

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES MARCH 1, 1992
Berkeley Friends Meetinghouse

MORNING SESSION

Jane Peers, presiding clerk, Jane Mills, assistant clerk,
Anne Friend, recording clerk

The meeting gathered in silent worship.

The presiding clerk, Jane Peers, called for introductions. The roster of attenders is attachment 1. Friends who have died recently or who are absent because of serious illness were remembered.

The revised agenda was approved.

Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee The following names were suggested for approval later in the day: Harry Bailey, Joe Magruder, Kim Lacey, Ben Levine, Kimi Nagatani.

- 1-92 Nominating Committee Mary Beth Webster is nominated to fill the position of Clerk of the Social Order Committee in place of Bard McAllister who has had resign. The nomination was approved.

College Park Quarter Joe Magruder reported that quarterly meeting sessions have become somewhat less structured. The quarter has appointed a committee to examine the relationship with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and is seeking, so far unsuccessfully to develop work camps.

Southern California Quarter Jean Malcolm, clerk, reported; her report is attachment 2. That quarter also is expecting to appoint a committee to improve communication with AFSC. Action on this and other minutes was not taken because the February session of the quarter was canceled because of flooding.

SCHEDULE FOR PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING 1992 SESSION

Finance Committee Walter Jones presented the attached report. (Attachment 3)

- 2-92 The meeting approved a \$400.00 increase in the Faith and Practice Revision Committee budget.

The meeting discussed increasing the Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) budget from \$2000.00 to \$3000.00, but a decision was laid over until we have heard information on the entire PYM budget.

Fees for use of the facilities at Chico have been increased by the facility by 45%. In addition, the committee is proposing that only attenders 18 and over be charged the day use fee instead of having a family maximum because the family maximum has not been effective.

Friends were greatly disturbed by the increased costs. There is a clear need for discussion of the nature and purpose of the yearly meeting in general and of whether, when, and where we should have the yearly meeting session this year.

Arrangements Committee Eric Moon reported on basic arrangements, a few **only** if we go to Chico, and others which would apply to any site--the need for a new audio system and for someone to do audio, and suggestions for things Friends can bring to help such as fans, folding tables, VCRs, and projectors.

Site Committee Joan Johnson, co-clerk, reported that the committee has investigated many sites, but only one--otherwise unsuitable--permits camping. (The report is attachment 4.) She also said that LaVerne is a possible alternative to Chico.

Registrars Gary Wolff reported that the registrars would like to alter the form, and he is asking committees to let him know what information they would like to get from it. Gary also made suggestions of material which could be included in the registration confirmation packet so that attenders of all ages could come better prepared.

The committee also plans to let JYM advisors, children's program clerks, and other committees know before PYM whatever registration information affects them, and to provide frequent updates. The report is attachment 5.

Schedule Jane Peers reported that the agenda review committee recommends dropping the intergenerational barn dance. However, Annie and Peter Blood-Patterson may be available for group singing instead.

JYM will not provide monitors for the August 6 vigil.

Shortening the lunch break will allow more time for Worship-Fellowship groups. W-F groups may meet after the social hour on Monday afternoon.

3-92 Interim Committee the proposed interim committee is the agenda review committee with the addition of representatives from Ministry and Oversight and Sites committees. After considerable discussion of the function of the interim committee and its composition, the meeting approved appointing a small committee to find an alternative site for PYM which would meet our needs,

adjusting the time, length, and place of yearly meeting to come as close as possible to the costs of the 1991 PYM session, and without changing the dates, if that is possible. The meeting appointed Jane Peers (PYM Clerk), Joan Johnson (Sites Committee), Phyllis Jones (Finance Committee), Hank Maiden (Sites Committee), and one of the arrangements clerks to the Emergency Site Committee.

- 4-92 The meeting approved for this year only authorizing the Interim Committee to plan the complete schedule of PYM, including plenary session content. The committee consists of:

Dottie Vura-Weiss, Clerk, Junior Yearly Meeting Committee
Mark Koenig, Children's program
Owain Elliott, Clerk, Young Friends
Lincoln Moses or some other representative of Ministry and Oversight
Jane Peers, Clerk, PYM
Jane Mills, Assistant Clerk PYM
one of the Arrangements Clerks.

Concern was expressed that clerks of the Peace, Social Order, and Unity with Nature committees and other committees which commonly use plenary session time should meet or confer to consider how their most active concerns overlap, to consider the most effective use of plenary session time, and to give information or recommendations to the Interim Committee.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session convened with silent worship.

The minutes of action from the morning session were read and approved.

- 5-92 Joan Johnson has agreed to convene the Emergency Site Committee, which will complete its work by April 1, 1992. The meeting approved.

- 6-92 The committee previously referred to as the Interim Committee will be named the 1992 Planning Committee, will be convened by Jane Mills, and is expected to complete its work by June 1, 1992.

The meeting separated into small groups to generate and share ideas for the 1992 yearly meeting session. Friends were encouraged to share thoughts about how a shorter, non-resident, differently timed, multiple yearly meetings, or other changes would affect our experience of PYM.

