

REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

Saturday, 5 March 2016

Santa Monica Friends Meeting House

Santa Monica, California

Record and Minutes

Opening worship began at 9:20 am.

2. Agenda revision: The Secretariat Report was added to the agenda.

3. Roll Call: The Presiding Clerk introduced the idea of roll call being celebratory on the occasion of gathering together in Beloved Community. This idea came from his experience at Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting. In the attached roll call document listing the Monthly Meetings with Worship Groups, “y” indicates present and “n” indicates absent at roll call.

4. **Clerk’s Discussion of Vision, Theme, and Schedule of Annual Session:**

Presiding Clerk Diego Navarro invited us to embark on a mystery, the mystery of Spirit revealing itself in our gathering. He reminded us that, as Quakers, this is what we do when gathering in a Meeting for Worship for doing business. He invited us to open ourselves, to let go of our expectations, and to be informed by our preparation, but not beholden to it. He reminded us to “speak when spoken through,” and reminded us that we can sit down if the spirit leaves us when we are speaking even mid-sentence, a practice of early Friends. He advised us to practice distinguishing the voices of our will, intellect and ego from that of Spirit. He encouraged our vulnerability in this work, and the faith this carries forward from early Quakers.

The Clerk reminded us to be here not with our hearts and minds decided but rather to be prepared to listen and discern. It is not important that we make a decision but to sit with the Spirit to see what we are called to do. One check on limiting ego and will is to see if you feel released or agitated after speaking.

The Clerk’s reminder of the context for our corporate discernment as well as the following protocols will be a practice he will engage in at the start of every plenary session at the Annual Session as well as at RepCom. The Clerk was exposed to this practice while attending the Young Friends of North America gathering in the late 1970’s.

The Clerk shared a few protocols: Please address the clerk when speaking. Do not cross talk. The Clerk may not acknowledge in a linear fashion those wishing to speak. **Don’t worry if not called or not called in order.** If you have a concern about the way the Clerk is clerking, please do bring it to his attention outside the session.

“That Friend speaks my mind” can be a useful way of moving us towards unity.

The Clerk said he tended to not ask for approval right away but ask if there is ease in what is being proposed. In Britain Yearly Meeting those present do not respond “approve” **actions** but state “**hope so.**” He asked that we be gracious with the recording clerks. He also noted that he tends to write out action minutes himself.

1. Annual Session 2016

There has been discernment within the Yearly Meeting regarding our structure and its impacts upon attendance. It has been noted that weekend attendance at Yearly Meeting may be higher than weekdays. We are therefore experimenting with a new structure, in which the Annual Session will commence on a Friday and end on a Wednesday. It is hoped that this may result in a greater number of people able to attend all or part of the Annual Session. Annual Session this year will take place from Session Friday June 17 to Wednesday June 22. We will continue with the Friday-Wednesday structure in 2017.

The Clerk has given this year's Annual Session the theme of "Lifting of the Veil: Awakening to the Presence". The theme is inspired from a quote in Isaac Penington's essay, "The Way of Life and Death." Early Friends believed in the presence of the Living Spirit, but it was not something seen but perceived through a veil. Our Quaker language is a visceral language, as in "sense of the Meeting," and "being spoken through." Please see the full Clerk's Call on the Yearly Meeting website. Speakers this year are drawn from our own community: Carl Magruder (Strawberry Creek) and Darcy Stanley (Strawberry Creek). Both were raised in the Yearly Meeting.

At the Annual Session at San Diego years ago, there seemed to be a life outside the plenaries that was vital, with a sense of Spirit at work. When the Clerk was on Ministry and Oversight Committee he asked the Presiding Clerk how we might bring that type of vitality into the plenaries. The answer was that the Plenary agenda was full. After much consideration Diego has restructured the Annual Session with this in mind. The result is an intergenerational schedule centered around the movement of the Spirit among us. We will weave together plenaries and **worship with the Children's Program, Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) and Young Adult Friends (YAF).** Typically intergenerational sessions at Annual Session are about games and sometimes **the JYM has introduced to the Annual Session new practices like Chat Groups. In this year's** schedule the Clerk is establishing Intergenerational session that are spiritual in nature. The Clerk reviewed the proposed schedule with those gathered, and this is appended to the minutes. He noted that the schedule is likely to go through revisions until the Annual Session commences, and we were advised to stay abreast of these changes via the website.

