

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Minutes of the Interim Committee Meeting, March 9, 1957, Berkeley, Calif.

PRESENT: Clarence Cunningham, Ted Freedman, William James, Morton and Harriet Schaffran, Madeleine Stephenson, Mildred Acord, William Acord, Ferner Nuhn, Ruth Schooler, Anna B. K. Willson, David K. Bruner, Herbert Foster, Edward P. Thatcher, Olivia W. Davis, John Ullman, Robert and Margaret Simkin, John Dorland, Ralph Pinney, Frances Thompson, D. Thornton Conrow, Vern James, Marjorie Weber, John Wells, Phillip H. Wells, Eubanks Carsner, Leslie P. Spelman, Al Kramer, Ernie Von Seggern, Fred Allan, Isabel G. Bachels, Marion L. Field, Jane Baumann, ~~Ruth Baumann~~, Ruth Brown, Edith G. Sperry, John and Ann Salyer, Margarete Coe, Ruth Schmoce, Paul Davis, Alice B. Plympton, Esther Richards, Beulah M. Thornburg, Catherine Bruner and Mildred Burck.

The meeting opened at 9:30 with a period of worship.

1) TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Robert Simkin and accepted by the committee.

The Meetings were given an opportunity to present their problems and concerns. Some received general discussion; others were referred to the appropriate Yearly Meeting committees. There was general concern for deepening the life of business meetings.

2) QUERY ON PEACE TESTIMONY: La Jolla Meeting presented two versions of a suggested query on the Friends Peace Testimony. The Interim Committee felt that this was something to bring before Yearly Meeting in a session devoted to the Peace Testimony, but said it should come before the larger group in more fully documented form; and also asked La Jolla Meeting to share their thought with other Meetings before Yearly Meeting either by letter or through the medium of the Friends Bulletin.

3) BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: University Meeting presented a concern that there be a committee to collect information helpful to meetings which are considering building new meeting houses. One example mentioned was direction and extent of population growth. The Interim Committee appointed Thornton Conrow and William Taylor as such a committee.

4) TRAVEL POOL: Willamette Valley Meeting suggested that help with travel expenses be paid for both members from each meeting to the mid-year meeting of the Interim Committee, rather than for just one as at present. The Interim Committee felt that the present plan is still the best we can afford; but also felt that continuity of representation from Meetings is to be encouraged. This stimulated discussion of the possibility of helping with travel expenses for two Interim Committee members from each meeting to Yearly Meeting. The Finance Committee was asked to look into the feasibility of this.

5) "MEETING FOR SUFFERINGS": San Fernando Meeting presented their concern that we should uphold each other, i.e., be more aware and more helpful with those of our members in distress -- for example, economic distress through conscientious objection and consequent difficulty with jobs, or through age. Related to this last was the minute from Orange Grove presenting Rega Engelberg's concern for Friends whose sensitivity to the spirit has prevented their laying up treasures on earth for their old age. The San Fernando concern was referred to the Ministry and Oversight Committee; the concern from Orange Grove to the Committee on the Home for Elderly Friends.

6) REPORTS: University Meeting proposed that all reports, including the state of society reports, be printed in the Bulletin before Yearly Meeting. There was no action on this.

7) **LETTERS FROM HONOLULU AND PHOENIX MEETINGS:** A letter from Honolulu Meeting was read reporting that they are acquiring a meeting house.

A letter from Phoenix Meeting was read expressing their concern over the fact that differences which should be resolved at the Monthly Meeting level had not been so resolved in the matter of the Discipline, but had been brought to the floor of Yearly Meeting, "thus placing on the larger group the burden of personal differences...We therefore would like to suggest that consideration be given to a request that Monthly Meetings express their recommendations to Yearly Meeting through a reporting committee."

8) **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Beulah Thornburg, John Dorland and Harold Carson were appointed to the Nominating Committee for two years. Margaret Simkin, John Salyer and Patricia Stewart continue as members with Margaret Simkin as chairman. The committee approved of the following suggestions in regard to Nominating Committee procedure:

- a) Each Monthly Meeting is asked to send to the committee recommendations of from one to three members who are interested, able, and available for Yearly Meeting service, indicating the particular area of interest of each.
- b) The Nominating Committee is urged to follow a plan of area representation when possible; to obtain the consent of the individual to be appointed; and to take into consideration the training of younger Friends for Monthly Meeting and Yearly Meeting responsibilities.
- c) The Nominating Committee should consult the Interim Committee at Yearly Meeting for suggestions before the nominations are presented to the full Yearly Meeting for approval.
- d) The Nominating Committee might post a list early in the session, indicating who are continuing on committees and where there are vacancies.
- e) The report should be posted as early as possible before the final day of approval by the Yearly Meeting.
- f) None of this is to be construed, however, as limiting the Nominating Committee in the exercise of its own freedom of choice.

