

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

St. Mary's College, Moraga, California

SESSION 1 August 15, 1970, 8:00 p.m.

Our Clerk, Ed Sanders, opened the meeting by reading a welcome from the Most Reverend Floyd L. Begin, Bishop of Oakland; a note from our former clerk, Francis Dart, who is recovering from surgery; and excerpts from the Report of the Committee to Explore New Ways of Bringing Friends Together in Worship, reminding us of some of the present values of Yearly Meeting.

Roll call of the meetings was held.

New meetings were called for. A new worship group in Las Vegas, Nevada, has asked members of PYM Ministry and Oversight Committee to visit, and Orange County Monthly Meeting has been established by Southern California Quarterly Meeting.

Bob Heilman, advisor to the Junior Yearly Meeting, spoke to us about the high school students, reminding us that they are our youngsters and hoping we will get to know them. If we have difficulties or questions, we should see the Junior Friends or their advisors, Bob and Marilyn Heilman and Billy Hamilton.

Lois Barton reported that Pacific Yearly Meeting will be held at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, in 1971. Ruth Affolter of Eastside Meeting has tentatively agreed to handle the Secretariat, and Dan and Kathy Beverly of Tacoma will be registrars.

The College Program will hold their first meeting at the rise of the Sunday session in 203 Dante. College Young Friends will take part in Plenary Sessions I, II, and III.

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee to select a committee to name the Nominating Committee will be held over until clarification of membership can be obtained.

Rep 1 Lowell Tozer reported for the Discipline Committee on the Committee's long range plans for the release of the new Discipline by 1973 which were approved. Plans were announced for the release of an annotated Discipline being distributed now to each Monthly Meeting. The Committee is exploring separation of organizational matter in the Discipline from the rest of the Discipline by printing an easily updated manual. The Discipline Committee will work with the subcommittees of Ministry and Oversight to enlarge the Advices in the areas of death and problems of aging; home, marriage, and sex; decision-making; and simplicity. The Committee presented a minute:

"The Discipline Committee has taken cognizance of a change in general practice of the establishment of new Monthly Meetings since the 1965 Discipline. That document states that a new Monthly Meeting is recognized by a Quarterly (or Half-Yearly) Meeting and subsequently approved by PYM. In practice it is just reversed. Regional Meetings approve new Meetings; Yearly Meeting recognizes their new status. Discipline Committee therefore recommends that PYM receive reports of newly approved Monthly Meetings by a Regional Meeting and minute its recognition of the new Meeting."

The minute was approved.

Rep 2 Isaiah Meyer reported for the Finance Committee. For clarification of Spring Executive Committee minutes, actual costs of travel to Executive Committee and Yearly Meeting shall be reimbursed for actual cost of transportation. The following minute was approved:

"Yearly Meeting Treasurer is authorized to establish a scholarship fund for Friends Schools to be administered by the Friends Schools Committee."

Arthur Currier asked that Meeting Representatives give names for the Memorial Meeting to Frances McAllister.

The meeting closed after a brief period of silence.

SESSION 2: August 16, 1970

The Schools Committee gave a report (see Attachment #1). It was agreed that the Schools Committee would present to a plenary session a brief synopsis of their ideas and thoughts and that an interest group would be established to discuss them in greater depth.

Rep 3 Nominating Committee: Representative Committee approved the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to name new members of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee as follows:

- (1) The chairman of the Nominating Committee is Richard Derby.
- (2) New members of the Nominating Committee are:
Dorothy Bruff - 1973
James Dewees - 1973
Margaret Beyer - 1973
- (3) Ron Raitt, Young Friend on Nominating Committee.
- (4) The alternate member to Nominating Committee is Olin Byerly.

Rep 4 Friend in the Orient: Representative Committee approved the 1970 recommendation of the Friend in the Orient Committee that PYM make a gift of \$250 to the publication, "The Friendly Way." This publication is edited by Marjorie Sykes who has asked for donations to put it on a sounder financial footing and make it possible to expand the distribution beyond its present field in India to parts of Asia as well.