It was noted that Meeting for Memorials has been moved to Sunday to allow more people to attend. The daily schedule includes a choice of either, Bible Study or Early Quaker Writings **(based on Marcel Martin's contemplative practice** format). A concern was raised that Transformative Friends is not on the schedule. It was noted that Ministry and Oversight had understood that Anthony Manusos wanted a hiatus this year from this responsibility. This issue will be taken but up by Ministry & Oversight and the Clerk in consultation with Anthony Manusos.

Last year's evaluation meeting at the end of the Annual Session noted that our Yearly Meeting would benefit from greater communication and coordination throughout the year. With that goal in mind, the Clerk has formed three coordination teams to facilitate more dialogue between and among the various stakeholders in the Yearly Meeting. The teams have been organized around the work of the YM, with one group focused on youth activities, one group focused on our work

with world issues, and one team comprised of those who are charged with the “nuts and bolts” of the Yearly Meeting and Annual Session. These three teams hold a one 1.5 hour conference call in both the Fall and Spring to report how things are going and to seek ways that others can be informed by – or inform – their work. A fourth group is in the process of being created, consisting of clerks of the two Quarterly Meetings and the clerks of the **Quarterly Meetings’** Ministry & Oversight Committees, along with the Pacific Yearly Meeting Clerks and clerk of Ministry & Oversight Committee.

Additional scheduling concerns and suggestions should be addressed to the Clerk. The final schedule will be available at the Annual Session as well as on the website.

5. Check-in from Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM): JYM Co-Clerks attending were David Shaw (Santa Monica) and Maya Price (Berkeley Friends Church). The third JYM co-clerk, Rose Nadis (Santa Barbara), was absent. They are working this weekend on the schedule and activities for the 2016 Annual Session. Please talk to them at lunch about ideas you may have and if you want to present to JYM.

6. Naming Committee: The Presiding Clerk reminded us that this committee is nominated from the Representative Committee gathering, with a term of one year (2016 RepComm to 2017 RepComm). We nominate three members each year, with one alternate.

We entered a short period of worship to allow nominations to arise from the floor. Eight names were brought forward. Of those, the following accepted nomination:

Sarah Rose House Lightner (Orange Grove) who agreed to be convenor.
Trudy Freidell (Inland Valley)
Kathy Runyan (Santa Cruz)

Eric Moon (Berkeley) will serve as the alternate.

7. Nominating Committee: Stephen Matchett (San Francisco), is co-clerk of Nominating Committee with Nora Cooke (Grass Valley). He presented the report noting that the current roster of officers and committee members is posted on the Pacific Yearly Meeting website.

Stephen added some information about changes during the year since Annual Session. A vacancy on the Board of *Western Friend* was filled in the fall by Doug Smith(Reno Meeting).

Some committees have vacant positions. Some vacancies are acceptable and to be expected; however, the extent of and timing of some vacancies listed on the Nominating Slate is problematic. The following are crucial spots to fill before Annual Session.

a. An Arrangements Co-Clerk is needed. Laura Kohl (La Jolla) is willing to serve and be nominated.. Rick Altherr (San Jose) is the current Arrangements Clerk.

b. A Co-Recording Clerk is needed to serve during Annual Session to replace Stephen McNeil. Jim Anderson (Chico) has been nominated for this position

c. The **Children's Program Committee is in serious need of filling vacancies**. Chamba Cooke (Grass Valley) is nominated as **Clerk of Children's Committee to serve** one year term as clerk. Those present were encouraged to assist in the search for additional committee members. Chamba Cooke described the main committee tasks, including assisting with program development, hiring of teachers and coordinator of program, and providing oversight. In addition to the committee members, past and current coordinators serve as ex-officio members. An ex-officio member not shown on the report is Nate Secret (Redwood Forest), who has accepted the **position of Children's Program Coordinator for AS2016**. Chamba Cooke will serve as elder for Nate. An update later in the session from the Nominating Committee co-clerk provided us with a nomination for the 2018 term which was Peggy Craik (Conejo Valley Worship Group).