Small Group Reports

1. PYM is for fellowship and families. We could give up cooking--maybe even camping. Maybe shorten PYM a little bit. Maybe go to all camping. Keep the sense of community.
2. No advantages to Chico, even with a shorter session. The Children's program has made plans for LaVerne. If the time is shorter, a higher proportion should be for W-F with smaller groups. Regarding splitting the yearly meeting, we could give all the business to Representative Committee and do no business at PYM.
3. There is no advantage to Chico; we would feel victimized. Don't cut the time more than two days. Could split north and south for business, but have a conference together. August is the best time.
4. If we have to give up something, give up camping. Have post-yearly meeting gatherings for Young Friends. Put it near an airport, easy to get to from Southern California.
5. Three days in Chico is OK, especially Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The advantage is that we would be protesting (but not much); the disadvantage is less time. Would an urban meeting have to be all business? We could separate (north-south) functions, but have family and theology conferences together. Separating would be hard, but would probably be worth it; plan for doing it between 1996 and 2000. Have fund raisers and build up scholarship and subsidy funds.
6. Same as many before. No serious problems changing dates. Urban meetings would be a temporary solution, not long term; business would get lower attendance, spiritual higher. Shorten PYM by having written committee reports, less interest group time.
7. Don't go to Chico--costs too much and too much travel time compared with time at PYM if the session is shorter. Don't go to LaVerne--BE CREATIVE. Scrap all of the planned program and have 1992 be "What should we do?". Again, split business but keep family camp and conferences. Business meetings in larger sessions are an important experience for those in small monthly meetings.
8. We will lose people for either a shorter or a more expensive session. Could raise money to buy or develop our own place. Contacts and diversity important. Could cut out the M&O plenary. The issue for 1992 PYM should be the shape and function of the yearly meeting. Might have to give up camping. Don't split north-south. If we don't

meet, what happens--shock, committees go on. We could meet 12/27-1/2 with community night on New Year's Eve.

9. If only three days, keep M&O plenary, intergenerational, memorials. Theme this year should be "What about PYM?" Could have two gatherings, one business, one spiritual/fellowship. Young Friends need time by themselves. Site (1) try with tents and temporary buildings; (2) rent land from a farmer and have local churches cater. Tack family camp on to a Western Gathering. Try not to change the schedule.
10. The basics are worship every day; memorials; M&O plenary; community night; committee time. Have family and fellowship some other time than yearly meeting session.
11. It is important to have a "safe" place to be with others like us. Better to cancel this year than have a shorter time. Meet every other year and have Representative Committee do the business. Financial help from PYM for families.
12. Have business meeting in the winter, camp/conference in the summer. Kids need it every year. Too many restrictions on sites. Could try putting our own site together. Live at LaVerne and rent the church.
13. Same as others. Maybe we can't get any space.
14. (from the general discussion) If the emphasis of this PYM session is to be as good as in the past, good orientation for newcomers is essential.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report from Hawaii The report, attachment 6 was given by Kit Glover.

Secretariat Sandra Farley reported that the committee will meet in the spring to plan for whenever and wherever PYM is held. She emphasized both the benefits to PYM and to the owners of computers brought to PYM. The secretariat is sponsoring an interest group on newsletter editing.

Ministry and Oversight Lincoln Moses reported that the committee is establishing a subcommittee on sexual abuse among Friends and gave some details about the composition of the committee and the materials it intends to prepare for use by monthly meetings.

Faith and Practice Revision Committee Jean Walton reported that the committee has absorbed the Discipline Committee and communications to that committee should be addressed to the Faith and

Practice Revision Committee. The committee plans to present two interest groups at PYM.

Religious Education Ingrid Petersen reported on responses to the questionnaire sent out in late 1991. The committee feels that it will be able to provide more useful service to monthly meetings as a result on this sharing. The report is attachment 7.

Sally Davis reported for the ad hoc committee to study the future of religious education. "Religious education" should focus on children and adult needs should be met in other ways. The committee also recommends that Faith and Practice be changed to reflect this emphasis. The committee recommends that it now be laid down. This report is attachment 8.

7-92 The following minute on religious education was presented;

1. The Nominating Committee is directed to reconstitute the Religious Education Committee.
2. Prospective committee members shall be informed that the focus of the committee in the coming year will be children's religious education.
3. The issue of adult religious education will be discussed by PYM in 1993.

The meeting approved the minute.

8-92 Friends approved laying down the ad hoc Committee on Religious Education.

Young Friends Owain Elliott, co-clerk reported that last year was not a good year for Young Friends. The policy of not allowing meals to be taken from the dining hall prevented fellowship at meals and Young Friends responsibilities for the Junior yearly Meeting campout added to the separation. They want interaction with JYM, but not so much. Service on PYM committees burns out many of the more responsible young Friends.

Young Friends appreciate the work of M&O in setting up the subcommittee on sexual abuse and would like to have an interest group on the topic with JYM.

Young Friends feel a real need for more time to be together, interest groups of their own, and areal lounge. If PYM rates go up, they hope monthly meetings will seek out young friends who may need financial assistance.

In the discussion which followed, one young Friend mentioned the value of intergenerational contact.

Social Order Mary Beth Webster reported that the committee has formed two subcommittees, one on economics and one on women's issue. The committee will use plenary time and will present an interest group on women's issues. The committee asked for time to brainstorm on the possibility of establishing a standing PYM committee on women's issues.

The committee would like feedback on Friends' responses to using themes.

Peace Carol Mosher reported on plans and schedules for the fourth Nevada nuclear weapons test site witness.

