

PYM Children's Program Committee Report to Rep Comm

March 2016

Chamba Cooke (clerk), Carol Cruickshank and Heather Aymie

This year's committee is comprised of three members who are coming in without any history on the committee. We are grateful for the continuing involvement of Keenan Lorenzato, the outgoing Children's Program Coordinator; along with the participation of Alyssa Nelson (YPC) and Sally Kingsland (as M&O rep).

After engaging in a deep discernment process, and expanding our search, we came to unity that Nate Secrest should be one of two Children's Program co-coordinators for the upcoming Annual Session. Nate has given valuable insights in our meetings, and has been fully participating in the committee's work. Because we have not found a co-coordinator, as was our hope, we have appointed Nate as the full Coordinator for the Children's Program. Chamba Cooke, currently clerk of the committee, is willing to fill a position (yet to be created) as an active support for Nate during PYM itself. We are thankful to Nate for his patience and fortitude during this discernment period.

We are excited about the transition document created by the AdHoc committee of M&O. Along with the structure it creates for the transition, we are putting together a middle school program which will both respect the individuals in their transition to JYM and create engaging activity for them. Nate is enthusiastic about giving this age group a program they will want to come back to.

Another new addition being developed is a night program for Children's Program participants, giving them a sense of community and their parents more ease in participating with the adult activities during the evening hours. We will begin with offering one evening program during Annual Session. Assuming it is well received we will look at having more than one night in future years.

The most important factor for the program to be a success is developing a healthy applicant pool to draw the teachers from. **Do you know someone who is inspired by working with young people? Does your meeting have individuals who have contributed to your Children's Program? Please send them our way!** Chamba has an advertisement coming out in Western Friend and he will send an electronic version of it to each representative. We request that you pass the announcement on to your newsletter editor for inclusion in the March, April and May newsletter of every PYM meeting.

Our committee is dedicated to furthering the Annual Session's Children Program as a healthy and vibrant part of our Yearly Meeting. We are eager to work with Diego Navarro's vision of more inclusion of the children into the plenary sessions. Together, we look forward to doing our part in "Lifting the Veil" and bringing us all closer to the Spirit moving among us.

