

Pacific Yearly Meeting  
Findings and Recommendations regarding  
the Unity with Nature Committee  
Report to Annual Session 2020

The discernment process since the close of PacYM Annual Session of 2018 has led to the following recommendations, which may serve as the charge to an interim Unity with Nature (UwN) Committee. The work of the Committee over the next year then would consist of a set of tasks that have been in abeyance since UwN ceased functioning<sup>i</sup>, plus collectively seasoning and weighing elements of its larger mission in the future, such as:

1. Conduct all its business in the manner and spirit of Friends worship.
2. Recognize that UwN exists to provide a service to the Yearly Meeting, not to the individuals who constitute the membership nor to the causes they may personally favor.
3. Recognize that UwN's mandate extends beyond any particular project it may choose to undertake. Projects may be short-term or require years to come to fruition; regardless, the end of one project should not bring UwN to a standstill while it decides what to do next.
4. Examine the reasons why UwN should concentrate its attention on the geographic region encompassed by PacYM. If such a focus is decided upon after worshipful consideration, establish criteria for exceptions to this limitation.
5. Actively solicit advice and counsel from Friends who are NOT part of an environmentally committed in-group before deciding to undertake major actions.
6. Actively seek out and encourage Friends historically under-represented in UwN membership, and provide them with mentorship so that they may participate as equals in authority and respect to any member of the UwN Committee.<sup>ii</sup>
7. Convey all records of its work to succeeding UwN members as terms expire.
8. When it is fully functional, UwN will be called upon by Friends in distress about the state of the natural world and the consequences of climate change to its human and non-human inhabitants. UwN's response should be tender and grounded both spiritually and practically.

<sup>i</sup> sponsor one or two interest groups each year, suggest plenary speakers, sponsor outdoor worship, and serve as liaison to Quaker Earthcare Witness (sharing publications/videos and action alerts produced by QEW, and representing PacYM on the North American board of directors). [from Shelley Tanenbaum]

<sup>ii</sup> UwN has had few Young Adult Friends and Friends of color; those who joined the Committee often reported being marginalized.