9) **1957 CONFERENCE OF FRIENDS IN THE AMERICAS:** Esther Richards and Ferner Nuhn were appointed as a committee to prepare an exhibit illustrative of Pacific Yearly Meeting to be shown at the Friends in the Americas Conference. Having been asked to arrange the names of delegates to the conference in order of priority, the Nominating Committee presented this list: Heberto Sein, Ed and Marian Sanders, Winifred Clark, two Young Friends of college age, these two to be settled among Young Friends. (Bill Acord agreed to be responsible for this correspondence.)
Alternates: Vern James, Edna James, Mildred Burck, Rega Engelsberg, Stephen Thiermann, Catherine Bruner, John Dorland, Nan Dorland, Beulah Thornburg.

The clerk explained that she had been asked to send in names of people who would like to go, to be placed on a waiting list; hence, some of the names have been added since August. Others who would like to go should let it be known. All of these would go at their own expense.

10) **YEARLY MEETING IN 1958:** Leslie Spelman reported for the Committee on Arrangements that they have been considering four places. The Interim Committee expressed special interest in Camp Sealy at Jenks Lake and Redlands University. The San Diego area was suggested. The committee would welcome other suggestions.

11) TRAVELING MINUTE: A traveling minute for Leslie Spelman, read by the clerk, was approved by the committee. Leslie Spelman plans this coming summer to visit Friends in England, France and the Netherlands.

12) APPLICATION OF SALT LAKE CITY MEETING: A letter was read from Salt Lake City Friends Meeting applying for admission to Pacific Yearly Meeting as a Monthly Meeting. Russell Jorgensen, Peggy Church, and John Dorland, all of whom have visited Salt Lake City Meeting, were named as a committee to consult on this application and to report their recommendation to the Interim Committee in August.

YEARLY MEETING: In discussion of Yearly Meeting procedure, these minutes were approved:

13-A) The committee would lay on Monthly Meetings the responsibility of keeping to the good order of Friends in considering concerns laid before them by their members and other Meetings, and sending them with a minute from the clerk through Quarterly or Half-Yearly Meeting, insofar as possible, to the Yearly Meeting.

13-B) Not business but fellowship is the first purpose of Yearly Meeting; the deepening of that fellowship under divine guidance is what we seek.

13-C) One morning during Yearly Meeting will be given to small worship-fellowship groups. Each will have a chairman and a recorder. Concerns which come up in the small groups may then be passed on to the larger group.

13-D) Yearly Meeting will conclude with the usual Sunday morning meeting for worship.

13-E) The clerk was encouraged to look for a guest to meet with us for the Yearly Meeting sessions. This guest might interpret the feeling of the world family of Friends in perhaps not one long speech but smaller contributions; or he might have something intellectual put into words such that it could be published and become a bridge for interpretation. The clerk and the treasurer have the settling of the cost of travel of such a guest.

The discussion from which these minutes came made these points: We should heed the query, "Do you keep a good order in the handling of business and concerns?" Also, it was suggested that committees should find unity before presenting a report to the Yearly Meeting sessions. The clerk presides at all regular sessions but not at special interest sessions. And, in response to a minute from Willamette Valley Meeting, it was said that our present practice of one Interim Committee meeting at the beginning of Yearly Meeting suffices; the organizing of business is the responsibility of the clerks and more Interim Committee meetings should be left to them to call. Discussion of a meeting in which individual concerns could be presented led to the minute given above on worship-fellowship groups.

13-F) The Arrangements Committee for Yearly Meeting was instructed to set the charge for Yearly Meeting room and board high enough to be sure of covering expenses, rather than charging a registration fee.

14) EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The report of the Education Committee was presented by Frances Thompson. The following recommendation was accepted by the Interim Committee:

Personnel for the children's program should be sought by the committee in charge through:

a) Employment (with salary) of young persons interested in such work.

