

Pacific Yearly Meeting Children's Program Committee Report to Representative Committee 2020

SUMMARY

We invite RepCom and Friends to read all this report, but if time is limited, please especially see the following: The section below titled "Anticipated committee work mid-February - June/July, 2020" -- for *items where the Children's Program Committee (CPC), at this time, anticipates needing assistance from others*. Thank you for your support.

Children's Program Committee (CPC) activities July, 2019, through mid-February, 2020

The CPC has met three times since the last annual session (via Zoom). It is anticipated that these Zoom-facilitated meetings will be more frequent from March - June/July, 2020.

In these meetings, committee members have started getting to know each other, reviewed input from parents and teachers about the 2019 annual session children's program (CP), reviewed recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on the CP, and walked through a tasks list that is divided into a three-month-segmented timeline. In addition, the Committee Clerk has become the CP Administrative Coordinator for the 2020 annual session.

Also, the Clerk/CPC have been in contact with liaisons, the Youth Programs Coordinator and Youth Programs Coordinating Committee (YPC and YPCC), and Finance Committee. Via this, the CPC has the PYM Child Abuse Prevention Policy, lists of at least some prior teachers, and budget numbers.

The following documents, which help guide committee work and thus are an indication of some of the CPC focus thus far, have been drafted and are available from the Committee Clerk upon request:

- CP input from annual session 2019 (input from parents and teachers, grouped by themes);
- Ad hoc Committee on CP recommendations, 2020 items;
- Notes from 8/22/19, 10/20/19, 2/16/2020 CPC Zoom-facilitated meetings;
- CPC/CP detailed tasks document, divided into three-month segments and with the status of items noted (so this tasks document is updated regularly and also serves as a to-do list);
- Input given thus far about the PYM website children's page (primarily asking that redundancies be reduced, some items be grouped differently, and revision of a sub-heading for clarity);
- Theme/curricula ideas (that will be offered to teachers as draft suggestions);
- CP annual session daily schedule (draft to be supplied to teachers and coordinators).

More re themes/curricula

The draft themes/curricula document, written to help and not hinder teachers (and which is still being reviewed by the CPC), encourages teachers to teach at least one unit on each of the following:

- Quaker tradition (e.g., history, process, etc.);
- Inclusivity/Diversity;
- Conflict resolution/AVP; and
- Stillness/silence practice -- which also of course is a major part of Quaker tradition.

These suggestions are based on input from parents and teachers in 2019 and the annual session theme. In addition, the themes/curricula draft document includes a longer list of possible themes brainstormed by the CPC (e.g., broadened to include earth care).

Divided into categories, the curricula document lists potential sources for materials. Also, there is an exciting possibility for a child-centered daily AVP focus, brought to the CP by experienced AVP Quakers.

Anticipated committee work mid-February - June/July, 2020

As we enter late winter/early spring, the CPC will be concentrating more on the following, while also continuing to work on and augment some of the items listed above:

- Outreach to Monthly Meetings to (1) encourage and also get a feeling for children's projected attendance at 2020 annual session, and (2) inquire about interests in teaching in the CP. ***Any assistance in gathering this information, from Meeting Reps and others, would be greatly appreciated.***
- Outreach to recruit teachers and the two on-site coordinators (and to plan at least one Zoom-facilitated pre-annual session teacher training). Teacher/coordinator screening/interviewing. ***If Meeting Reps or others know about possible teachers or on-site coordinators, please let the CPC clerk know ASAP.***
- Further review of the PYM website's children's page. ***The CPC needs clarity about how recommended modifications of the website will be achieved.***
- Editing parent, teacher, and other PYM documents on the PYM website children's page. ***The CPC needs clarity about how these edited documents will be posted on the website.***
- Design a system for volunteers to help teachers. ***The CPC needs advice about doing this.***
- Also, the CPC has struggled with little historical depth on the committee (the CPC greatly appreciates advice received from people outside the Committee). ***The CPC encourages people to review the detailed tasks document noted above -- in case major items are missing, etc.***

Annual session evening child care

The CPC has informed the YPCC, M&O, etc., about a request from parents for which the CPC cannot assume responsibility, but there may be a facilitating presence within PYM: Parent request for evening child care. To be helpful, the CPC Clerk has suggested the following possible system, for consideration by M&O, RepCom, and others:

1. Perhaps this could be addressed fairly easily via a parent cooperative:
Provide a space for the evening child care (probably CP space) with the understanding it will be cleaned up every evening; and
2. Provide a communication mechanism for parents who are interested in volunteering for the child care co-op -- e.g. lunch together among interested parents on the first day -- and a volunteer sign-up sheet parents can circulate.

Then also have a couple important guidelines:

1. There must be at least two adults with the children at all times and more as needed; and
2. Anyone dropping off a child must sign a sign-in sheet that includes where they will be and cell phone number (though of course cell phone coverage is imperfect).

CPC members: Vivian Carlson, Honolulu; Maia Wolff-Ostrum, Agate Passage in NYPM; Amy Donovan Blondell, Monterey; Anita McCormick, Grass Valley; and Suellen Lowry, Humboldt (clerk).