A Friend suggested that the committee needs strong leadership, and someone who can represent the diversity of the children attending.

d. The Secretariat Committee received a resignation this year and Martha Carey (La Jolla) is nominated to fill that position.

e. *Western Friend* Board. The schedule and needs of the *Western Friend* Board were described.

Attendees were asked to offer names to Stephen Matchett or Elaine Emily. Also, if there are any concerns about the above mentioned nominations, please contact Stephen or Elaine. At the end of the day the co-Clerk of Nominating Committee came forth and expressed that there were not concerns raised about the nominating slate.

1. Minute RC 2016.01 The Nominating Committee slate was approved as amended.

The report is appended.

8. Treasurer: Roy Allen (Berkeley), Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Treasurer, called attention **to the Treasurer's Report**, appended.

Roy described what is needed to get reimbursed for travel expenses... Reimbursements can be made to individuals or given as a gift to PYM.

The Annual Session 2015 financial results. Generally the budget and expenses worked out well. Expenses were covered and \$18k was put into reserves. The Treasurer described the importance **of increasing our reserves because our current reserve is still too small for the size of PYM's** budget.

The Treasurer noted that for Annual Session the Unity with Nature Committee asked for a voluntary offset for covering the use of fossil fuels in attending Annual Session. The result was a \$338 donation which was contributed to the UWN project fund.

Balance sheet for general account. He reminded Friends that there are two Pacific Yearly Meeting accounts: a General Account and an Annual Session account. He summarized general balances and some small changes that have occurred.

Income and Expense. **The Treasurer called attention to just a few items including some “losses”** due to fluctuations in market value which were not real losses. Generally PYM has operated within the budget. With regard to travel reimbursements they are sometimes higher than budgeted but still need reimbursement. Higher amounts needed have come from the travel supplements line item. This year the travel supplements have been drawn upon heavily. Now the amount left is only \$100 and the fiscal year is only half way through. Some committees do their work now by phone conference which is a major cost saving. The Treasurer encourages use of phone conferences.

A Friend asked about possibility of more reimbursements for those from Southern California to attend Annual Session. The Finance Committee is currently discerning how to provide this and will be bringing a recommendation at some point in the future.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented.

The report with accompanying parts is appended.

9. Finance Committee - Budget: David Barrows (San Diego), Co-Clerk of Finance Committee, summarized the written report. Five augmentation requests to the General Account budget were made. Augmentation amounts are drawn from reserves and/or unspent committee budgets.

The Finance Committee conducted a survey of Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) members in order to gather information concerning reasons for attending or not attending Annual Session, and questions about distribution of PYM funds, e.g., travel subsidies, support for Quaker organizations, support for delegates and representatives, etc.

About 250 responses have been received from members of College Park Quarterly Meeting. Unfortunately, due to a technical glitch the survey has not yet been distributed to members of Southern California Quarterly Meeting. Thus, we have no definitive results yet. It is hoped that the survey will be distributed to SCQM and the analysis of the survey to be available at this **year’s Annual Session.**

The five requests for Augmentation of budget, 2015-2016, are:

- General Reunion of Friends Mexico, line 5281, requests budget be changed from \$0 to \$500. (The Reunion meets every 18 months, so annual budget should be two-thirds cost of travel to a gathering.)
- Travel to Rep. Com, line 5208, increase from \$11,000 to \$12,500
- PYM Attendance Assistance Fund, line 5213, increase from \$8,000 to \$9,000
- Committee Supplemental Expenses, line 5237, increase from \$300 to \$1300 (Unexpected expenses depleted account and its reserve, line R2714)
- Young Friends Officers' Expense, line 5209, increase from \$100 to \$200

The Finance Committee Clerk called attention to the proposed Annual Session's budget and attenders' **fee schedule** which are basically the same as last year and appended to the minutes. Since the Annual Session will be held in June we will not see an increase in the Walker Creek fee since their new fees begin in July. However, in the 2017 Annual Session we will have the **effect of two year's of increase to accommodate**. We did end last year's **Annual Session's** budget with a surplus of \$18,000 that went into reserves. There had been a fear that the Session would end with a deficit. Robust attendance in 2015 led to the surplus. The final Annual Session's cost is hard to predict, but the Finance Committee felt comfortable in proposing keeping a budget and **fee schedule similar to last year's**. **In response to a question it was noted that** attendance assistance funds come from General Yearly Meeting budget, not the Annual Session's budget.