Ministry and Oversight

Rep 5 Epistle Committee: Representative Committee approved the 1970 nominations of the Ministry and Oversight Committee that Winnifred Osta and Margaret Brooks serve on the Epistle Committee; Margaret Brooks will serve as convenor. It was noted that an additional nomination is still to be made.

Rep 6 Minute of Exercise: Membership in the Society of Friends and Richard M. Nixon: Ministry and Oversight Committee offered to Representative Committee their minuted response to a concern forwarded to them concerning the membership of Richard M. Nixon in the Society of Friends. The Committee felt that Friends should be reminded that membership is a question of the individual Monthly Meeting. Therefore, Richard Nixon's membership is of concern only to his Monthly Meeting.

The Committee urged Monthly Meetings to explore what membership means to them, using the Discipline as a guide rather than a rule book. There may be people who do not wish to take on membership who are still able to be of great service to our Meetings, and the Committee questions whether they should be prevented from giving that service.

In addition to Ministry and Oversight Committee's minute, Los Angeles Monthly Meeting asked that thoughtful consideration be given at Yearly Meeting to the question of Richard Nixon's relationship to the Society of Friends and our Society's relationship to him.

The Representative Committee spent some time in discussing this matter. It was stated that Richard Nixon is a member in good standing of the East Whittier Friends Church and, as Ministry and Oversight observed, the technicalities of his membership are a concern of that church and of the California Yearly Meeting. Some Friends feel we should make a statement that would make clear his lack of identification with Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends. We were reminded, however, that Friends should concern themselves with affirmations and that, if we do that, we will not need to make repudiations of any kind.

Rep 7 Nominating Committee: Representative Committee approved the 1970 recommendation of the Nominating Committee that Assistant Recording Clerk be Jean Young.

The Committee asked for guidelines on length of terms of office of officers and chairmen. Beyond restating our policy that such nominations are made for one year at a time, no further action was taken.

Peace Committee

It was agreed that we follow the suggestion made by the Peace Committee and the Social Order Committee that they be responsible for two plenary sessions. The first would be a sharing of thoughts and experiences of individuals and Monthly Meetings, the second to consider and discuss reports from Friends organizations on what they are doing to find Quaker approaches to power and violence.

Registrar

We responded very positively to the suggestion of the Registrar that Monthly Meetings become more involved in the process of registration; that the position of registrar be given continuity and be appointed by Nominating Committee. It was also suggested that we consider forming a Registration Advisory Committee to provide some continuity in a job which could use to advantage the experience of previous registrars.

Rep 8 Social Order Committee: The Representative Committee approved
1970 the following minute from Social Order Committee:

"We recommend that the Pacific Yearly Meeting Social Order Committee should be composed of Regional Social Order chairmen (or representatives), plus six members who are appointed for overlapping two-year terms. The Committee will have the authority to co-opt additional members or call meetings with wider representation as need arises."

Rep 9 The Representative Committee approved Social Order Committee's
1970 recommendation that Pacific Yearly Meeting:

(1) Affiliate with Friends for Human Justice. (Friends for Human Justice is a new group which was born out of the National Conference of Friends on Race Relations which is being laid down.)

(2) Appoint a member to the Executive Board of Friends for Human Justice who will represent Pacific Yearly Meeting. He will become an ex-officio member of PYM Social Order Committee. This will mean that a separate PYM fund of about \$250 should be set up to travel there.

Rep 10 The Representative Committee endorsed the following statement
1970 as submitted by the Social Order Committee:

"The committee sees its primary function as a sifting of ideas and information from Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to Yearly Meeting and sending information to Monthly and Quarterly Meetings. This committee does not see its role as an initiator of action but as a facilitator for concerns to be handled as efficiently as possible."

New Mexico Quarterly Meeting made recommendations concerning Nominating Committee. These recommendations were referred to the Nominating Committee for their consideration and later recommendation.

Pacific Northwest Quarter reported that Argenta Monthly Meeting is considering limiting its membership to Canada Yearly Meeting. Pacific Northwest Quarter will meet with Argenta Friends on this matter during their October meeting.