Minutes of the session from 3:30 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. were read, corrected, and approved.

Unity with Nature Tom Farley gave the attached report. The committee has planned an Easter retreat and work project, continues the publication of EarthLight, and is following up on previously shared concerns. The committee is also planning two early morning bio-region tours at PYM.

Friend in the Orient The committee had no report.

East-West Committee The committee did not present an oral report. The written report is attachment 9.

Wider Fellowship Committee Paul Niebanck reported that the central concern of the committee is with the Western Gathering of Friends. (The flyer is attachment 10.) He explained both the program and the attendance plans.

Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee Friends approved a committee consisting of Harry Bailey, clerk, Joe Magruder, and Ben Levine. Kimi Nagatani will serve if Ben cannot, and Kim Lacey's name will remain on the list to be asked to serve if another alternate is needed.

Children's Program Mark Koenig reported that there will be a children's program if there is a yearly meeting session. The committee thanks past volunteers and hopes for more in the future. Committees are asked to sponsor a visitor who can pass on to the children a simple concept of what their work is.

The Assistant Clerk gave announcements.

Minutes of the session from 4:45 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. were read, corrected, and approved.

EVENING SESSION

The evening session opened with silent worship.

Junior Yearly Meeting Dottie Vura-Weiss reported for the JYM committee. JYM grew from 34 attenders in 1990 to 57 in 1992. The junior Friends have also in recent years become a more coherent group which has brought a minute to PYM plenary and set up two standing committees. The report (attachment 11) gives details of their plans for 1992, which will be changed, if necessary.

Bulletin Sondra Biel reported that Nancy Yarnall, the new editor, has been working five months and has introduced the larger size. Intermountain Yearly Meeting has decided not to increase its support or to appoint members to the committee at this time. North Pacific Yearly Meeting will consider both funding and committee participation at their next session. There are still problems with both finances and time, mostly connected with the editorial transition.

Friends Committee on National Legislation Steve Birdlebough reported that a written report will be distributed. This is the year FCNL decides on priorities. Meetings are urged to respond to the questionnaire which has already been distributed. There will be an interest group at yearly meeting for PYM input.

American Friends Service Committee Jean Walton reported that AFSC is adopting a new planning policy which will be presented at PYM. Both the Kara Newell, the new Executive Secretary, and Delany Bennett, new head on the corporation, may be in the west around the time of PYM and may be able to visit with us. AFSC representatives will contact the assistant clerk if an interest group or participation in a plenary session is possible.

9-92 Friends returned briefly to the Bulletin Committee report and approved directing the clerk to write a letter to Nancy Yarnall expressing our appreciation for her work.

Friends Committee on Legislation There was a brief report. However, Jane Peers was moved to share her experience as Friends representative to a religious lobby organized by FCL and other religious organizations. She got personal insights and feedback about the effectiveness of FCL from the experience.

Stratton Jaquette reported on his continuing representation of Friends on the Northern California Ecumenical Council. A major part of his effect there is to remind them that Quakers are here and how our beliefs differ from theirs.

The Representative Committee then returned to matters laid over from the morning session.

10-92 Walter Jones reminded us that if we authorize the increase in the JYM budget from \$2000.00 to \$3000.00, they do not need to spend it all. He continues to recommend authorizing the \$3000.00, even though that figure is based on having PYM at Chico for six days and the JYM committee has said they will probably need less if PYM is held elsewhere. Friends approved the increase to \$3000.00.

With regard to the fee structure, we will be using a different rate if we do not go to Chico. However, it was suggested that Friends approve the concept of a three stage fee schedule with everyone under 17 charged only for room and board with no day use fee.

There was discussion of day attender children who participate in the children's program when their parents do not attend the yearly meeting.

11-92 After considerable discussion, Friends minuted approval of the recommendation from Finance Committee that the fee structure be changed to include a children's subsidy and to eliminate the family maximum.

12-92 Friends approved the following minute:

The Emergency Site Committee of PYM is already empowered to select the site and time of the 1992 PYM session, trying to keep costs close to the 1991 costs and to hold the yearly meeting at the scheduled dates, if possible. After they have identified a facility, they are to give the figures to the Finance Committee, which will set the fee schedule. Finance Committee is empowered to set the fees without further reference to the Representative Committee **for this year, only.**

Long Range Planning Committee There was discussion of establishing an ad hoc Committee to Consider the Structure and Entire Role of the Yearly Meeting Sessions of PYM after 1992. A summary of the discussion and of the Clerk's comments follows.

1. How much should we be spending to go to PYM? The time and talent put in are valuable; we should not fuss too much about the money. The committee should look at realities of inflation, costs, and differences in ability to pay. Maybe we should include some PYM session costs in annual assessments. Compare ours with other yearly meetings. What talents and growth do we want to encourage?

Clerk: Should this be a committee of PYM, not Representative Committee?

