

Pacific Yearly Meeting
INTERIM COMMITTEE
Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California
August 6, 1961
7:35 p.m.

1. The meeting opened with a period of worship.
2. Representatives of the Monthly Meetings were requested to sit together in the center of the meeting room in order to facilitate business procedures. Other Friends were invited to remain in seats apart from the Committee.
3. Roll was called by signature. Members attending are indicated on the attached list.
4. The proposed agenda for the 1961 Yearly Meeting was given consideration. After several additions and changes in time were suggested it was approved as attached. Friends approved a procedure whereby the Interim Committee approved the items or topics to be considered, allowing the Clerks to arrange the pattern of time and place.
5. The following Friends were named to the 1961 Epistle Committee:

Hugh Campbell-Brown
Beatrice Crouse, chairman
Ruth Schmoee.

(John Salyer and Eubanks Carsner were named as alternates if any of the above could not serve.)

6. Friends discussed a request from the Friends World Committee to consider the question of having a Fourth World Conference of Friends.
 - a. Friends expressed interest in this proposal and indicated that they wished to assume our share of the responsibility for such an undertaking.
 - b. We expressed our confidence in the FWC to make the proper decision as to the place of meeting. Some Friends expressed a sense of urgency which would encourage a meeting to be held before the 1967 date suggested.
7. The report from the Policy and Procedure Study Committee, appointed at the March 1961 Interim Committee Meeting, was read. Copies will be posted and circulated among the Monthly Meeting representatives pending further consideration at the Interim Committee Meeting at 11:00 a.m., August 7, 1961.
8. James Dewees presented a concern for our responsibility to help Young Friends in their search for leadership. It became clear as Friends considered this problem that the two generations of Friends need one another and that we must improve our ways to communicate with each other as we assume joint responsibility for our Yearly Meetings.

9. Floyd Schnoe reminded us that this was Hiroshima Day and that it would be appropriate for this Yearly Meeting to send letters to the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki indicating that we had not forgotten this fact.
10. After a period of worship the Meeting adjourned to re-convene at 11:00 a.m., Monday, August 7, 1961.

Monday, August 7, 1961
11:00 a.m.

11. The Meeting opened with a period of worship.
12. The minutes of the 7:30 p.m. Sunday session were approved as corrected.
13. The following changes in the 1961 Epistle Committee were approved: John Salyer is to replace Hugh Campbell-Brown; Beatrice Crouse is to serve as chairman.
14. Floyd Schnoe was appointed to write letters to the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki expressing the Yearly Meeting's sense of identity with the suffering inflicted by the use of the atom bomb on their cities.
15. The following recommendation from the Education Committee was approved:

...that the Yearly Meeting Education Committee consist of the chairmen of the regional (Quarterly and Half Yearly) Education Committees, or Friends appointed by these bodies, plus three members-at-large. These Friends are to confer together preceding the spring Interim Committee meeting. At Interim they are to present a plan for Yearly Meeting, which could be either (or both) of the following: the presence of a special resource person in education at Yearly Meeting; a discussion on a topic or problem of education of interest to all, to be scheduled at a general session or at an interest group. The Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee will name the three members-at-large and designate one member of the Education Committee as chairman.

16. A report from the Policy and Procedure Study Committee was approved after considerable discussion. The report follows:

REPORT TO THE INTERIM COMMITTEE
FROM THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE STUDY COMMITTEE

I. The Purpose of Yearly Meeting - some reminders.

- (1) "The Yearly Meeting shall meet annually to hear and act upon the concerns of its members, to review the State of the Society, to consider communications addressed to it and receive written reports from its committees and constituent meetings signed by the pro-

per officers . . . The Yearly Meeting shall exercise general oversight and care of the constituent meetings in things pertaining to the Society as a whole." The Discipline of Pacific Yearly Meeting, 1957.

