

# Ministry and Oversight Committee Report to PYM Annual Session 2018

## **SUMMARY**

Ministry and Oversight Committee (M&O) has wrestled with some deep issues and been blessed with centered and productive meetings this year.

### **Liaisons for Hawai'i and Mexico City Meetings**

The Hawai'iian meetings and Mexico City Monthly Meeting are under the care of Ministry & Oversight Committee. In the spirit of continued connection and outreach, we are formalizing liaison relationships with these meetings so that concerns or needs can be more easily brought to the committee. These liaisons, Shayne Lightner (M&O liaison for Mexico City) and Shan Cretln (M&O liaison for Hawai'i), serve as point people for Friends both within the meeting and those who might be traveling to the meeting. Please reach out to them as needed.

### **Laying down of Guatemala Monthly Meeting**

We have been in ongoing dialogue with Friends from Guatemala Monthly Meeting. In recent years, it has become clear that the Meeting does not function as a Monthly Meeting and the M&O co-clerks were approached in 2017 about formally laying down the Meeting. As per Faith and Practice, a Visiting Committee was established to support this process, which is ongoing. While of course painful, Friends who have attended or been members of the Meeting are finding support through membership transfers and ongoing connection to the large Society of Friends. PROGRESA is now officially supervised by a Board of Directors and should not be greatly affected by the laying down of the Meeting.

### **Friends General Conference (FGC) Affiliation**

So far we have summarized information from 18 monthly meetings and 12 were largely in favor of affiliating with remainder neutral or not reporting any sense of the meeting. Young Adult Friends are also in favor. We are following up to ensure that we include reports from all meetings. A full report will be posted at the [M&O Annual Session reports page](#) at least a week before annual session begins.

### **M&O SubCommittees - Racial Justice**

We have been working more closely with the Racial Justice SubCommittee on some sensitive issues this year. They have provided a separate report.

### **M&O SubCommittees - Eldering**

After a successful second year of experimenting with Spiritual Accompaniment and spiritual grounding practices at Annual Session 2017, M&O created an Eldering SubCommittee to continue the work. After Annual Session 2018 the SubCommittee will focus more on identifying and developing gifts of accompaniment and eldering within the Yearly Meeting, and providing education opportunities.

### **M&O SubCommittees - Religious Education**

Following the restructure that was adopted at AS 2017, M&O created a Religious Education SubCommittee that aims to serve both children and adult religious education needs. We are still seeking

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participation and input from passionate Friends for this work which we see as critical for the rejuvenation of our Yearly Meeting. So far, a [webpage with resources](#) has been created and an interest group, that will be a critical formation point for the work, planned for Annual Session 2018.

### **M&O SubCommittees - Respectful Relationships**

The Respectful Relationships SubCommittee will work on making Annual Session more inclusive and welcoming as well as being a resource and support for Monthly Meetings experiencing conflicts relating to interpersonal relationships. We will also hold Junior Yearly Meeting's Respectful Relationships activities under our care, organize facilitator trainings and, when requested, work on bringing this kind of education to interested groups within the Yearly Meeting.

### **M&O SubCommittees - Worship Sharing Logistics**

We are experimenting with a SubCommittee to support the much loved Worship Sharing at Annual Session in order to reduce some of the load on M&O members. We have struggled to address M&O burn out at Annual Session and we are grateful to the Friends who have agreed to help with this important work.

### **Liaison structure**

The role of M&O liaisons to PYM committees encourages communication within the Yearly Meeting and helps the committee to stay attuned to the pulse of the Yearly Meeting. We particularly work to notice areas that are alive and, 'on fire', with Spirit, and areas where there are problems. This year we experimented with reducing the number of liaison positions because the Coordinating Calls established by the Presiding Clerk were so effective and improving communication across the Yearly Meeting. We maintain permanent liaisons only to Children's Program, JYM, Youth Programs, YAFs, Nominating, Arrangements, Faith and Practice, and Communications, and established others where they were needed.

### **Quiet Room**

At this time, our committee is considering laying down the Quiet Room for 2019's annual session. The purpose of the Quiet Room is to provide a space for contemplation and reflection, with books and other resources. In recent years, we have seen a decline in the room's use and are unclear if this space is still serving the community. We will be experimenting at this Annual Session with having the Quiet Room in Maple to see if that is more useful to the community. If you use the Quiet Room at this year's Annual Session, please leave a note in the visitor's log. We will use this document as part of our evaluation regarding a course of action for next year.

### **Monthly Meeting Representatives**

We continue to work with the challenges of our existing representative structure. The Representative Support SubCommittee continues to lay fallow while the Oversight Sub Group of our committee continues the core work of the fallow SubCommittee.

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## **Name of Our Committee**

The committee has been in ongoing discernment and reflection regarding its name for several years now. Following a lack of unity within the Yearly Meeting at Annual Session 2017 regarding a change we reflected further with a focus on what we do. Please read our [reflection on the committee's name](#).

## **Pastoral Care at Annual Session**

As always, M&O members will be available to support Friends during Annual Session and we encourage you to find us should you need to.

Our committee consists of Shan Cretin, Gail Eastwood, Janet Gastil, Shayne Lightner, Valerie Nuttman, Jim Summers, Thistle West, Diego Navarro (Presiding Clerk, ex officio), Sally Kingsland (Co-Clerk), and Kylin Navarro Burger (Co-Clerk).

Faithfully submitted,

Sally Kingsland and Kylin Navarro Burger, Co-Clerks