

Pacific Yearly Meeting Junior Yearly Meeting Committee Report to Annual Session 2020

The Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) support committee has faced a number of difficulties this year, leaving us floundering and unclear in our direction. At this moment, we are not functional, as members are not responding to repeated communication and requests to meet. This is partly attributable to the quarantine and moving the annual session to a virtual gathering, but also to changes in the committee and in the Youth Program Coordinator (YPC) position.

The YPC change came in Spring 2019. Following the 2019 annual session, the Committee Clerk changed, and new adult members were added. Unfortunately, contact information, maintained on a Google group by the former YPC, was not updated by the new YPC, who appeared unaware of that group. Other contact information for new members and for teens was also not available to the Clerk. This made it challenging to contact committee members, and when the Clerk found email addresses, several adult committee members did not respond to repeated emails, attempted phone calls, and texts. The adult committee was able to finally gather online (the JYM support committee has been using the Western Friend Zoom account to meet for several years) in October, 2019, with five members present. That meeting was a review of annual session with recommendations for improvements. In brief, these were:

- Adults need to be sensitive when to help JYM leadership and when to step back. In 2019, JYM Clerks report they felt overwhelmed and needed more help.
- Part-time participation in JYM is a problem.
- Logistics for the AS Meeting for Memorial need to be clearly stated.
- JYMers tend to drift in and out of many big tent activities.
- A committee member would like Quakerism core concepts discussed.
- Structuring the JYM gathering should include clear goals.
- Activities should be reviewed yearly to assess their usefulness, and new activities should be considered.
- A member suggested discussions on set topics replacing worship sharing.
- Discussions of ethical challenges faced by JYMers could be valuable.

Also in Fall 2019, the Committee Clerk and three of the JYM Clerks participated in the clerking workshop led by Barbara Babin and Jamie Newton at Quaker Center. This was a valuable experience for all, and the fourth JYM Clerk was updated over Zoom at meals and breaks.

In March 2020, the Clerk and three of the JYM Clerks attended RepCom in Visalia. The JYMers enjoyed each other's company and spent some time both in RepCom activities and in planning for AS. Sadly, these plans did not come to fruition. The JYMers joined in communal meals, tours of Quaker Oaks farm, and had discussions with Mica, the keynote speaker for this year's AS, and with the new interim YPC.

Since the quarantine, the JYM support committee has not met, most have not responded to communication from the Clerk. The YPC was replaced in early spring, and the new person is active in facilitating better communication. The JYMers are gathering on Zoom once monthly, hosted by the YPC, and that usually draws 6-12 teens, who spend a couple hours in general chat. The YPC and the JYM support committee Clerk are present for at least part of these.

The JYMers do not appear excited by the virtual annual session, and while the JYM support Clerk and the YPC have offered several suggestions, they have thus far not responded. The entire group will meet June 18, set up by the YPC, and we hope some progress will come out of that.

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The Committee consists of Sarah Armstrong Jones (Big Island), Don McCormick (Grass Valley), Austin Stanion (Orange Grove), David Lederman (Orange County), Evan Nelson (La Jolla), Suzanne Doss (Orange Grove), Bertha Pena (Mexico City), and Dan Strickland (Orange Grove, Clerk)