(2) "We function according to the leading of the Spirit which leads us into unity: if we set up too detailed machinery we can cut ourselves off from that leading. All we need is some way to deal with the too impulsive, or someone who hasn't understood the need to seek unity." (Catherine Bruner)

(3) "I hope we will always realize and give ample time to the extremely important function of Yearly Meeting . . . the gathering together for worship and friendly fellowship . . . how much we need these times of quiet submission to feel His power and love. Perhaps this function of Yearly Meeting needs to be emphasized more and business proceedings curbed and simplified." (Ruth Schnoe)

(4) "Pacific Yearly Meeting has been and still is a place where a member can speak his real concerns, make suggestions and ask questions." (Harold Carson)

(5) "It (the Yearly Meeting) is cautioned against becoming over-organized and thus expending in merely maintaining a mechanical system energies which should be conserved for the advancement of truth." The Book of Discipline, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1942.

(6) "Very rarely indeed, do we anticipate a special revelation of concern to arise all at once at a Yearly Meeting session; what happens much more frequently, is an abused prerogative of 'spiritual demagoguery' under the guise of some concern . . . this must not mean that we neither ever expect or do not allow for 'light to break through'." (Walt Raitt)

(7) "In general I favor having 'seasoned' concerns which have weathered the subordinate meetings come to the Yearly Meeting general sessions . . . I do not feel that having 'seasoned' concerns come to the YM sessions means that these sessions will not be creative and open." (Margaret Jump)

(8) "The evolution of the Book of Discipline is a testimony to the power of the Quaker method in educating and sensitizing conscience . . . in a large measure the Quaker form of church government succeeded in securing a reasonable balance between freedom and order. Without some authority over the individual the movement would certainly have disintegrated . . . without considerable liberty the Society of Friends would have crystallized into a formal system. The adjustment depended upon group authority over the individual tempered by individual initiative in affecting the judgement of the group . . . If this Quaker method of arriving at unity does not succeed, the difficulty is generally due to some members who have not achieved the right attitude of mind and heart . . . those who come to the meeting not so much to discover Truth as to win acceptance of their opinions may find

that their views carry little weight... No one person sees the whole Truth and the whole meeting can see more of Truth than can any part of it... the objective of the Quaker method is to discover Truth which will satisfy everyone more fully than did any position previously held." (Howard Brinton, Friends for Three Hundred Years, Harper Bros., New York 1952. See Chapter 6 on "Reaching Decisions", also published as Pendle Hill Pamphlet #65.)

We recommend that the Discipline Committee use the above statements and any others they see fit to use to rewrite that part of the Discipline titled "The Yearly Meeting" beginning on Page 18 and concluding on Page 19 of the 1957 edition. We feel there is general agreement that emphasis on our search for Truth and Divine Guidance as stated in the first paragraph of the Foreword should take precedence over "Business" matters.

II. The Function of the Interim Committee

- (1) As the Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings take on a more established and unrelated pattern, the business of the Interim Committee should and, we believe, will reflect this orderliness within our total structure.

When problems of recognition, standards, membership and meeting oversight cannot be resolved satisfactorily at the regional or local level these become the responsibility of the Interim Committee.

- (2) The Agenda of the Yearly Meeting is the responsibility of the Clerks, who will consult with the Interim Committee and obtain its approval. The Agenda can be tentatively agreed upon in the Spring and developed for final approval in the August Interim Committee.
- (3) We recommend that the Interim Committee consider:
 - (a) An Agenda carefully prepared by the Clerks beforehand.
 - (b) Seating those who are not specifically named as representatives apart from the appointed group to facilitate the business procedures.
 - (c) Some Friends have considered the size of the Interim Committee and have proposed that we reduce the size of the Interim Committee by asking each Monthly Meeting to send one rather than two representatives.

But we have discovered that this problem is not simple since it involves weighing the value of efficiency on the one hand and greater participation on the other. We need the help and advice of the Monthly Meetings and recommend that the Interim Committee refer this question to them for study.

III. Structure and Function of Committees

- (1) There seems to be general agreement that a restatement of the purpose and a review of structure of all Yearly Meeting Committees would be appropriate at this time and that this task be continued by the Policy and Procedure Study Committee. This restatement should be based on relevant Yearly Meeting Minutes, and our own experience and the way in which these committees have actually functioned.