2. This sounds like what we wanted from the M&O subcommittee on structure which was laid down last year.
3. The discussion on what parts of the PYM session we would give up for a shorter yearly meeting was valuable. We need both the M&O subcommittee and the ad hoc committee.
4. Consider the charge as stated by the clerk. The economic situation has forced choices on us.
5. We had a good time in the small groups discussing what we would give up or make priorities. The whole yearly meeting should get the chance to do it; a PYM plenary session would be best. Raise all the questions about what to sacrifice.
6. Approve a committee to get started on we will be in the same situation for 1993 as we are now.
7. PYM is not only the annual attenders, but monthly meetings. We should ask them to discuss this and send comments to the ad hoc committee.
8. Where does the committee report if we do not have PYM?
9. The ad hoc committee should report to the Representative Committee, whenever the Representative Committee next meets.
10. The problem comes from an economic bind. If we can decide to do without something, maybe camping, we can cut the price and won't have the problem.

Clerk: The goal of the ad hoc committee is to examine what we do with the days we spend together.

11. Is a basic finance problem driving us to do things too fast?

Clerk: The Emergency Committee will take care of 1992. Do we need to rush now?

12. This is probably the last year for camping. That is not a minor change. Let's get started.
13. It wasn't just the finances, and my small group wasn't running scared.
14. It wasn't just finances--we have been having trouble getting facilities for the children's program for years.

15. PYM is a monopoly, and it is ours. We can do things and find different ways. If we take it back to M&O, it is going to need a lot of fixing up.

The following minute was approved with Stratton Jaquette standing aside.

Representative Committee shall appoint an ad hoc Committee to Consider the Structure and Entire Role of the Annual PYM Sessions beyond 1992. The committee is to consider economic factors as well as matters of the goals of the sessions. It is to consider and study a wide range of designs for yearly meeting sessions as well as the history of this yearly meeting. It is to contact monthly meetings soliciting their input, and it is to report to the next Representative Committee meeting.

Each of us could/should do the exercise we did here in small groups with our monthly meetings. We need to hear from the people who do not go to PYM.

13-92 The meeting approved minuting our appreciation to the Friends of Berkeley and Strawberry Creek meetings for their hospitality.

Friends were reminded that since we have created an ad hoc committee (also referred to as the Long Range Planning Committee), we should name members. The following names were suggested for consideration as committee members:

Mark Koenig	Ellie Foster
Ben Farley	Diana Lockard
Steve Birdlebough	Joan Johnson
Marilee Eusebio	Paul Niebanck
Robert Vogel	
Quarterly Meeting clerks or representatives	
David Calderon or some other Young Friend	

14-92 The meeting approved asking the PYM Clerk to name a committee from the names suggested and others which may be suggested to her before the minutes are mailed. (The composition of this committee will be included as attachment 12.)

The question was raised, "If there is no yearly meeting session, will Representative Committee meet in August?". The Emergency Committee will decide.

It was suggested that if the Long Range Committee is to meet, it needs a budget. Friends approved transferring \$1000.00 from reserves to the ad hoc committee line item in the budget. Funds for the smaller ad hoc committees can also come from this line item.

It wa remarked that in reference to the minute creating the Emergency Planning Committee, the committee was not empowered to decide not to hold PYM if they cannot find a site. We were reminded that Representative Committee meets at the call of the clerk, and that, if the Emergency Planning Committee feels unable to make the decision, the clerk can consult with others and, as needed, call a meeting.

After silent worship, the meeting adjourned, to meet again as way opens.

REPORT OF SO. CA. QUARTERLY MEETING TO REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF PYM
 February 29, 1992
 Reported by Jean Malcolm, Clerk

As you know, So. Ca. Quarter has lost the wise leadership and sensitive spirit of our former presiding Clerk, Hermione Baker, whose long struggle against cancer ended on February 6. Not only will the quarter miss her, but also Pacific Yearly Meeting will feel her loss. She gave a great deal during her life to the Religious Society of Friends.

I have agreed to be Clerk of the Quarter, and with your help and patience our work will continue to go forward and we will continue to seek paths to greater spiritual growth.

The Quarter has had other setbacks recently. We had to cancel our Mid-Winter Fellowship Meeting, scheduled for February 14 - 16, at a beautiful sylvan glen near Santa Monica, because of the floods and mud slides which plagued the Los Angeles area. It has been rescheduled as Mid-Spring Fellowship for May 22 - 24.

Because of the postponement of our February meeting, we have not been able to take action on four Minutes which are before us.

The first Minute concerns the relationship between the Quarter and the ^{Pacific}Southwest Regional Office of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC/PSWRO). Exploration of common concerns at meetings between the two organizations has produced the following Minute:

1. That a representative to both the So. Ca. Area Program Comm. and the Executive Comm. of AFSC/PSWRO be appointed by the SCQM. (Representatives to be identified in 1992 by the SCQM Peace and Social Order Comm.)
2. That an interim committee composed of four members representing SCQM and four members representing the AFSC/PSWRO be established. (SCQM representatives to be identified in 1992 by the SCQM P&SO Comm.) The functions of this committee will include acting as a vehicle for communication between the two organizations and exploring possible joint projects.
3. That the role of Monthly Meeting liaisons to AFSC be enhanced with an emphasis on two-way communication. The Interim Committee will be responsible for developing proposals to accomplish this.

Report of PYM Finance Committee, March 1, 1992. Berkeley Meeting House

The Finance Committee recommends the following changes in this year's budget.

1. Faith and Practice Revision Committee increased from \$1400 to \$1800. Increase Transfer from Reserves from \$3512 to \$3912.
2. Under PYM Session Expenses. Increase Junior Yearly Meeting from \$2000 to \$3000. Increase to be funded by adding to fees from attenders.

