will be clarified between the Youth Program Supervisory Committee and the Finance Committee.

Children’s Committee: Terrill Keeler, clerk of the Children’s Committee, summarized the request for augmentation that is detailed in the attached report. Over the past three years there has been much discussion about the pay of the Annual Session children’s program coordinator. An ad hoc committee of Joe Magruder, Heather Levine, Ed Flowers, and Terrill Keeler reviewed the position duties, researched the position in another annual meeting and made a recommendation for a new level of pay beyond the cost of fees and travel: the Children’s Committee recommends paying the amount of \$1500 for the position of Coordinator.

Discussion ensued regarding hourly versus salaried position, need for taxes, and other issues. It was noted that no approval is needed at this time as this issue and request will be brought up during the Finance Committee report. (The Finance Committee usually reviews/recommends augmentations. See Finance Committee report and request below.)

Finance Committee and Budget: Ed Flowers (Appleseed), clerk of the Finance Committee, gave the report and presented the budget, both of which are appended to these minutes. Four items were brought forward to Representative Committee 2014 for discernment and approval:

1. Mexico City Monthly Meeting Representative: The Finance Committee recommends a modification to our PYM Travel Expenses Reimbursement Policies. Under the current policies, the representative from Mexico City Monthly Meeting is not reimbursed for travel expenses to Representative Committee. The Finance Committee recommends that the Mexico City Monthly Meeting representative be reimbursed for travel expenses up to the maximum of \$600. Specifically, at paragraph 5 of the Travel Expense Reimbursement Policies, the second paragraph states:

“Mexico Monthly Meeting and Preparative Meetings send a Representative to the PYM Annual Session but not to the Midyear Representative Committee Meeting. Mexico may send two Representatives to the PYM Annual Session.”

The Finance Committee recommends that we treat the Mexico City Monthly Meeting as we do other monthly meetings; thus this paragraph would be changed to simply:

“Preparative Meetings send a Representative to the PYM Annual Session but not to the Midyear Representative Committee Meeting.”

This change would be retroactive to include this gathering. It was suggested that the Mexico City Monthly Meeting be allowed to discern the of use PYM reimbursements to allocate a total of two travel reimbursements to either RepCom, or the Annual Session, or both. We approved the following minute:

MINUTE RC 2014.01: PYM Representative Committee approves removing the reference to Mexico City Monthly Meeting from paragraph 5 of the Travel Expense Reimbursement Policies. PYM Representative Committee further approves the reimbursement of expenses for a total of two representatives per year from Mexico City Monthly Meeting to attend either Representative Committee, or Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session, or both, as the Mexico City Monthly Meeting may discern.

2. Junior Yearly Meeting budget augmentation: The Junior Yearly Meeting Committee has requested an augmentation to their budget, Line #5227 in the General Budget. Currently, the budget is \$800. The requested augmentation is \$200, raising the budget to a total of \$1,000. Finance Committee recommends this augmentation. There is a balancing income entry, at #4105, Transfer from Reserve, to keep the budget in balance.

MINUTE RC 2014.02: The requested augmentation of \$200 to the JYM line #5227 in the General Budget is approved.

3. 2014 Annual Session Budget: The Finance Committee presented the 2014 Annual Session Budget, appended to these minutes. The clerk of Finance Committee provided clarification on several details. We approved the following:

MINUTE RC 2014.03: The 2014 Annual Session Budget as brought forward by the Finance Committee and appended to these minutes is approved.

2014 Annual Session Fees: The Finance Committee proposes changes to the registration fees, which are appended to these minutes. The lower cost of attending Annual Session at Walker Creek Ranch as compared to Mt. Madonna allows for a decrease in fees for the 2014 Annual Session. These fees permit us to remain modestly in the black. The only exception to the rate decrease is the daily rate for adult camping – a matter that the committee will examine, but that is not expected to have great impact.

Clarification was given for the various options for semi-private, private and dorm accommodations. The Finance Committee clerk noted that the fees as presented have been simplified for clarity; the registration form will be more detailed. The fees for Young Adult Friends were also noted with concern – the reduced fees stop at age 25, while the designation of Young Adult Friend is usually used up to age 35. The Treasurer noted that this age range has been expanded from 18 years to 35 years in the past; the concern will be taken back to the committee. Ministry & Oversight also holds the costs for Young Adult Friends attending Annual Session as a concern.

MINUTE RC 2014.04: The registration fees for the 2014 Annual Session as presented to Representative Committee 2014 and appended to these minutes are approved.

Ministry and Oversight: Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City), clerk of M&O, summarized the meetings this year, especially noting the great value in gathering at smaller meetings. M&O invites smaller and quieter meetings to host M&O Committee meetings. They

would like to be present through the weekend with these meetings besides having the one day M&O meeting. Spring meeting this year is scheduled at the Santa Monica Meeting.