(2) We visualize the Yearly Meeting committees as a source of information, inspiration and stimulation. If this aspect of the Yearly Meeting committees' work is carefully done, it would encourage action to be taken at the Monthly, Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meeting level and only on special occasions will we be prepared to take corporate action of the entire Yearly Meeting.

(3) We concur with the principle stated below as an advice:

Because many of our meetings are small we must be especially sensitive to encouraging wide participation of the membership in Monthly Meeting committees. As our Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meeting pattern evolves we are conscious of the fact that in some instances Friends serve on the same Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting committees. This procedure undoubtedly allows a particular Friend to develop his special concern or interest in depth, but we would ask Friends to consider the wisdom of sharing these appointments more extensively ... and to bring into committee work new and non-participating members. We are aware that no member can rightly be "assigned" to a committee but we believe that we can all become more sensitive to this problem.

IV. Procedure for Considering Concerns

We are aware of the "lines and levels" of concerns. We are reminded of the heavy responsibility the Clerk must assume in giving proper consideration to concerns brought before the Yearly Meeting.

We are also aware of the fact that not all personal concerns are appropriately brought to the floor of the Yearly Meeting sessions directly. We are in accord that our General Sessions should almost never be the place for initial presentation of a concern. In general we favor having "seasoned" concerns which have weathered the subordinate meetings or committees come to the floor of the Yearly Meeting general sessions.

We look with favor on the following ways in which a concern can be brought before Yearly Meeting:

- (1) Interim Committee consideration. We favor a procedure which encourages individual Friends with concerns to confirm their leadings in their Monthly, Quarterly and Half-Yearly Meetings and thence to the Interim Committee if the concern is concurred in. The good order of Friends would suggest that confirming a concern by one's peers should be encouraged.
- (2) Worship-Fellowship Groups to the Interim Committee.
- (3) Special afternoon sessions for the consideration of vital issues and thence to the Interim Committee.
- (4) By mimeographing material to members present after consideration by the Interim Committee.
- (5) By an article in the Bulletin with the assumption that a Monthly, Quarterly or Half-Yearly Meeting has heard the concern and recommended wider presentation.

(6) At a regular scheduled session of the Yearly Meeting. Only under very exceptional circumstances do we feel that a concern should come directly to the floor of the General Session. When this is done we recommend that the Meeting hear the concern stated briefly and directly and that no discussion be engaged in until the concern thus presented orally can be written in approximately 100 words and given to the Clerks and/or Interim Committee for further consideration at a later session if it seems appropriate to do so.

(7) A standing committee of the Yearly Meeting serves as another excellent "seasoning" center and a means of bringing a concern to the floor of the Yearly Meeting.

We concur with the sense of the following advice: Friends in attendance at Yearly Meeting are reminded that they have a special responsibility to assist the Clerks in the delineation of what is most essential for consideration in the time we have together. We would particularly remind Friends that our search for Truth (for the will of God) is our essential end or aim; that whatever design or structure we establish should provide the means to do this. Too much concern with structure (a legalistic remnant from our "Robert's Rules of Order" previous lives) can also prevent us from reaching our ends. We have not come together from such distant points as Honolulu, Mexico City, Canada and the Western United States to find ourselves enmeshed in procedural roadblocks; but neither must we allow these precious days to be given over to impulsive, argumentative pressures disguised as concerns.

We are aware of our shortcomings in this regard; of our lack of faith in God's "own good time" and our feeling that we have the solution to the world's problems and that this is the season in which we must push for the solutions in our way and at our pleasure.

We are aware of the tremendous sense of urgency which we all feel these days but we would remind ourselves of the awesome responsibility we assume when we speak in Meeting. We need to remain open so that we can find unity and direction. We are confident that we can do this and that when we find the way we will know it.

17. The Meeting adjourned to re-convene at 1:20 p.m.

Monday, August 7, 1961
1:20 P.M.