MINUTE RC 2016.02 The 2016 Annual Session's budget, keeping the fee schedule the same **as last year's** and the five augmentations were approved.

10. Joint Proposal—Finance, M&O and Nominating Committee Proposal re: Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Delegates, Representatives, and Observers

- PYM policy is to fully fund travel expenses of all delegates, representative, and observers named by Yearly Meeting, but in a given year only a portion of those Friends named actually travel and attend their gathering.
- Nominating Committee finds it increasingly difficult to find Friends willing and able to serve in positions.
- M&O Committee has been discerning how PYM is served by the delegates, representatives, and observers we send to other organizations. They are discerning the query, Is this the work we should be doing?
- M&O, Nominating, and Finance Committees are jointly proposing the number of delegates, representatives, and observes be reduced.
- For Western Friend (Friends Bulleting Board of Directors), PYM would continue to name and fund three persons.
- For FWCC, Section of the Americas, PYM would name and fund two representatives and two alternates (who would be available to attend gathering if one or both of the named delegates were unable to attend); travel expenses for two delegates would be fully funded.
- For American Friends Service Committee Corporation, PYM would name two representatives and two alternates.
- For Friends Committee on National Legislation, PYM would name two representatives and two alternates.
- For Quaker Earthcare Witness, PYM will continue to name and fund two delegates.
- For William Penn House, FGC Central Committee, Friends United Meeting, General Reunion of Friends Mexico, Evangelical Church Southwest, and Friends Peace Team Board, PYM will for the present continue to name and fund one position.

A Friend asked if there was a fuller report on the rationale used for the recommendations and what this means to the Friends organizations. The Clerk noted that the Finance Committee survey currently underway includes asking Meetings about distribution of PYM funds, e.g.,

travel subsidies, support for Quaker organizations, support for delegates and representatives, etc. A current Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) delegate reported that FWCC asks for five delegates from Pacific Yearly Meeting based on the Yearly Meeting membership. FWCC can appoint from that pool of five, positions on FWCC working committees. She suggested that the Pacific Yearly Meeting FWCC proposed group of four delegates/alternates could better choose the two delegates.

We went into worship. There is a tension between the Meetings supporting representatives' travel to Quaker organizations and what the Meetings get in return. One Friend shared her perception that in the Friends World Conference on Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas meeting in Mexico City representatives from the U.S. outnumbered those from Latin America because FWCC only funds one representative from each Latin American country. This has resulted in an imbalance with too many North Americans being represented and Latin American Friends being underrepresented. One Friend shared that we might want to take the savings from the decrease in FWCC delegates and donate it to FWCC to be used for Latin American representative attendance.

The Clerk stated that this proposal is presented for seasoning between now and the Annual Meeting Sessions. Another Friend cautioned that this has been a contentious topic within the Yearly Meeting for years and that we need to be tender with one another as we are moved forward.

A Friend noted that we might look at this not as a financial or number of representatives matter, but how representatives share their experiences with Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings.

We remain in discernment regarding these proposals.

10. Statistical minutes: Statistical Co-clerk, Don Bean (Conejo Worship Group) reported. It was noted that Co-clerk, **Lee Knutson's term is ending this year**. If Friends are so led to fill the position, they are asked to make themselves known to the Nominating Committee.

The difference this year from last year is that membership information is needed earlier due to Annual Session happening almost a month earlier.

The report is appended.

12. Ministry and Oversight Committee (M&O Committee): Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City) presented the report. **Bronwen described the role and responsibilities of PYM's M&O Committee**. We were encouraged to contact her or Shayne Lightner (Santa Monica) or Joe Magruder (Berkeley) with any comments or concerns.