The M&O clerk presented draft schedule for the Annual Session, noting several new items.

1. First Fellowship Friday after lunch will focus on JYMers topic “Young Influential Quakers or Quakers Who Are Influencing Our Youth” (presented by JYM). Then there will be 3 or 4 options, hopefully something attractive to a variety of folks.
2. To streamline plenaries, daily listening sessions will be held to hear concerns, engage comments, improve wording and cover other issues, so business at plenary can be more fluid. On the first day the listening session will focus on the discernment of M&O on Minutes Of Concern.
3. A committee fair is also scheduled. Each committee will have a table providing places for learning and discussion, inviting attendees to walk around and ask questions.
4. A workshop on process will be held, the purpose of which is to focus on Minutes of Concern and how these are done. The workshop will focus on processes for Minutes of Concern of the kind typically brought by Peace and Social Order and Unity with Nature Committees.
5. The draft schedule with explanatory notes is on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website. Reps and officers are encouraged to share and discuss this draft with their meetings. Meetings are encouraged to read the Electronics Communications Subcommittee report online including information about the Quaker Cloud.

M&O asked for us to reflect upon why we attend the Annual Session, citing many possible reasons. M&O, officers and PYM Reps are asked to encourage their members and attenders to attend Annual Session, emphasizing that an assistance fund is available. In past years this fund has usually not been depleted; M&O hopes it will be fully used this year. The committee has simplified the application process, and in addition is offering a \$40 discount of registration fees for first time attenders at Annual Session.

It was suggested that in addition to his keynote address, the invited speaker participate in a variety of other Annual Session activities. Some would appreciate having a written summary of his talk to share with their meetings.

Discipline Committee: The presiding clerk reminded Representative Committee that at the 2013 Annual Session, Discipline Committee brought a recommendation that PYM embark upon a revision of the current *Faith and Practice*. Both enthusiastic support and reservations were expressed, with no clear unity emerging. He noted that if the currently

proposed revision takes five years, 18 years will have lapsed since the publication of the 2001 edition—significantly longer than past revision time spans.

Carolyn Stephenson (Honolulu), clerk of the Discipline Committee, reaffirmed the view that it is time to begin the revision process of *Faith and Practice*, as a living document reflecting our continuing revelations as Friends. The committee's full report is appended. An interest group at the Annual Session on *Faith and Practice* as a Living Document will help to further our discernment.

A Friend asked those in attendance to consider what may be outdated in the current issue of *Faith and Practice*. Friends spoke to changes needed in the Advices & Queries, the recognition of Earth Care and the support of same-sex marriage as concerns held by our corporate body, and the use of technology as a vehicle for enhancing the life of *Faith and Practice* among us. Record keeping, charges to the committees and officers also need greater clarity, since they are the keys to the smooth operations of our Society. One Friend expressed a longing for a return to a Christian discipline, reflecting our long tradition. "How does *Faith and Practice* reflect our faithfulness to the Divine?"

If we approve a revision, the Faith and Practice Revision Committee is asked to consider relative stability and consistency among members of the committee, since wholesale or frequent turnover on the committee can be disruptive.

We were asked to address further concerns to the committee. We approved this minute:

Minute RC 2014.05: Representative Committee approves bringing the following minute to the 2014 Annual Session: "Pacific Yearly Meeting approves beginning on the next revision of our *Faith and Practice*."

Peace and Social Order: Alvaro Alvarado (Sacramento), co-clerk, summarized the PSOC report, which is attached. The report covers two topics:

- A. Four P&SO Interest Groups are scheduled for Annual Session (see attached).
- B. P&SO recommends a more explicit set of guidelines for bringing Minutes of Concern to Annual Session, to ensure that such minutes have been carefully seasoned. A proposal for these guidelines is included in the P&SO report.

Following these procedures may not be possible in the case of urgent concerns that arise shortly before Annual Session, however. In such cases, the guidelines may need to be suspended to allow a timely response.

A larger question remains: whether—and if so, how—we may find unity at the Annual Session to speak as a prophetic corporate body to major concerns. Are we useless if we cannot speak as a larger group to have greater impact?

Anthony Manousos, co-clerk of P&SO, addressed two points: getting procedures right and also discerning unity. Cody Lowry then shared a poem from the hymn in the Quaker

hymnal, “Young and Fearless Prophet”. Anthony asked if we are fearless prophets. How do we become fully awake and fully alive? His full statement is attached to the minutes

Interest Groups Report: Pat Smith, Assistant to the Clerk, listed the Interest Groups that will be offered at the Annual Session. All sixteen slots are filled.

