

# **Pacific Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Committee Report to Representative Committee 2020**

## **SUMMARY**

Ministry and Oversight Committee met in joyful service at Humboldt Friends Meeting October 25-27, 2019 and at San Jose Friends Meeting on January 31-February 2, 2020. The M&O Committee seeks to nurture the spiritual wellbeing of Pacific Yearly Meeting by supporting the Presiding Clerk in her duties, including preparation for Representative Committee and Annual Session. We also work with the other Yearly Meeting committees, the Quarterly Meetings, and the independent Monthly Meetings when difficult issues arise that require additional seasoning and faithful discernment.

## **Working towards Radical Inclusion**

The committee is grateful for the work of the Racial Justice Subcommittee in helping us discern how best to prepare for our 2020 Annual Session, the theme of which is *Radical Inclusivity: Responding to the Persistent and Insistent Love of God*. We see great value in having a shared language as we reflect on the opportunities and barriers to radical inclusion in our yearly meeting. To facilitate this discussion, M&O requests that Friends and attenders at every Monthly Meeting read and reflect on the book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. We welcome reports from Meeting Representatives on their Meeting's experiences with this request.

## **Naming Committee**

Last year M&O worked with the Clerk to develop an explicit process for appointing the Naming Committee. In the recent past, the Clerk has invited names from the floor at the beginning of RepCom. That process has not always resulted in a list of candidates who reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the Yearly Meeting. In addition, it has been difficult to reach people who are not present to see if they are willing to serve. Last year, we experimented with having the Presiding Clerk along with the Clerks of M&O and Peace & Social Order meet ahead of time to develop a list of potential candidates, checking in advance that they are willing to serve, and bringing that list to RepCom, in addition to allowing nominations from the floor.

M&O recommends that we continue this experiment one more year and that RepCom appoint an ad hoc committee to evaluate the results of this experiment and recommend how to proceed in the future in appointing Naming Committee.

## **Mexico City Meeting & Casa de los Amigos**

In November one of our committee members attended the Reunion General de los Amigos in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. He met with a delegation of six Friends from Mexico City Monthly Meeting at the Reunion and also visited the Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City to try to gain deeper understanding of the situation regarding the two competing Casa boards and the relationship between the Casa and Mexico City Monthly Meeting. Pacific Yearly Meeting does not have any formal role with the Casa which is now an independent nonprofit corporation in Mexico. However, Mexico City Friends have been struggling with the consequences of the complex and confusing situation at the Casa and the Clerks of M&O are preparing letters in Spanish and English to offer our support. When we only communicate in English, we privilege the expatriate members of Mexico City Monthly Meeting over the native Mexican members. We have agreed that we need to do more to bring Mexico City Friends to RepCom and Annual Session and to provide Spanish language interpretation at these meetings. We will also explore the possibility of holding an M&O meeting in Mexico City in the coming year. This has been important outreach to our most far flung monthly meetings, as we experienced when we met last year in Hawai'i.

## **Pay as Led and Yearly Meeting Fundraising**

We will experiment with Pay as Led at the upcoming Annual Session. Pay as Led raises questions around the scholarships that have been provided to some Annual Session attenders through Monthly Meetings

and PacYM M&O. Other yearly meetings that have experimented with Pay as Led have supplemented their revenues with annual appeals for donations from individual Friends.

M&O is in unity with the Presiding Clerk piloting a fundraising campaign to support the work of the Yearly Meeting. We will work with the Presiding Clerk to draft an appeal and develop a process for reaching out to individual Friends and attenders.

### **Youth Programs Coordinator Position**

The Youth Programs Coordinating Committee consulted frequently with the M&O Co-Clerks and the Presiding Clerk in their discernment about how to proceed with the Youth Programs Coordinator. M&O also provided a prayerful presence on calls between the Youth Programs Coordinator and the Personnel and Administrative Subcommittee of Youth Programs Coordinating Committee (YPCC). M&O supports the caring and thorough process followed by YPCC and the decision that resulted.

M&O asks Friends to respect the strict confidentiality required in personnel matters and asks that Friends refrain from pushing members of YPCC for additional information.

### **Community Night/Family Night**

M&O has been laboring with how to respond to the incident that occurred at Community Night two years ago when a skit involving slavery raised concerns among Friends. We now see two separate issues. First, how do we design Annual Session and other meetings so that we can remind each other in the moment how to be truly inclusive and caring for all? While unconscious racism is one important area where we need to improve, there have also been examples of misgendering people or allowing ministry that was hurtful to LGBTQI people.

On this issue, M&O will continue to work with the Presiding Clerk and the Racial Justice Subcommittee to establish ways during Annual Session to lovingly intervene when there are inevitable stumbles and joyfully celebrate when we live up to our intention of providing a truly safe, loving and inclusive space for all.

Second: What is the purpose of Community Night (also called Family Night) at Annual Session? Is it to create opportunities for real intergenerational engagement? What is the best way to encourage participation from Children's Program and JYM? To showcase talents of individuals? Is night the best time to schedule an activity that intends to include young children?

M&O would like to work with Children's Program, JYM, YPCC and Racial Justice Subcommittee to transform Community Night into an afternoon Community Fair. The Fair could include a plenary opportunity to welcome new children or that could be done elsewhere in the schedule. The Fair could include multiple locations offering a variety of intergenerational opportunities: board games, active games, story-telling, group singing, open mic, crafts or other activities like kite flying or tie dying. Friends would be invited to propose an activity and bring the supplies and materials they would need to Annual Session. The fair might end with a scavenger hunt that brings everyone together for ice cream and socializing.

### **Unity with Nature Committee**

While many individuals in PacYM have passion for and are active in work around Unity with Nature, there is not yet unity about what the distinctive role of the PacYM Unity with Nature Committee should be.

M&O recommends that current Unity with Nature Committee funds be used to hold a retreat for those engaged in and concerned about environmental and climate concerns to gather in extended worship, seeking to discern the right role for PacYM Unity with Nature Committee.

The question is not what do we want to do but what does *Spirit* require of us as a yearly meeting? What is Spirit leading Unity with Nature Committee to do at the Yearly Meeting level to support and nurture the ongoing critical work on environmental and climate justice? The gathering may or may not reach

unity on the charge to the Unity with Nature Committee, but we hope extended worship on this topic would help us discern the best a way forward. Invitation would go out to all Quarterly Meetings and Monthly Meetings. The Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk has agreed to clerk the retreat. Eldering Subcommittee will be asked to provide 3 elders to participate.

In addition to the above items, we continue to track the progress of our affiliation with Friends General Conference. Nominating Committee Clerk and the Presiding Clerk are already engaging with peer groups. At our spring meeting, we will prepare for Annual Session, and return to the questions of the best name for our committee and the role of RepCom in yearly meeting decision-making.

The Committee consists of Kylin Navarro Burger, Gail Eastwood, Jorge Morales, Valerie Nuttman, Elena Rosales-Anderson, Eric Sableman, Thistle West, Shan Cretin (Co-Clerk), and Jim Summers (Co-Clerk)