Visiting Friend Program. The M&O Clerk highlighted the Visiting Friend (VF) Program, asking for indication of possible interest in the VF program from those attending the meeting. Several Friends from meetings having received visits from the Visiting Friend this year spoke. They variously described the usefulness of the VF experience to their meeting, the really interesting

Elizabeth Fry presentation and other programs. Another friend spoke of the importance of **visitors from the outside one's own meeting who can bring to the meeting the bigger Quaker** picture. A comment from the floor was that there is a craving for this kind of outside visitor. Other comments included a suggestion to include Young Adult Friends as possible Visiting Friends, the coordination of the schedules of the Youth Program Coordinator and the Visiting Friend and that these visits are especially valuable for those who do not attend Annual Session.

The M&O Clerk stated the need for a strong support committee and encouraged Friends to serve. Interested parties should contact Leslie Zondervan-Droz.

Golden Rule, the historic peace sailing boat. Jim Summers (La Jolla) has been exploring a leading regarding the Golden Rule sailing vessel. He would like to travel to other yearly meetings and other venues to advocate for the Golden Rule project and would like to have a prepared PYM Travel Minute to take.

Minute RC 2016.03 The meeting approved development of a Travel Minute for Jim Summers (La Jolla).

The M&O Clerk highlighted other main points from the report. She presented the posters for Annual Session for reps to take to their monthly meetings. They have good and inviting information and are also available in Spanish.

PYM M&O Committee enjoys visiting Meetings when they gather for their tri-annual meetings. These visits can be valuable for the Meeting. Through these visits, M&O can listen to Friends with concerns or issues, especially those who cannot attend Annual Session.

Shayne Lightner (Santa Monica) also shared that the committee works on spiritual discernment about the needs of PYM, and Annual Session.

From the floor a request arose **for clarification of the meaning of "Community Expectations"** was made. The Expectations are for all ages and persons attending Annual Session.

Another **Friend commented, pertaining to Jim Summers' leading regarding the Golden Rule, that** the internet shows the great diversity among Quakers.

The Visiting Friend challenged each attender to visit another meeting including other meetings very different from the one with which we are most comfortable. She said that this will enrich your spiritual life and those of the groups that are visited.

The PYM Ministry and Oversight Report was accepted.

The report is appended to these minutes.

13 and 14. Youth Programs Coordinating Committee (YPCC) & Youth Programs Coordinator (YPC) report:

Alyssa Nelson (Davis), Steve Leeds (San Francisco), and Jim Summers (La Jolla) presented the report. There is an online calendar on the website as well as an active Facebook page. It was

noted that the next application for disbursements from the Youth Programs Fund is March 20th. They encouraged Friends to contact them to discuss ideas even before submitting the application, as they can help develop the project plan and application.

Three interest groups are proposed for the 2016 Annual Session: one on the work in Visalia with Native Americans; a second entitled *Betwixt and Between: Transitions for Children (and their Adults!)* in our Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meetings, and with Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) and Young Adult Friends (YAF); and a third entitled *Resources to Support your BIG or little Idea*, exploring how to fashion a proposal to the Youth Programs Fund.

The committee tries to meet face-to-face twice a year, piggy-backing with other Quaker events to cut back on travel costs. They also hold monthly calls. They are looking at how to serve far-flung Meetings in Guatemala, El Salvador and Hawaii.

Alyssa Nelson then spoke as the Youth Programs Coordinator, calling attention to her report appended to the minutes. They have nine Quaker youth for the Spring Visalia workcamp and are seeking \$700 in donations to meet their current workcamp budget.

Youth Program Coordinator Travel to Australia. Jim Summers (La Jolla) presented a travel minute for Alyssa Nelson (Davis). Australia Yearly Meeting invited Alyssa to visit, requesting **to learn about PYM's youth programs; this includes an invitation to attend AYM in July 2016 along with visits to local and regional meetings and the Friends' School in Hobart, which Alyssa and the YPC Committee accepted. AYM will pay Alyssa's costs. As reciprocity, Alyssa has asked to learn about Australian Friends' relationships with First Nations Peoples and their work toward reparations and healing.** Cathy Walling (Alaska Friends Conference) and possibly a Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) young adult will accompany Alyssa.

The Youth Program Committee has proposed three queries that Monthly Meetings and Friends are invited to consider:

1. What does PYM do uniquely or particularly well that Alyssa could share with Australia Yearly Meeting Friends?
2. What do you hope Alyssa might bring back to PYM from this visit?
3. What do you wonder about the Religious Society of Friends in Australia, or about their youth programs, or anything else?