Recommended Fee Schedule for PYM in Chico in August (Categories are those used last year)

Category	This Year			Last Year	
	2-11	12-17	18+	2-11	12+
A	25.50	40	51	18	36
B	21.50	32	43	14	28
C	18.50	26	37	12.50	25
D	15	19	30	9.50	19
E	11	11	22	7.50	15
F	12	16	27	9	18
G	7	7	18	6	12
H	0	0	11	3.50	7

In place of a family maximum, which has not been very effective, we are recommending that children under 18 not be charged for fees to cover our operating expenses and that this portion of adult fees be increased to compensate. Also, we have anticipated about 20% fewer attenders due to high costs.

With regard to high costs we have 2 recommendations.

1. That an ad hoc committee be appointed to consider the entire role of the Yearly Meeting Session.
2. That an interim committee named by the Clerk be empowered to investigate the possibility of not going to Craig Hall Complex this year, and make a final decision by April 1. If another location is chosen, the fee schedule would be modified accordingly.

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING**of the RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**

SITES COMMITTEE REPORT FROM SOUTHERN AREA MEMBERS TO REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE - 2nd Month, 29th, 1992

The Southern California Members of the Sites Committee have investigated 25 sites from Fresno County southward. Among those sites are:

5 State Universities	10 Private Colleges
6 Commercial facilities	5 Church related facilities

Of these 26 sites only one institution was willing to consider permitting us to camp and unfortunately they would not be harmonious with Friends ways.

We have received generous assistance in our search from Pat Adkisson-Smith, a member of Claremont Meeting and the Assistant Director of Administrative Services at Claremont McKenna College, from Claire Gorfinkle of the AFSC who shared an extensive site search made by the AFSC in the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Ventura, and from Cary Wheeland formerly the Food Service Director at the University of La Verne. Cary is now the District Manager of the Education Division of a food management company that services several colleges in Southern California. He is familiar with our needs and has been an excellent resource particularly in the pricing modes of various facilities. He is actively searching for a site for us.

Fees are rising at all the institutions investigated and food prices are particularly effected. The small sample of food fees offered here are the current prices for 1992 and are expected to be increased in 1993:

Fresno State University	\$14.50	3.70/B	5.00/L	5.80/D
Hume Lake Christian Camp	\$18.00	4.50/B	6.00/L	7.50/D
Claremont/McKenna College	\$13.00 for 351 - 400 participants per day			
	\$12.25 for 301 - 350 participants per day			
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	\$17.50	4.25/B	5.50/L	7.75/D
Craig Hall/Chico	\$19.50	5.00/B	6.50/L	8.00/D

The Southern Committee continues to explore new sites and is currently involved in negotiations with the Conference Director at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Sincerely,



Joan Johnson, Co-Clerk
Sites Committee
(Southern Area)

REPORT FROM REGISTRARS

1. Registration Form

Need impute from committees (contact Betty Miller)

- Worship/Fellowship
- Children's Program
- Junior Yearly Meeting
- Young Friends

Need input by mid-March in order to make changes and publish the form in May, 1992, Friends Bulletin

2. Registration Confirmation Packet

This packet will go to each PYM family that has registered. Opportunity for committees to provide orientation material (e.g. volunteer information)

- Presiding Clerk (welcome and schedule)
- Children's Program (program descriptions and emergency forms)
- Junior Yearly Meeting
- Young Friends
- Arrangements Committee
- Peace Committee
- Worship/Fellowship

I will send reminder to committees--need committee input by early July--limit one page

3. Registration Status to Committees

We plan to provide on a regular basis (perhaps weekly starting early July) lists of registrants who have volunteered, names of registrants for Children's Program and Junior Yearly Meeting

HONOLULU MONTHLY MEETING'S REPORT TO
REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

Since PYM met in August, 1991, Honolulu Monthly Meeting has welcomed two members and one sojourning member; three babies (including one on the Big Island); and a returned sojourning member from Tokyo. Fumiye Miho, long time member of this meeting sojourned in Tokyo for 36 years. At the August Hiroshima remembrance, she spoke movingly of her personal experience of being there at the time of the destruction.

Our first day school faces the challenge of responding to the needs of more than twenty regularly attending children.

Our annual festival was held in October, and we raised over \$12000.00 to give to AFSC-HI and to various organizations through recommendations by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. There is a continuing problem in finding a person to clerk this worthwhile but enormous project.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been working on various issues; Iraqi sanctions, New Korea Policy, Alternatives to Violence among them.

The most difficult issue we faced this past few months was our approval of a minute allowing marriages to be undertaken under the care of the meeting, regardless of the sex of the applicants. This approval came after long and painful discussion and with some members opposed. Mindful of the pair, we held a threshing meeting on the meaning of marriage under the care of the meeting. The process will be an ongoing one.

**Report from the Religious Education Committee
Pacific Yearly Meeting**

This report was prepared in response to concerns which arose at the August, 1991, meeting of PYM. Our charge, as we see it, was to gather information as to: a) whether First Day Schools have need for resources or support from sources outside their own meetings, b) what sorts of support might reasonably be provided, and c) whether the Religious Education Committee would be an appropriate source of support.