Pacific Northwest Quarter also reported that a joint committee meeting of Pacific Northwest Quarter and Willamette Quarter concluded that there was considerable doubt that these two Quarters could host a gathering the size of Pacific Yearly Meeting after 1971. The two Quarterly Meetings will hold a joint meeting in April 1971 to consider further this committee report. There will also be a meeting with members from the two Quarterly Meetings and the Revision Committee to discuss this matter during the current session of Yearly Meeting.

Southern California Quarter reported their approval of the request of Orange County Worship Group that it become a Monthly Meeting. We noted that Ministry and Oversight Committee in their report will ask the Yearly Meeting to recognize the approval of this new Monthly Meeting.

Rep 11 Friends General Conference: Ferner Nuhn laid before us his 1970 concern that PYM affiliate with Friends General Conference, not as full member but as associate member of some sort.

Westwood Friends Meeting recommended that PYM become a full member in Friends General Conference. Ferner felt that we rely on the services of the FGC such as publications of educational materials, correspondence, staff work, and building programs, and should be prepared to contribute to the Conference's budget. (See Attachment #2.)

We agreed to ask the Regional Meetings to consider this proposal. We requested Walt Raitt, Yearly Meeting Archivist, to prepare a report of our previous minutes on the subject and Ferner Nuhn to write up a description of the Friends General Conference. These two reports, in addition to material from the Conference itself, should be forwarded to the Quarterly Meetings to assist them in their consideration of the proposal.

Rep 12 Friends Committee on National Legislation: Margaret Brooks 1970 suggested that, instead of appointing two representatives to the FCNL meetings, it would be a better use of funds if we only send one representative and then finance one representative from the FCNL office to attend Yearly Meeting. We agreed that this should be explored and referred to Executive Committee.

We asked Nominating Committee to nominate a representative and an alternate to the FCNL.

Swimming: A request was submitted to Representative Committee proposing that from 10 to 11 p.m. each night the pool be set aside for co-educational skinny dipping for those who wish to, contingent upon the approval by the college. It was pointed out that this might cause damaging publicity, threaten our relationship with St. Mary's College, and pose serious difficulties among those families in which the children may wish to participate while their parents may oppose their wish. It was recognized that we were unable to find the necessary unity to act on the request.

SESSION 3 August 19, 1970

After a period of silent worship, our meeting was opened by our Clerk, Edwin Sanders.

- Rep 11 1970 The Pacific Yearly Meeting Treasurer is authorized to pay from General Funds for any deficit resulting from authorized activities by Yearly Meeting.
- Rep 12 1970 The recommended budget was approved for presentation to the Yearly Meeting Session IX with the exception that the Peace Committee Budget was reduced to \$960 from \$2,225.
- Rep 13 1970 We agreed to accept an invitation from the Committee of Concerned Friends for Renewal in the first week in October to bring Friends from many different Yearly Meetings to study Quakerism and its relevance to today. Edwin Sanders will attend and, in consultation with the Nominating Committee, will request another Friend to attend with him.
- Rep 14 1970 The Nominating Committee having posted its proposed report for all to read, we approved its recommendation to the Yearly Meeting, with the addition of the need for an Assistant to the Statistical Secretary.
- Rep 15 1970 We approved the Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of Pacific Yearly Meeting Holding Corporation, to be approved by Pacific Yearly Meeting on August 19, 1970. "This corporation shall have power to make Life Income Agreements with persons who wish to retain a life interest in real or personal property while making inter vivos gift of the remainder interest in such property to the Pacific Yearly Meeting, to any monthly or quarterly meeting affiliated with Pacific Yearly Meeting, or to any Friends' organization that maintains and ongoing relationship with Pacific Yearly Meeting."
- Rep 16 1970 The Representative Committee implemented the minute 70-13 of March 14, 1970 Executive Committee that we ask Friends World Committee delegates to make recommendations to the Yearly Meeting on how to use Friends World Committee 1% More Funds and at the same time undertake an education project with the Monthly Meetings.
- Rep 17 1970 The Representative Committee approved the minute of the Recording Clerk, Richard Manners, that the Yearly Meeting make a new office in the Yearly Meeting, that of Representative Committee Recording Clerk, believing the responsibility for minutes of both Representative Committee and the Plenary Sessions is too much of a burden and that dividing the responsibility this way makes more sense than appointing an Assistant Recording Clerk.