Please send responses to Jim Summers (La Jolla).

We accepted the Youth Program Committee and Youth Coordinator report.

The report is appended.

MINUTE RC 2016.04 The Clerk read a travel minute for Alyssa Nelson who has been **invited by Australia Yearly Meeting to share our Yearly Meeting's** youth work experiences. We approved the travel minute with great appreciation.

Ad Hoc Committee on Transitions between Children's Program and Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Draft Report

Alyssa Nelson called attention to the ad hoc Committee's draft report appended to the minutes. It is presented for informational purposes only. JYM has not finished its seasoning of the **proposed statement with which the Children's Program Committee is in** unity. A concern was raised from the floor regarding what was perceived as an inaccurate description of the JYM sleep practices and expectations at Yearly Meeting as described on page eight of the ad hoc Committee draft report. The Friend felt strongly that earlier feedback given was not reflected in the draft report. It became clear that this matter required loving attention to be resolved. The concern was referred for later consideration by the Ministry & Oversight Committee. Later the clerk of Ministry and Oversight reported that M&O will meet and listen deeply with Friends' regarding their concerns.

Youth Program Coordinating Committee member Steve Leeds (San Francisco) clarified that Alyssa Nelson is not a JYM Coordinator (there is none) and that the JYM Committee, not Alyssa Nelson, is responsible for the draft report.

15. Young Adult Friends (YAF): Rebekah Percy (La Jolla, Vancouver) and J.T. Dorr-Bremme (Orange Grove, Mexico City) Co-clerks of Young Adult Friends, reported

YAFs have 2 clerks at any one time, serving two year overlapping terms, thereby having a junior and a senior clerk consistently.

The co-clerks provided the list of activities they are working on.

- a. In Annual Session, they are planning some joint and some separate Activities with the larger yearly meeting body.
- b. With Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) at Annual Session (AS) the first activities will be a community building and an exercise on boundary setting at the opening plenary.
- c. There will be interest groups, some hosted by YAF and some by JYM.
- d. Also some intergenerational activities besides games will be offered,

YAF is also planning an interest group with the Discipline Committee on the God question.

A question came up about the age range covered in YAF. According to one definition the YAF target age range is 18 – 25, but in operation it can be 18 – 35. It is less an age group and more an affinity group.

The report was accepted.

16. **Children's Program** Committee: Chamba Cooke (Grass Valley) reported that this small committee is doing a big job, but they are also getting help from others.

In summary, Nate Secrest (Redwood Forest), is coordinator with support from Chamba, who will be filling an official position in that role during the 2016 AS.

Appreciation was shared regarding the draft Middle School to JYM Transition document. The middle school ages are honored in the document and this may help them want to stay in their program rather than move on to JYM. Nate Secrest is also planning outdoor programs appealing to that group. They also need to allow that group to make decisions somewhat on their own.

He noted the one night during Annual Session an evening program with fun activities will allow parents to have some free time to engage in adult activities.

He ended the report by making a request to those gathered to share the need for teachers with their monthly meetings. An ad will be sent to Monthly Meetings newsletters. One has already gone to *Western Friend*.

The report was accepted.

The report is appended to the minutes.

17. Discipline Committee: Co-Clerk Chuck Orr (La Jolla) presented the report, appended. Co-Clerk Liz Baker (Sacramento) was unable to attend. He read from Pacific Yearly Meeting's current *Faith and Practice* which the Committee is engaged in revising. He noted that it is more important for us to rediscover the Light and Life as found in our Meetings than to discover what we should put onto paper. The Committee will post draft revised sections of Faith & Practice and then invite comment. **They are holding an interest group called the "God Question" to find unity among theist and non-theist Friends at the Annual Sessions.**

We accepted the Discipline Committee report.

18. Registrars' Report: Heather Levien (Berkeley) and Sarah Tyrrell (Berkeley) reported that there was one application for providing the registration service. It was from Berkeley Friends Meeting and it has been accepted. Some changes have been made to the registration form (such as adding a donation to the Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) line and clearer information requested from children for proper placement). Registration will be open soon with an email blast to Representatives notifying all. Deadlines for registration are on the poster. Online payment options will not be available. There is no first time attender discount and no early bird discount. There will be a late registration fee. A Friend emphasized that Representatives now need to inform Meetings and Meeting Committees of the earlier deadlines. It was noted that we may require more hearing assistance headsets than provided last year. Worship sharing assignments will again be made on site.

