

Pacific Yearly Meeting  
Ministry and Oversight Committee  
Report for Representative Committee 2015

The Ministry and Oversight Committee currently consists of four Friends from Northern California, three Friends from Southern California, and one Friend from Mexico City. The role of the committee is to help foster the spiritual life and good order of the Yearly Meeting, by offering assistance and counsel and endeavoring to make the annual session a fulfilling experience for all participants. Upon request, Ministry and Oversight committee may assist any PYM committee, Meeting or individual of the Yearly Meeting. The committee also considers and reports on any other matters brought to it by the Yearly Meeting, Representative Committee, Quarterly or outlying Meetings.

### **Annual Session 2015**

We are reminded of our collective need to come back to the center of love from which all good work grows. The theme of the Annual Session, knitting together our spirituality and our activism, will continue the work of bringing us to more kindness, more patience. We will also build on last summer's Annual Session and the energy and enthusiasm of our younger Friends.

Our keynote speaker will be Lloyd Lee Wilson (North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)). Also joining us at Annual Session will be Paula Palmer offering her workshop "Roots of Justice, Seeds of Change", and Jose Aguto, FCNL's Legislative Secretary for Sustainable Energy and Environment.

We look forward to receiving and reviewing the State of the Meeting reports from all PYM Monthly Meetings by early May in order to prepare and share the state of the society report at Annual Session this summer.

Listening sessions will be offered at Annual Session again this year. The purpose of these sessions is to offer a forum for committees bringing items for the approval of the body to hear concerns and answer questions prior to seeking approval. Essentially, these sessions are intended to help Meetings for Business run smoother.

Also returning to Annual Session this year is the Buddy program to help newcomers integrate into our community.

The logistics for worship sharing this year will be managed on site. More details on this and the Buddy program will be provided with the registration materials.

We will be offering the First-Time Attender discount of \$40.00 (approximately 10%) off registration at Annual Session again this year.

### **Quarterly Meetings**

Ministry and Oversight committee is laboring with the concern that trying to maintain three levels of organization (Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly) is stretching our community. We would like to explore, together with the Quarterly Meetings, where there may be duplications of efforts and what could we do to alleviate this? We are also exploring what the committee's role is in supporting the Quarterly Meetings.

### **Ministry and Oversight Subcommittees**

Electronic Communications: The subcommittee is working on defining its scope, policies and procedures for PYM's web presence, performing an audit of the PYM website, and thinking about security issues. This subcommittee also serves as support for our PYM web developer.

Experimentation and Implementation: The focus of the subcommittee is now the structure of the Yearly Meeting organization.

Racial Justice: This subcommittee is working on promoting the use of Shakti Butler's Breaking the Codes film and workbook among Monthly Meetings to raise awareness of racial justice issues. The subcommittee also formally commended Friends Journal on the content of its October issue.

Representative Support: In addition to serving as a resource for Meeting representatives and building community within this group, the subcommittee is working a project to gather the 'seat cards' or introductory pamphlets from all PYM Meetings to make these available to all Friends through the PYM website.

Visiting Friend: This subcommittee has been meeting regularly and has prepared the job description and application form for Friends interested in the opportunity to serve as Visiting Friend (*see the PYM website under PYM Documents - Job Descriptions*). Ministry and Oversight committee is expecting to bring a recommendation to the Annual Session for approval of the first Visiting Friend under this new program to start late summer/early fall 2015.

If a subcommittee has completed its work, isn't making progress on its work, or is not serving its purpose, it should be laid down.

Ministry and Leadings: Ministry and Oversight lays this subcommittee down. Monthly Meetings and Friends are encouraged to consult the document "Faithfulness in Action" and to support each other in exploring their leadings. Any requests for support not able to be addressed by the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings should be brought to Ministry and Oversight committee. Although this subcommittee has been laid down, Ministry and Oversight committee will continue to labor with the question "What is the role of the Yearly Meeting?"

Support for Distant Meetings: Ministry and Oversight committee lays this subcommittee down. We will check-in with the Meetings in Hawaii, Guatemala, and Mexico at least once a year and encourage these Meetings to approach Ministry and Oversight committee if they would like additional support.

### **Web Coordinator**

We thank Don Bean for his many years of service and his efforts in building the PYM website, taking care of many of the Yearly Meeting's electronic and online needs, and numerous other activities. Don stepped down as web coordinator for the Yearly Meeting this past fall and we enthusiastically welcome Brylie Oxley into this position.

### **M&O sponsored interest groups at Annual Session**

Ministry and Oversight committee sponsors the following interest groups at Annual Session this year: (1) Spiritual Discernment of Leadings through Writing; (2) What does it mean to 'hold someone in the Light'?; (3) Growing Our Meetings, and (4) an interest group hosted by the Racial Justice subcommittee. In addition, the keynote speaker will also offer an interest group.

### **Aging as an adventure**

Several Meetings have recently hosted the "Aging as an Adventure" workshop given by Claire Gorfinkel. These workshops have made a subject that is difficult for many of us approachable. A follow-up workshop is being offered at Quaker Center in the fall to continue the discussion of the needs of our elder members and our Meetings' abilities to care for them. Ministry and Oversight committee supports this follow-up workshop as an evaluation session of the previous work and an opportunity to create materials to support Friends and Meetings.