18. The Policy and Procedure Study Committee was asked to continue their work for another year and to prepare a report for the March Interim Committee.
19. Ellis Jump reported for the Finance Committee and made us aware of the fact that the Yearly Meeting has not met its operational budget due to several meetings not sending in their quota and several more meetings only sending one-half of the expected amount.

The Yearly Meeting action budget was met.

This question of how to carry on our "housekeeping" duties under these circumstances was referred to the meeting of the Monthly Meeting Clerks.

20. Catherine Bruner reported for the Discipline Committee.

Our present supply of the 1957 discipline is exhausted. Various proposals were considered. Friends authorized the Discipline Committee to reproduce the 1957 Edition of the Discipline as economically as possible for immediate use.

21. The problem of Young Friends leadership was considered. The following proposal is approved after consultation with Young Friends:

The local regional Meeting in charge of the Yearly Meeting arrangements should be sensitive to the need to assist Young Friends of the same region in their plans for their Yearly Meeting. A Young Friends' advisor who is willing to function all year will be able to help to carry out a coordinated program. (The advisor will function more adequately if he is from the region where the next Yearly Meeting will be held and we recommend that the Nominating Committee consider this fact in their appointments. When appointed advisors are unable to serve their full term they are to be replaced by action of the Regional Meeting Clerks, who should have been regularly informed of progress and plans undertaken.

22. The Committee on Incorporation, William Taylor, chairman reported.

A draft of proposed By-Laws of the Pacific Yearly Meeting was presented for consideration.

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The Interim Committee agrees in principle with the document presented to be revised to indicate emphasis on the Corporation being a holding company.

We recommend that this revised document be presented to Yearly Meeting session for approval.

23. The Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m., Monday, August 7, 1961.

HAROLD CARSON, Clerk

EDWIN C. MORGENROTH, Recording Clerk

AGENDA

Pacific Yearly Meeting - August 7-11, 1961

Sunday	Aug 6,	7:30 p.m.	Interim Committee
Monday	Aug. 7,	9:00 a.m.	Yearly Meeting Committees
		11:00 a.m.	Interim Committee
		1:00 p.m.	Interim Committee
		3:00 p.m.	Yearly Meeting Committees
		7:30 p.m.	Opening Yearly Meeting Session, a family gathering Worship, Introductions, Announcements, Singing State of Society Reports
Tuesday	Aug. 8,	8:30 a.m.	Worship-Fellowship Groups meet until 10 a.m.
		10:15 a.m.	Yearly Meeting Session Secretary's Report - New Meetings - Report of Race Relations Conference - Social Concerns
		1:30 p.m.	"Friends' Care for one Another" (Interest group - Gretchen Rudnick)
		2:45 p.m.	Yearly, Half-Yearly, Quarterly Meeting Clerks
		4:00 p.m.	Meeting of Clerks of Monthly and Regional Meetings
		7:30 p.m.	Yearly Meeting Session Reports from: F.W.C., Floyd Schmoë, Bulletin, Policy and Procedure Study Committee
Wednesday	Aug. 9,	8:30 a.m.	Worship-Fellowship Groups
		10:15 a.m.	Yearly Meeting Session Visit to Cuba - Ed Sanders Report of Incorporation Study Nominating Committee Report (if ready)
		1:30 p.m.	"A Two-Pronged Question for Friends" (Interest group - Elinor Ashkenazy)
		2:45 p.m.	Ministry and Oversight (Monthly Meeting members of Ministry and Oversight Committees)
		4:00 p.m.	Cuba - Ed Sanders "Friends and the Bible" (Interest group - Eubanks Carsner)
		7:30 p.m.	Yearly Meeting Session AFSC Report - Anna Brinton - Indian Work - Emmett Gulley
Thursday	Aug. 10,	8:30 a.m.	Worship-Fellowship Groups
		10:15 a.m.	Yearly Meeting Session FCNL Report - Peace Committee program
		1:30 p.m.	Freedom Riders
		2:45 p.m.	Quaker Theological Discussion Group
		4:00 p.m.	Peace discussion
		7:00 p.m.	Family Fun Night
		8:30 p.m.	Yearly Meeting Session Finance and Budget Reports, and others