We accepted **the Registrars' report.**

19. Latin American Concerns Committee (LACC): Donna Higgins-Smith (Redwood Forest) and Ann Boone (Redwood Forest), Co-Clerks of the LACC, presented the report.

They summarized the two interest groups being sponsored. One will be produced by the Child Refugee and Immigration Subcommittee. At that interest group Reverend Debra Lee will speak.

She led a group to Central America to investigate the causes of the refugee surge on the southern border.

Robert Broz, Field Director of the El Salvador Projects, will be offering an interest group on these projects.

The report is appended to the minutes.

20. Friends General Conference (FGC) 2018 Gathering and Affiliation: Bronwen Hillman (Mexico City), Clerk, and Joe Magruder (Berkeley), Ministry and Oversight Committee member, brought two items regarding FGC.

PYM received an invitation from FGC to bring the summer gathering to California in 2018. This is in the planning stages. FGC will be reaching out to committees and monthly meetings for planning assistance.

From the floor the comments were positive with a recognition that much effort would be required and that, possibly, some Friends may attend the FGC gathering instead of Annual Session.

Minute RC 2016.05 Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) would welcome having FGC come to California for their 2018 Summer Gathering.

The PYM Presiding Clerk will contact the **Clerk of FGC's long range planning committee** regarding the invitation to have FGC in California. The Host and Planning Committees for this event will each have two members from PYM on them.

Affiliation with Friends General Conference. Bronwen raised the second item by posing a query to the gathering: What are the concerns that Ministry and Oversight (M&O) Committee needs to hear before bringing an official proposal to PYM to affiliate with FGC?

After hearing comments from the floor, M&O Committee stated that they will put together a package on this subject and will send it to monthly meetings.

From the floor the questions were asked about what it would mean to affiliate with FGC and if PYM should also affiliate with Friends United Meeting (FUM).

21. Pacific Yearly Meeting Holding Corporation: Secretary Jeff Kroeber (San Jose) presented the informational report. It was noted that the Holding Corporation does not seek approval from the Yearly Meeting, as it exists as an independent corporation. The three accounts presently open were noted. The Secretary summarized the three actions that occurred in the past year.

The report is appended.

22. Unity with Nature Committee: Committee Clerk, Catya de Neergaard (Strawberry Creek), called attention to the report and accompanying documents appended to the minutes. They have

had four phone conferences since the last Annual Session. They have revamped the Mini-Grant Program, upping the maximum amount to \$300. The criteria have been widened to:

Adding support for young Friends (under 30) in their environmental ministry; increasing the maximum grant to \$500 for travel expenses for young Friends (under 30) to attend environmental conferences and actions such as Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) or Environmental Justice or other such environmental ministry; lengthening the previous application deadline to Sept 30; awards may be made as needed, i.e, if time sensitive for a ministry or planting; favoring projects that include environmental action, consciousness raising, and innovative design.

In response to the three challenges sent to all yearly meetings from Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) last spring, we encourage native plantings, local food production, and solar panels.

We are proposing the following three interest groups for Annual Session 2016 at Walker Creek.

- a. "*How We are Living Our Earthcare Testimony Today*" Bringing forward the Earthcare minute and endorsement approved by Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM) Annual Session 2015, especially what we are doing to divest from fossil fuel energy companies."
- b. "*Environmental Justice: What Are We Called to Do?*" Environmental catastrophes almost always impact disadvantaged people disproportionately. Friends have traditionally been very active in promoting peace, equality and justice. At the intersection of peace, equality and earth care, what are we called to do to support environmental justice? and
- c. "*Silent Worship in Unity with Nature: Walking the Land, Sitting, Opening, & Listening*" Developing spiritual sensitivity in a natural setting in harmony with Nature as the expression of Divine Worship.

The Committee Clerk read the first two paragraphs from the Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) "**Living Sustainable and Sustaining Life on Earth**" statement from the January 2016 Peru gathering.

The statement is appended to the minutes.