Unity with Nature Committee: Muriel Strand, co-clerk of Unity with Nature Committee, noted that Catya de Neergaard (Berkeley) agreed to be co-clerk, an item that needs approval. She summarized the UwN report, mentioning the following:

- Reps and officers are asked to make sure that their meetings know that the applications for mini-grants are available online.
- Two interest groups are being offered for the Annual Session, one on eco-mysticism and one on divestment from fossil fuels.
- UwN will appoint two representatives from PYM to Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). Shelley Tannenbaum (Strawberry Creek) of Unity with Nature Committee is QEW’s new General Secretary. Friends are encouraged to read the newsletter and join QEW.
- UwN invites meetings to consider doing the dime-a-gallon Do It Yourself carbon self-taxation policy developed by Strawberry Creek.
- UwN will continue to strengthen ties with monthly and quarterly meetings.
- UwN will review and may revise their job description.

A suggestion was made to combine the Unity with Nature and Peace and Social Order Committee. In response, it was suggested that because of the huge challenge of their charges, two groups are needed—though more could be done to work together. This is a good topic for an interest group.

An idea was brought up to consider an Interest Group focusing on sacredness of pets, which might bring more kids into unity with nature concerns.

Youth Program Coordinator Supervisory Committee (YPCSC): Mary Klein, co-clerk, noted that the committee is in discernment about their name, possibly shortening it at a later date to “Youth Program Committee.”

Alyssa Nelson, YPC, gave a brief report summarizing her many activities, and introduced the committee members present in the room. The work is moving forward with energy that has come with the support of the Annual Session. Alyssa visits monthly meetings and worship groups and frequently works with adults in supporting their youth work.

Much of Alyssa’s work has been based in the YM committees – notably the Unity with Nature work camp and outreach with the Peace and Social Order Committee to involve young people. Alyssa is now working with Ministry & Oversight and its subcommittees to restructure the Annual Session. She recommends that Friends look at the New England Yearly Meeting web site as a model for a fantastic outreach tool.

There is also work on garnering support for distant meetings – Mexico, Hawaii and Guatemala – and there are efforts to move forward in working together. There are parallels in this outreach with our focus on youth – especially on the marginalization and/or inclusion of people based on age or geography.

Alyssa maintains a strong commitment to communication throughout the YM and noted that this transcends youth issues. Don Bean, web site coordinator, has been very helpful.

Alyssa also made several announcements: (a) The FWCC Section of the Americas will host four gatherings this year, including one hosted by Sacramento. She has been working with others on a Servant Leadership workshop to be presented at that gathering. (b) Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) workshops are scheduled for April 5 at San Jose meetinghouse, and during an April 19 Orange County Friends retreat. (c) The SCQM spring retreat on April 26 will include painting a mural at the Santa Monica meetinghouse. That project begins tonight with Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Adult Friends, centered around AVP type activities focusing on what we care about. This information will then be used to design the mural.

Mary Klein and Jim Summers, co-clerks of the YPCSC, submitted their report, which is appended. The committee has developed a new structure of subcommittees, goals and objectives. The subcommittees – The Big Picture, Program/Resources, Communications, Personnel, and Nuts & Bolts – are being guided by the work and words of Annual Session 2013. The resources of the committee – both in the funds allocated and in the YPC’s energy and time – are being considered carefully.

The committee is dedicated to stewarding the resources under its care with good process and procedures, and to this end is working on a policy statement for the use of the income from Bob Vogel Endowment. The policy will allow for the screening of projects in line with the goals and objectives the committee has developed, guided by the statements recorded at the 2013 Annual Session. The policy will also guide an evaluation process for each project after its completion.

The presiding clerk emphasized the massive amount of work done by the committee. He spoke to possibility of renewed vitality of our yearly meeting that can arise from this new initiative. Alyssa Nelson thanked committee members for their time, energy and vision.

Jim Summers, co-clerk, invited everyone to the YPCSC’s Interest Group at this year’s Annual Session. They would love to have representation from Sierra Friends Center, Quaker Center and Western Young Friends as they explore how we can further the connections between and among us.

Young Adult Friends: Kylin Navarro, co-clerk, Elena Anderson-Williams, co-clerk, Rob Cimorelli, and Cody Lowry, clerk of Young Friends M&O Committee gave the report. The following is the report as read and presented.

“[With the meeting standing in a circle holding hands]

We aren't planning this year's YAF program as one for "young people" and we don't even want to talk right now as "young people." We want to speak as people who love you, as people who recognize the God in you. The Young Adult Friends of PYM and the Senior Yearly Meeting are not separate; we are one. This is the Spirit moving in us now. Welcome to the revival of this blessed community.

In First Day School we were told the truth, there is that of God in everyone, in everything. To experience every moment, every interaction as sacred, seeking the divine, feeling the Light scorch our very souls—this is the source of our Witness. Our testimony is to live in this Truth. If we are vessels of the divine, then we love so as to leave no occasion for war.

