

Pacific Yearly Meeting
68th Annual Session Minutes and Reports

PLENARY VIII

Plenary VIII opened with worship at 8:45 a.m.

Reading Clerk DJ Bloom (Apple Seed) read the epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting Senior Young Friends. The theme of the gathering was Simplicity and Eco-justice, with an address, “*From Empire to Beloved Community: The Prophetic call towards radical Faithfulness*” by Steve Chase.

Latin American Concerns Committee: Clerk Donna Smith (Redwood Forest) gave the report, noting that their mission includes encouraging Pacific Yearly Meeting support of Casa de Los Amigos, the El Salvador Projects of Palo Alto Meeting, and the Guatemala Scholarship Program of Guatemala and Redwood Forest Meetings. At this Session, the Committee created a new subcommittee, the Child Refugees and Migration Subcommittee convened by Lynnette Arnold (Santa Barbara). Hayley Hathaway, Director of Casa de Los Amigos reported on the scope and depth of the life and work at the Casa. Immigration remains a strong focus. They co-run a Central American shelter elsewhere in Mexico City. They continue to offer refugee services at the Casa, including support of returnees to Mexico from the States, human rights workshops, support of cooperatives to sustain some to be able to stay, and operate a volunteer program for Mexicans and foreigners, young and old, to come and help the work. She asked that we visit, volunteer, or participate on an upcoming nine-day trip focusing on social justice in Mexico. The Clerk noted that Mexico Friends Meeting was one of the first ten meetings to join in the formation of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

The Registrars’ Report was given by Joyce Samati (Strawberry Creek) and Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) gave their report (attached). The total attendance this Session was 281. There were 229 attending for the week, 26 for part of the week and 26 day attenders. There were 188 adults, 14 teens ages 13-17, and 27 children. Total attendance at last year’s Session was 252. First time attenders were about 40. The registrars announced the call for applications for a contract registration service for next year’s session, July 13-18, 2015.

Friends General Conference General Secretary Barry Crossno (Santa Fe, Intermountain Yearly Meeting) expressed appreciation for his reception and for the Pacific Yearly Meeting members’ participation in the life of FGC. A majority of those present raised their hands when Barry called for a show of hands of those who have attended a Gathering. Next year’s Gathering will be outside Asheville, North Carolina. The White Privilege Conference will be in Philadelphia in 2016. He asked that we check out the Quaker Quest program that has offered one-day and weekend workshops which have led to participating Meetings’ membership growth.

Quaker House Directors Lynn and Stephen Nelson (Fayetteville, NC) gave a report (attached) on their work with military service members and their families. Their services to both the military and peace communities range from GI Rights Hotline, Moral Injury presentations, domestic violence in military families to militarized drones and anti-torture workshops. For the first time this past year, military chaplains have visited Quaker House itself.

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Finance Committee Clerk Ed Flowers (Apple Seed) gave the second reading of the budget (attached). Support of Friends Organizations was the sole section that received feedback and those expenditures' approval do not need to be in place by the end of the Session. The Finance Committee proposed that we approve the budget without the Support of Friends Organizations with the assessments remaining as proposed in the initial report: \$95 per member, California & Nevada; \$39 per member, Hawaii & Guatemala; and \$15 per member, Mexico.

AS Minute 2014-05. Pacific Yearly Meeting approved the initial proposed budget with the exception of the giving budget items. Finance and Ministry & Oversight Committees are asked to form an ad hoc committee to recommend guidelines for determining allocation of donations to Quaker organizations. The ad hoc committee is asked to elicit wider Friends' input, and bring its seasoned recommendations for guidelines and for Support of Friends Organizations expenditures for the 2014-2015 budget year to the Representative Committee in March 2015.

We held a **Threshing Session** on the Peace and Social Order Committee procedure for presenting minutes of concern. The notes of that brief session are attached.

The minutes were approved.

Closing Worship at 10:10 a.m.