The Representative Committee considered the minute of the interest group on our relationship with the President. The following is a resume of the difficulties we experienced in trying to reach a decision:

It was suggested that a statement of concern from individual Friends might be the more efficient approach.

We hope that we have considered the matter in enough depth to help Los Angeles Meeting in its concern.

It was felt that a statement to the President is better than a statement about him.

We considered the fact that we are an international body, and wondered whether such a statement is appropriate from us. Vancouver Monthly Meeting stated that they were divided in their Meeting when considering similar problems.

The Representative Committee stated its hope that the preceding statements would help the Yearly Meeting understand why the minute did not reach the floor.

Jean Young
Representative Committee Recording Clerk

REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

August 1970

The 1970 Schools Committee Conference was held at The Farm. The beauty of the redwoods - sparkling air - calm Gualala River - and rugged Pacific Ocean, combined with the warm welcome of Libby and Foy Van Dolsen and their farm animals, quickly brought us together in a loving fellowship which enabled us to engage in open yet deepening contemplation of concerns and facilitated the conduct of business. Joining members of the Schools Committee and representatives from Friends' Schools were family members and guests which enriched our lives with the activities and interests of a wide age group (from 4 months to well over 39). We were joined on the last night by the members of the 1970 summer John Way trip. The enlarged Van Dolsen family enjoyed such rare treats as fresh goat's milk, eggs from the chicken coop, just-picked blackberries, and delicious home-baked breads. At night we felt the peace of a star-studded sky, moonlight, and rustling trees as we slept scattered about the farm in the barn, on the deck or platforms, in a clearing in the woods, or in cars and tents. A swim and picnic by the river, and Lou Sitzer's presentation of slides of village life in Laos before and after an American bombing were highlights we will long remember. Treasured was the reunion of Friends and the beginning of new friendships.

The agenda for the Conference emerged from the participants. The first night we heard from the School representatives what had been significant in their corporate lives during the past year and what goals and plans they held for the coming year. We missed the presence of any staff members from Argenta Friends School who were attending the Canadian Yearly Meeting, and from Pacific Ackworth whose representative, Chloe Winans, was unable to come due to family illness. However, we were glad that Carl and Susan Fairfield, parents from Pacific Ackworth, could be with us as well as Daryl White from Argenta who was a member of the John Way trip.

John Woolman had a stabilizing year, and its plans include an expanded summer program and an experimental fall semester residence program for eight students in Arizona. Pacific Oaks has suddenly found two of its central interests, early childhood education and the development of more flexible and individualized education for college students, to be in the forefront of national focus. This has resulted in an increase in student enrollment and new responsibilities and challenges to be met by the staff. Pacific Ackworth seems to continue to offer children, parents, and staff growth-producing educational experiences. The Farm is increasing its enrollment and staff, and their plans reflect their confidence in the future.

It was with joy that we learned of the birth of three new schools: The Hillside Farm of Ogden and Marjorie Kellogg near Gold Hill, Oregon; the Mother's Club Cooperative Nursery School in Pasadena, being established on the grounds of Orange Grove Meeting; and the Mini School--an educational venture being organized by Betty Jones with the blessing of Pacific Oaks. We shall follow their progress with interest and encourage Friends to offer them loving support.

On Friday we examined Friends' thoughts, feelings, and relationships toward two timely concerns: (1) the resolution of conflicts in a society of escalating confrontations, often violent in nature, and (2) an examination of our own values and action in relation to the new life styles being espoused by the younger generations. As is the wont of Friends, no solutions emerged, but we felt a deepening commitment to continue the search for understanding ourselves and others and learning to live constructively with persons and groups of diverse beliefs and practices.