In response to this charge, the members of the Religious Education Committee met in October 1991 and drafted a questionnaire and cover letter which was sent to the clerk or FDS clerk of all of the monthly meetings, preparatory meetings, and worship groups located within the U.S. boundaries of PYM. Below is a chart of the questionnaires sent out and returned, by Quarter. We have gathered some additional responses by telephone since this draft was written, and, though specific data are not presented here, we found the general trends to be the same.

Southern California Quarterly Meeting

	Sent Out	Returned
Monthly Meetings	17	11
Preparatory Meetings	0	
Worship Groups	5	1
Totals	22	12

College Park Quarterly Meeting

	Sent Out	Returned
Monthly Meetings	18	8
Preparatory Meetings	3	3
Worship Groups	10	5
Totals	31	15

We know that the non-responses from the Southern Quarter are due to the fact that there are no children in those meetings or worship groups. We have yet to hear from a few meetings in the Northern Quarter, some of which have goodly numbers of children. We are in the process of follow-up telephone calls, to ensure that our results are as accurate as possible.

As we summarize our findings for you, it is difficult to express the way individual circumstances touched us deeply. Several people went to an enormous amount of trouble to collect information about the history of their FDS programs, the lessons taught over the past few years, and to express their joys and frustrations. Others who made shorter responses were able, by a succinct phrase, to give us a very personal glimpse into the life of their FDS and their struggles. Our report gives you the facts, figures, and trends. At the end we have included our conclusions.

The questionnaire which we prepared is divided into three parts. The first includes a set of questions which deal with the organization, structure, and mechanics of FDSchools. The responses to these questions have given us a broad picture of the size of the meeting or worship group, the number of children who come, and the organization of their First Day Schools. The second part of the questionnaire deals with the goals and aims of the First Day Schools, their successes and their problems. The responses to these questions have enabled us to visualize the strengths and needs of the different FDS programs. The last part of the questionnaire asks whether the respondents have thought of using the PYM Religious Education Committee, and asks whether help in areas such as curriculum, workshops, or other areas would be helpful. This has enabled us to determine in which areas we might be able to provide assistance.

I. Organization and Structure:

The responses to the survey tell us that meetings have a wide range in the numbers of children attending FDS. Smaller groups may have from 2-5 total children, medium sized groups may have from 5-20 children, and larger groups from 20-50 children. In most meetings teenagers are counted in a separate category from the FDS, and the ages of the children who are counted for FDS range from 2 months to 12 years.

A few meetings have active teen programs, but most teens either attend Meeting for Worship, no longer attend, or help with the younger children.

Most of the meetings or worship groups which responded to the questionnaire have at least some children and either have a first day school or are trying to get one started. Out of 27 responses, 13 groups indicated that their FDS committee is part of the Religious Education Committee, 10 indicated that there are separate committees, and 4 indicated that their group is so small that they don't have either

committee. 8 meetings and worship groups have a formal description of the workings of the FDS committee, and 15 do not. Most of the formal descriptions that exist do not include a statement of the direction which the meeting wishes the FDS to emphasize: ie. religious instruction, community building, Quaker values, etc.

Most FDS programs teach one group of children which includes all ages except babies and toddlers. Some meetings have regular volunteers who provide care for babies and toddlers, some have one or two paid people plus volunteers, and one meeting has teenagers who provide this care. One meeting is working on creating activities in which toddlers can join older children for at least part of the time. Some of the larger meetings have 2, 3, or even 4 other groups of children, depending on the number actively attending. The groups range in size from 2 or 3 children to as many as 6 or 10, again depending on the number of children who show up. 15 meetings indicated that they have one adult per group of children, and 8 indicated that there are two adults per group. Some meetings also have occasional adults from the meeting who come and help. Adults commit to teach FDS anywhere from one First Day at a time, to 3 or 4 weeks at a time, to the full year.

In 15 meetings children attend Meeting For Worship at the beginning, in 9 meetings children attend at the end, in 2 meetings childrens' attendance at Meeting for Worship is optional, and in 1 meeting children do not attend at all. In one meeting children worship at the beginning and come back at the end to report on their activities during FDS. The amount of time children spend in Meeting for Worship ranges from 5-20 minutes.

II. Goals, aims, successes and Needs:

The responses to the questionnaire tell us that meetings through their First Day Schools have these aims:

- a) to help children develop Quakerly ways and attitudes;
- b) to validate children, to make them members of the meeting community and encourage them to feel appreciated as such, and to facilitate the development of a Quaker peer community among themselves;
- c) to give them (within a curriculum) information about Christianity, Quakerism, and major religions, and to help them develop values including taking a personal stand; and

- d) within a safe, enjoyable, loving environment offer them possibility for spiritual experience.

These aims are consistent for all age groups, though activities might differ.

Meetings feel successful about their First Day School efforts:

- a) because of the way friendly relationships have developed within groups of children and between individual children and adults resulting in mutual appreciation and a sense of Quaker identity among the kids;
- b) in that they are happy with their organization and structure, their ability to staff a FDS, or in their ability to begin or maintain a FDS at all;
- c) in their Family Meeting for Worship; and/or
- d) with their strong teen age groups.

The problems that were most frequently mentioned were:

- a) small numbers of children, irregular attendance, an uncomfortably large age spread, and loss of interest among some children leading to discipline problems; and
- b) problems stemming from lack of suitable adult help, burn-out among helpers, lack of continuity, lack of curriculum, lack of unity about appropriate content, lack of supportive understanding from the meeting, and inadequate FDS facilities.