### **Community reconciliation and sexual misconduct policies**

Many Monthly Meetings are being required by insurance companies to draft related policies. M&O is working on reviewing and revising the policies and procedures of the Yearly Meeting, which in addition to strengthening and caring for our Yearly Meeting community, will be available to help Monthly Meetings as they address this task.

### **Ministry and Oversight committee meetings**

The committee meets in person three times a year. We have adopted a practice of spending time with local Friends through adult education sessions, Meeting for Worship, and other social interactions. We met this past fall in Santa Rosa and offered a session on leadings for Redwood Forest Meeting. Our winter meeting was hosted by Orange Grove, where we talked about the Yearly Meeting, the committee, and the Annual Session. In late spring we will meet at San Jose and offer a session on eldering and dealing with challenging personalities in

the Meeting. Ministry and Oversight committee has benefited greatly from listening to these Friends and invites other Meetings to consider hosting a meeting of Ministry and Oversight committee.

**Annual Session - Proposal**

Recognizing the importance of the time we spend together at Annual Session and the difficulty many Friends face in attending due to work, other commitments, and cost, among other factors, M&O offers the following proposal to experiment with a different configuration of days for Annual Session. We suggest the configuration selected be trialed for two years, 2016 and 2017.

Representative Committee will be asked which of the following configurations should be taken to the Monthly Meetings for input, following which Ministry and Oversight committee will bring a definitive proposal to Annual Session for approval. A sampling of possible schedules is attached to aid in visualizing the proposed configurations.

Configuration 1: Monday dinner to Saturday lunch (*current configuration*)

Configuration 2: Tuesday lunch to Sunday afternoon

Configuration 3: Wednesday lunch to Sunday afternoon

Configuration 4: Thursday lunch to Sunday afternoon

Respectfully submitted,

Bronwen Hillman

on behalf of PYM Ministry & Oversight Committee

## Annual Session - Scheduling Options

Following are a few initial suggestions as to what possible schedules might look like for the different configurations of days proposed.

Configuration 1: Monday - Saturday (*current configuration, see draft schedule for Annual Session 2015*)

Configuration 2: Tuesday - Sunday

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
6:00 - 7:00		Outdoor Worship					
7:00 - 8:00		Breakfast					
8:00 - 9:00		Sharing Groups <sup>1</sup>	Sharing Groups	Sharing Groups	Sharing Groups	Sharing Groups	
9:15-10:45		Workshops	Workshops	Keynote Address	Meeting for Business	<i>tba</i>	
11:00-12:30	Registration / Parents Meetings			Meeting for Business	Interest Groups	Meeting for Worship	
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch						
1:30 - 3:00	Workshops	Workshops	Intergenerational Service Project	T.Quakers/Bible	T.Quakers/Bible	Closing Plenary	
3:15 - 4:45		T.Quakers/Bible	Registration	Interest Groups	Memorials		
5:00 - 6:00	Dinner						
6:15 - 7:45	Interest Groups	Interest Groups	Welcome Plenary	Listening Session	Family Night		
8:30 - 10:00	Intergenerational Signing	Affinity Groups	Affinity Groups	Affinity Groups	Dance		

Configuration 3: Wednesday - Sunday

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
6:00 - 7:00		Outdoor Worship				
7:00 - 8:00		Breakfast				
8:00 - 9:00		Sharing Groups	Sharing Groups	Sharing Groups	Sharing Groups	
9:15-10:45		Keynote Address	Meeting for Business	Meeting for Business	<i>tba</i>	
11:00-12:30	Registration / Parents Meetings	Worship Sharing	Worship Sharing	Worship Sharing	Meeting for Worship	
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch					
1:30 - 3:00	Opening Plenary	Intergenerational Service Project	Interest Groups	Interest Groups	Closing Plenary	
3:15 - 4:45	Interest Groups		Listening Session	Memorials		
5:00 - 6:00	Dinner					
6:15 - 7:45	T.Quakers/Bible	T.Quakers/Bible	T.Quakers/Bible	Family Night		
8:30 - 10:00	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	Dance		

<sup>1</sup> Sharing Groups would be groups of 8-10 individuals, assigned according to our current worship sharing considerations of mixing age, Meeting, gender, etc. They would meet each morning after breakfast for worship, worship sharing, etc.

Configuration 4: Thursday - Sunday

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6:00 - 7:00		Outdoor Worship		
7:00 - 8:00		Breakfast		
8:00 - 9:00		Sharing Groups	Sharing Groups	Sharing Groups
9:15-10:45		Meeting for Business	Meeting for Business	Clear rooms
11:00-12:30	Registration	Interest Groups	Interest Groups	Meeting for Worship
12:30 - 1:30	Lunch			
1:30 - 3:00	Welcome Plenary	T.Quakers/Bible	T.Quakers/Bible	Closing Plenary
3:15 - 4:45	Interest Groups	Interest Groups	Memorials	
5:00 - 6:00	Dinner			
6:15 - 7:45	Keynote Address	Listening Session	Family Night	
8:30 - 10:00	Evening Worship	Evening Worship	Dance	