Report of the Schools Committee, August 1970

The committee gave continuing consideration to the question of how we could serve the Yearly Meeting, the schools represented on the committee, the students, faculties, and families related to our various educational undertakings. The following recommendations were approved:

- 1) That school inter-visitation be encouraged. Various ways in which this has been done in the past and new ways to be explored were considered.
 - a) John Way's trips have been an excellent form of inter-visitation and this fund of knowledge should be tapped.
 - b) John Woolman School will begin faculty visits to other schools in 1970-71.
 - c) Friends with skills to share should be encouraged to visit schools or be appointed as "Friends in Residence."
- 2) That a newsletter be published for exchange of views between schools. Items from the newsletter would be useful for the editor of the Friends Bulletin and for Monthly Meeting newsletter editors. We should explore the possibility of an insert in an issue of the Friends Bulletin. We should also explore the possibility of a series of articles about western Friends schools in the Friends Journal.
- 3) That the Schools Committee budget committee give consideration to funds in our budget from the Yearly Meeting to supply secretarial services and other services to implement the above.

PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED TO REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

QUAKER CENTRAL SERVICES: ARE WE DOING OUR PART?

Pacific Yearly Meeting represents a growing edge of Quakerism, much valued by the Society as a whole. Yet we depend, perhaps more than we realize, upon central, or "headquarters," services which we do not provide and for which we can only partly compensate. Should we not take greater responsibility for these central services?

The services I refer to have to do, not with Quaker social concerns (which is another question), but with the Society of Friends itself. They include preparing informational, educational, and inspirational literature; arranging conferences; answering inquiries about Quakerism; aiding building programs; and representing Friends among other religious bodies and to the world at large.

Pacific Yearly Meeting seeks to nurture the life of the Spirit according to our form of Quakerism over a very large geographic area. Yet we provide little in the way of such "headquarters" services. Rather, we count chiefly on two general Friends' organizations for them: the Friends World Committee for Consultation (based in Birmingham, England, and Philadelphia), and Friends General Conference (Philadelphia).

I believe we pull our own weight fairly well in the FWCC. We accept a good many services from FGC, however, without assuming our share of responsibility for them. Our formal relationship to FGC, at present, is limited to sending a fraternal representative to its biennial conference. (Incidentally, FGC now holds annual conferences, alternately in the East and Midwest.)

We do, of course, pay for the literature we obtain from FGC, and our Meetings which borrow from its building fund pay the low interest asked. We do not, however, contribute to the overhead costs of such services.

Or take correspondence: FGC answers many inquiries about Quakerism of which perhaps a third either come from, or have to do with, the geographic area of PYM. Both Philadelphia YM and the AFSC turn over such inquiries to FGC. FWCC cannot handle the volume of this correspondence. FGC redirects many of these inquiries to PYM Meetings.

Financially, FGC has a budget of around \$100,000 and operates with an annual deficit of about \$8,000, made up, at present, by levying upon a diminishing bequest fund. Financially, PYM is quite healthy. Unburdened by a central office, staff, etc., it may well consider contributing to FGC for the services it receives. FGC, on its part, would be glad, I believe, not only for some budgetary support, but for the widening of its horizons which might come about through a closer relationship with PYM.

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Representative Committee 1970
Attachment #2, page 2

This question, of course, has come to PYM before, but in the form of joining FGC as a full member. Our distance from Philadelphia has made this appear impractical. Also, we have hesitated about seeming to choose between FGC and Friends United Meeting, whose office is in Richmond, Indiana.

We should keep our present fraternal relationship with FUM, but FUM, I feel sure, would understand if PYM recognized a functional relationship with FGC such as it does not have with FUM.

I suggest that PYM, without becoming a full member of FGC, consider two steps which would develop the relationship already existing between the two bodies: (1) that PYM make an annual contribution to FGC, not on the basis of full membership (which is at the rate of \$2 per yearly meeting member), but of a fair amount, in keeping with services received; (2) that the function of PYM's representative to FGC be developed. Besides attending FGC conferences, our representative might serve as a year-round correspondent and liaison between PYM and FGC. He ought to be prepared to follow up on correspondence relating to inquiries and Meetings in this area--working, in this connection, with Ministry and Oversight committees.

Both these steps, offered here as a basis for consideration, would need to be worked out in consultation with FGC.

Ferner Nuhn