Most of these problems are of the kind that are likely to remain because the variables are many and difficult to control. If we are confronted with these problems, temporarily or permanently, we will find ways to live with them. What we can do is try to find ways of taking the sharp edges off them. Our questions are: 1) What can a meeting as a whole do to make a FDS function better under difficult circumstances? 2) How can meetings help each other by sharing experiences, curriculum, material, children, and by giving moral support? 3) What can be done through The Friends Bulletin? 4) What can the Quarterly Meetings do? 5) What can be done by the Yearly Meeting, during the August session and throughout the year?

III. Possible role of the Religious Education Committee:

Only 4 meetings indicated that they had at some time asked PYM for help or advice, 3 were thinking about it, and 17 had never tried. Responses indicated that advice or help would be useful in the areas of:

Curriculum (14)

Assessment of materials (10)

Workshops (11)

Informal visits and discussions (11)

General moral support and sharing of experiences (15)

Sharing of newsletters, FDS reports, curriculum materials (4)

There were 12 meetings who gave suggestions for inter-meeting activities which could be held on a regular basis to give children a better opportunity to meet other Quaker kids. This was considered most important for the teenage level.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The number and promptness of answers to the questionnaire and the tone of the answers convey two things: 1) that there are Friends putting their hearts and souls into FDS work and that many of them are in small, isolated places where it feels like lonesome work; and 2) that they need support and they deserve it. The question is how to best give it, since some of their problems are not likely to go away permanently. Offers of support would have to be continuing in order to be meaningful and useful.

It seems to us that support could function at all levels. Some problems, such as lack of adult volunteers, discontinuity of ideas, and irregular attendance can be addressed within meetings as meetings work on becoming more aware of their FDS needs, become clearer in direction and more courageous and willing in participation.

Some problems could be alleviated through sharing of experiences and ideas. The sharing could take place through a column in the Bulletin, through visits and observations of other meetings, and through sharing sessions at PYM and Quarterly Meetings.

PYM or Quarterly Meetings could offer workshops, inviting FDS teachers to share activities, strategies, and approaches to retaining childrens'

interest and promoting self-esteem and positive discipline. Effective materials could be shared and networking systems developed.

The PYM committee could continue to encourage First Day Schools to share their needs and successes on a regular (probably annual) basis, and serve as a match-making service to facilitate networking. For example, in the surveys one meeting expressed a need for a type of curriculum that another meeting is using and is happy with. One small worship group with children from just one family wants to start a FDS. We see that other groups have handled that. Why not put them in touch with each other?

Prepared by: Barbara Babin; Marilee Eusebio; Maria May;
Gerry Maynard; Ingrid Petersen, clerk.

February 18, 1992

February 26, 1992

Report to Representative Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Role and Function of the Religious Education Committee.

Rep. Comm. 91-10 (spring, 1991) created an ad hoc committee consisting of Clerks of Nominating, Religious Education, Discipline, and Ministry and Oversight Committees, to consider the role and function of the PYM Religious Education Committee and report back to Representative Committee. Giving rise to this request was a report from the Clerk of the Religious Education Committee which stressed the difficulties the committee had been having in meeting, and in covering both adult and children's religious education matters within the yearly meeting.

In August, 1991, yearly meeting appointed a new Religious Education Committee to function for one year. Their specific charge was to conduct a survey among the meetings and worship groups of the yearly meeting to determine the needs and circumstances of First Day Schools of the constituent meetings.

Having read the report of the Religious Education Committee, and having consulted with that committee and among ourselves, the ad hoc committee makes the following recommendations:

1) That the yearly meeting Religious Education Committee focus exclusively on the support and nurture of children's religious education and First Day Schools. There are several helpful suggestions of strategies and ways this can be done effectively in the Religious Education Committee's report: through networking, through stronger use of yearly meeting resources, through use of a *Friends Bulletin* column, etc. A good base has been laid by this report.

2) That adult religious education which has been under the Religious Education Committee (though not much addressed by it), be removed from the responsibility of that committee. There are some vehicles already in place to address adult religious education within the yearly meeting: the Ministry and Oversight Subcommittee on Workshops on Quaker Process; Quaker Spiritual Quest; the two quarterly meetings. The Religious Education Committee can better do its job if it has one primary focus.

Kitty Barragato, Clerk; Sally
Davis, Laura Magnani, Jean Malcolm

February 29, 1992

To: Representative Committee

From: Kay Anderson, East-West Relations Committee
KA

We would like to have two interest group times in addition to the plenary time for the 1992 PYM. One group will be on last fall's trip and the other one to discuss the results of our thinking this year about the work of East-West Committee in the post Cold war era.

We are holding a workshop this spring to reexamine our mission and seek clarity about what our direction should be at this time. We hope to bring to PYM this summer a recommendation either to lay the committee down or a new change to fit the new era we find ourselves in.

Meanwhile there are efforts occurring in the area of emergency relief. Attached is some work done by the SF Meeting to summarize ways people could participate.