- b) Provision of "scholarship" and transportation for Young Friends who would accept responsibility for specified periods of child care in order to be able to participate to a limited extent in sessions of Pacific Yearly Meeting.
- c) Adults who have formerly demonstrated interest and leadership should be encouraged to take part.
- d) Young Friends with leadership ability should be given guidance to strengthen this ability as they in turn work with younger attenders.
- e) Young Friends program should have adequate correlation with general sessions.
- f) ~~A co-ordinator aware of all aspects of Pacific Yearly Meeting~~ should be permitted to secure the necessary personnel for each part, in order that there not be overlapping or omissions.

At the beginning of Yearly Meeting, schedules should be posted stating the time, place, and leadership of each group. Clear information on daily schedule adjustments should be available.

15) YOUNG FRIENDS: The Interim Committee asked the Young Friends Counselors to form themselves into a committee to plan a program for those of high school age modelled on the AFSC institutes. The committee is Clarence Cunningham, Ben Seaver, Walt Raitt (the three Counselors) together with Susan Freedman, Edward Thatcher and Molly Morgenroth; others to be co-opted.

Young Friends of college age will join in the adult Yearly Meeting sessions or help with the younger groups.

Bill Acord announced the conference planned in Ontario, Canada next August by the Young Friends Committee of North America. It was thought that some of our Young Friends might prefer attending that to the Conference of Friends in the Americas. Bill Acord will correspond with them on the subject; and the Finance Committee will look into financial help on travel.

16) PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: The Interim Committee, upon the request of the Education Committee, defined the responsibility of this committee as being for children through the 8th grade. It is directed that the funds budgeted for the Education Committee be made available to the Committee for the Children's Program.

~~This committee and the Young Friends Program Committee will in the future be sub-committees of the Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee.~~

17) MINISTRY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Ruth Schmoer reported for this committee. A propos of requirements for membership in the Society of Friends, Ruth Schmoer made this important point: Testimonies are the fruit of our witness, not the root. The committee exists to be called on by Meetings faced with problems in their spiritual life. It plans to meet regularly during Yearly Meeting and expects to have a list of helps for Meetings available by then. It will also have a literature table at Yearly Meeting. They would like the names and addresses of isolated Friends in the area of Pacific Yearly Meeting.

18) INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: Al Kramer reported that this committee is prepared to offer counsel to Indians who may need their help. They are not trying to duplicate what the AFSC is doing in this field. They will communicate further with Monthly Meetings through the Bulletin.

19) COMMITTEE ON THE HOME FOR ELDERLY FRIENDS: Marjorie Weber agreed to be acting chairman of this committee until Yearly Meeting. The addition of Morton Schaffran to the committee was approved. Various members of the committee reported on information gathered. It has been made clear that the John Beamish bequest of \$3,000 is for a home in California and the time limit for its use is 20 years from his death. Morton Schaffran will formulate a questionnaire to be sent to the Meetings to determine the need for such a home, the results to be reported at Yearly Meeting. On the basis of this information regional sub-committees may be formed.

20) VISITATION COMMITTEE: Eubanks Carsner reported that Jane Baumann has visited the Meetings in Denver and Colorado Springs. Russell Jorgensen and the Clerk of Yearly Meeting have recently visited Salt Lake City Meeting. Other visits within our area have been made.

21) DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE: Phillip Wells, as chairman, asked and received permission to use in our Discipline quotations from The Quaker Message, compiled by Sidney Lucas.

22) LETTERS FROM OTHER MEETINGS: Letters were read from the Peace Committees of Japan Yearly Meeting and from the Tokyo Young Friends. The Tokyo Young Friends letter was referred to our Young Friends. The clerk was authorized to answer the letters in the name of the Yearly Meeting.

23) LETTERS TO QUAKER TEAM AT UNITED NATIONS: Phillip Wells who had recently been with the Quaker Team in New York said that at the time of the Suez crisis Japan Yearly Meeting was the only Yearly Meeting to write to the Quaker Team.

The Interim Committee directed that a letter be sent them expressing our gratitude and support for their work and that Monthly Meetings be urged to write letters of support and, if possible, to send funds earmarked for the work at the United Nations to the Friends World Committee.

24) AFSC: The clerk reported on the meeting of the Representative Council of the AFSC, reading the minutes on the Friends Conference on Peace and Disarmament proposed by the San Francisco office on peace education focus (alternatives to violence) and on the immediate emphasis, disarmament.

The meeting was adjourned to meet at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon at 9:30 A.M. on August 21, 1957.

Catherine Bruner, Clerk
Mildred Burck, Secretary