23. Peace and Social Order: Anthony Manousos (Orange Grove) and Steven McNeil (Strawberry Creek) are Co-clerks of this committee. Anthony presented the report and noted some highlights.

The Committee has monthly phone meetings through out the year. The size of the committee has been declining and they are asking for help on this committee.

The Committee is surveying Friends Meetings of Pacific Yearly Meeting to determine and record how meetings are serving and helping their communities.

The committee is sponsoring six interest groups at Annual Session.

The report was accepted by the group. The report is appended

24. Site Committee: No report

25. Secretariat: Raph Levien (Berkeley), Secretariat, presented the report. There has been a suggestion to possibly use “Slack” for real time information during Annual Session which would be in addition to the usual hard copies posted. Questions came up about charging abilities for phones and about cellular reception at Walker Creek.

The report is appended

26. Administrivia:

The Clerk reported that Annual Session in 2017 will be Friday, July 14th through Wednesday, July 19th.

Assistant to the Clerk, Amy Cooke, reminded us that requests for attendance assistance should be made to local Meetings by April 1 in order for them to act before coming to the Yearly Meeting by May 16.

Sarah Rose House-Lightner introduced Santa Monica Clerk Kate Watkins-Shaw, Gale Thomas, Henry Yang, and **Avishag, this weekend’s food crew volunteers. We expressed our great appreciation for their service.**

The Clerk reported an invitation from Mexico City Friends to hold the 2017 Representative Committee there. The event could be streamed online for those unable to attend due to cost or distance. A Friend reported that Ministry & Oversight recently held one of its meetings at Mexico City Meeting and it was a revelation that is most worth our stretching to accept the invitation. Could the Bob Vogel Endowment Fund be used to support Junior Yearly Meeting Friends going and stay a little longer to meet with Mexican youth? The Clerk will consult with several committees (Finance, Ministry and Oversight, Youth Programs, and the Latin American Concerns Committees) to review impacts of accepting the invitation. Stay tuned.

Representatives expressed appreciation for the clerk’s successful inaugural clerking, done with grace, caring, spiritual depth, and due speed.

We minuted our appreciation for Santa Monica Friends Meeting and volunteers for their gracious hosting of Representative Committee.

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

The Clerk expressed appreciation to Bronwen Hillman and the Ministry & Oversight Committee, Assistant to the Clerk Amy Cooke, Sandy Kewman for providing ongoing tea service, Elaine Emily as his Elder and for holding the gathering in the Light, and the Co-Recording Clerks Leslie Zondervan-Droz and Stephen McNeil for their service.

We closed in worship.

Respectfully,

Stephen McNeil (Strawberry Creek) and Leslie Zondervan-Droz (Humboldt), *Co-Recording Clerks*.

Diego Navarro (Santa Cruz), *Presiding Clerk*.

PYM RepCom - Roll Call – March 5, 2016

Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups

“y” indicates present at roll call, “n” indicates absent

Roll Call List

Appleseed	N
Berkeley	Y
Oakland WG	N
Big Island	Y
Kauai WG	N
Maui WG	N
Molokai WG	N
Central Coast	Y
Chico	Y
Claremont	Y
Davis	Y
Delta	N
Fresno	N
Grass Valley	Y
Placer WG	N
Guatemala	Y
Honolulu	Y
Humboldt	Y
Southern Humboldt WG	N
Inland Valley	Y
La Jolla	Y
Las Vegas	N
Live Oak	N
Friends of Soledad WG	N
Marloma-Long Beach	N

Mendocino	N
Mexico City	Y
Monterey Peninsula	N
Ojai WG	N
Napa-Sonoma	N
Ukiah	N
Orange County	Y
Orange Grove	Y
Conejo Valley WG	Y
Whittier WG	N
Palo Alto	Y
Redding	Y
Redwood Forest	Y
Friends House	Y
Lake County WG	N
Reno	N
Carson City WG	N
Las Vegas WG	N
Sacramento	Y
Modesto WG?	N
San Diego	Y
San Francisco	Y
Western Shore WG	N
San Jose	Y
Santa Barbara	Y
Santa Cruz	Y
Santa Monica	Y
Strawberry Creek	y
Visalia	y
and	
one spiritual wanderer	y