We are engaged in an experiment of radical trust. We want to ask the YM to join us in this work and we accept your invitation to join you. We're seeking the living spirit, not just in our lives and in one another, but also how that flows through this corporate body.

Talk to us, we want to know you.

In light of this, we are planning a workshop on Convincement, Conversion, and Conviction for annual session. We are holding a Meeting for Healing with JYM and implementing a structure to support community members in their Concerns and leadings. In all of our planning we are arranging our schedule and sponsoring activities which cultivate the greatest inclusivity and integration of PYM. We are excited to connect with Monthly Meetings and Friends who have not attended annual session before or haven't been lately as we extend an open invitation to join us."

Following the report some emphasized how crucial it is for Young Adult Friends and the rest of PYM to interact and work together. YAF will also be trying to contact possible YAF members, especially those who attended meetings as teens or younger. A friend shared that there was strong interest in having more of the Quaker community coming to the Western Young Friends' New Year's Gathering.

Site Committee: Sherri Sisson, clerk, reports that Walker Creek will be the Annual Session site in 2015, July 13th – 18th. It is hoped that the following two years the meeting will then be in the South. Recommendations are requested for locations.

Concerns were expressed regarding the timing of the mid-July sessions. We should plan our Annual Sessions with a longer view – at least five years out—which would allow us to consider issues and sites more deeply. We were reminded that during the years when the Annual Sessions were held in Chico, SCQM Friends rented two busses to transport them to the site. One Friend suggested the possibility of a long weekend Annual Session.

Registrars: Joyce Samati and Sarah Terrell, co-registrars, gave the report, appended. Berkeley Meeting has been selected to provide the Contract Registration Service for 2014. The ad hoc committee working on the explicit process for the selection and approval of a registration service has revised the timeline and posted it on the web site.

Registration protocols were reviewed and representatives were encouraged to share these with their meetings.

Carl Anderson (Berkeley) circulated a graph showing attendance at Annual Sessions from 1984 to 2013, illustrating the trending decline. The graph will be available on the PYM website.

Nominating and Naming Committees: We held a second reading of the Nominating Committee report: for Friends Bulletin Corporation Board of Directors, Sarah Hawthorne (Strawberry Creek) for a 2016 slot, and for Discipline Committee, Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek) to fill a current vacancy for the rest of a 2014 slot.

Minute RC 2014.06: Representative Committee approves Sarah Hawthorne (Strawberry Creek) for a 2016 slot on the Friends Bulletin Corporation Board of Directors, and Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek) to fill a vacancy on Discipline Committee for the rest of a 2014 slot.

Naming Committee:

Minute RC 2014.07: Representative Committee approves Marilee Eusibio, Liz Baker, and Jim Summers for the 2014 Naming Committee, with D.J. Bloom (Appleseed) as an alternate.

Unity with Nature Committee:

Minute RC 2014.08: Representative Committee approves Catherine de Neergaard as co-clerk of Unity with Nature Committee.

Nomenclature & Inclusivity in the Yearly Meeting: The presiding clerk observed that words and names reflect the assumptions we make. For example, although “Pacific Yearly Meeting” includes members and attenders of all meetings within the yearly meeting, it is often used to refer only to the Annual Session. “Pacific Yearly Meeting” refers to the entire body; Annual Session occurs once per year.

The names “Young Adult Friends” and “Junior Yearly Meeting” tend to marginalize these groups as well, seeming to imply that they are not a full part of PYM and thus not part of the decision making body. Sharing was invited around our use of these terms. The harvesting of the sharing is appended.

JYM – concluding check-in: David Shaw (Santa Monica) provided an interim report pending completion of work by JYM later in the day. He reported that worship sharing was held on the topic of how Quakers have changed us spiritually and how we have been influenced spiritually. The group is also trying to find a schedule at Annual Session that would allow JYM to interact with other diverse groups.

Steve Leeds and Sue Torrey of the Adult Teen Committee reported that they are working on a JYM Annual Session schedule to accommodate connections with different groups. The Adult Teen Committee had an adult retreat in November, a full weekend with the purpose to become connected as a group and to be able to hold the teens mindfully. Most of that committee was at RepCom, working with the teens. They reported having a very rich worship sharing session on what transformative friends we had known or what transformative experiences we have had.

The following additional report was later provided by Hannah Mackinney, JYM co-clerk: Both the JYM and the Adult Teen Committee met during RepCom, which was a very rich experience. Subcommittees have been created to continue their work. They are working toward strengthening intergenerational activities. A schedule has been developed for the Annual Session.

Hearing and approval of Minutes: The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

Respectfully,

Amy Cooke (Grass Valley) and Leslie Zondervan-Droz (Humboldt), *Co-Recording Clerks.*

Steve Smith (Claremont), *Presiding Clerk.*