January 11, 1991

From: Kay Anderson, Convener: San Francisco Ad Hoc Group regarding Russia
Emergency

Emergency Food and Medicine Relief to the Former Soviet Union

We hear through personal contacts some members of the San Francisco Friends Meeting have with people in Russia, that vulnerable people in that society will suffer severely over the next few months with the shortages of food, medicine and fuel. An Ad Hoc Committee of the San Francisco Friends Meeting convened itself to gather information about different pathways that emergency food and medical supplies are being taken to the former Soviet Union, and the advocacy that would be useful. We urge you to help with funds or action directed towards government help.

Below are listed a summary of the finding of the group.

Food and Medicines for Needy Groups

- Tamalpais Institute is conducting a **Russian Winter Campaign** using Russian Military transport. In December 200 tons of medicine went in and this month, 75 tons of food and 25 tons of medicine are scheduled for delivery. The supplies are privately delivered there to pensioners, the disabled, and children's hospitals. They are seeking Dept of Agriculture funds, but in the meantime they need our help.

Send donations to:

Tamalpais-Russian Winter Campaign

1329 Noriega

San Francisco, CA 94122

Telephone 415-665-1345

Russian Winter Campaign also needs volunteers. Call them for information.

- **Heart to Heart** is a program which generally takes cardiologists to St Petersburg to examine children and teach American treatment of pediatric cardiology. They are taking in a large quantity of medicines for children's hospitals in St Petersburg. Next trip is February and then September.

They need donations of funds:

Heart to Heart

2300 Webster St #505

Oakland, CA 94609

Tel 510-839-4280

- **Global Family** is taking in funds to buy food on the commodity markets in Moscow and donating it to the soup kitchens and shelters. 15% of the money raised will go towards long term sustainable projects. Funds for Global Family can be sent to:
Global Family

REPORT TO REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 1992

(FROM THE JYM COMMITTEE)

As you may remember, Junior Yearly Meeting in 1991 had almost twice as many participants (57 compared to 33-34) as in recent years. As a result of the unexpected number of JYM'ers, the JYM committee members and advisors were dearly overworked in 1991 and had difficulty participating in any other PYM activities.

In anticipation of another large group of JYM'ers, and in recognition of the fact that working eight hours with the teens deserves to be considered a full-time job, our committee is requesting additional funds to pay for more JYM advisors, who are usually Young Friends. We will be splitting the days into morning, afternoon, and evening sessions, and will expect each advisor to work two of the three sessions. Our budget request is for an increase from \$2000 to \$2800. In view of the fact that we will be working with almost twice the number of teens, a 40% increase seems reasonable.

Another major need for PYM will be more space for the JYM activities. Even though the JYM decided in 1990 to combine the junior and senior high groups, at least two large lounge rooms and 6 or 8 small rooms for worship-fellowship time will be needed.

The program itself will probably be similar to previous years, and will include daily worship-fellowship groups, a camp-out, a work project, and providing monitors for the vigil. We will plan some interest groups for the teens (probably an Alternatives to Violence workshop, and possibly involvement with the Chico Native American Student Association). Swim parties, Capture the Flag, and other recreational and creative activities, as well as business meetings, will round out the week. Specific decision about the week will be worked out at our committee meetings, starting tomorrow. We will try to involve volunteers from PYM as much as possible, and will probably again coordinate with the Children's Program to have some interaction of the different age groups.

So far this year, the JYM committee has communicated only by phone and letters. The first real meeting will be on Sunday, March 1st, and will also involve the ex officio members (the JYM co-clerks, the committee clerks of the JYM Peace committee and the JYM Ministry, Oversight, and Planning Committee, and several of the JYM advisors).

We are looking forward to working together on the JYM program, and will certainly appreciate any thoughts or suggestions for it.

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING COMMITTEE ON UNITY WITH NATURE

REPORT TO PYM REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE, SPRING 1992

The Pacific Yearly Meeting Committee on Unity with Nature has met twice so far this year. We are organizing an Easter weekend work and worship conference at Ben Lomond (flyer attached) including Good Friday and Easter sunrise meetings for worship and a work project along the San Lorenzo River. We are also co-sponsoring the Friends Lenten Desert Experience.

We are surveying meetings for information that will help the committee to encourage and support the activities of meetings and individual Friends.

An on-going project is the review of our advices and queries and the development of a Friends Testimony on unity with nature, following guidelines from the Discipline Committee.

We continue to publish *EarthLight* magazine, now under the editorship of Paul Burks with the guidance of an *EarthLight* Subcommittee. Issue #6 has just been printed and will be mailed next week. Contributions from individuals and meetings so that we can expand our subscription base are greatly appreciated.

We still hear concerns that PYM sessions can become more environmentally responsible. PYM has done well in the past, but can continue to improve. How do we share this concern with all PYM committees and yearly meeting registrants?

We have two topics for interest groups at PYM on our committee agenda so far: first, following-up on UNCED, and, second, working toward a testimony on unity with nature. We ask that these not be scheduled at the same time or in conflict with the Secretariat Committee's interest group on newsletters.

We also wish to organize two early morning bio-region tours, leaving Craig Hall at 6 am and returning at 9 am. Each tour would include an ecologically responsible breakfast and a period of worship. We propose scheduling these tours on Tuesday and Friday mornings with sign-ups by dinner time the day before.

RESTORATION ECOLOGY

EASTER WORK and WORSHIP WEEKEND

Ben Lomond Quaker Center, Santa Cruz Co., CA - April 17-19, 1992

Sponsored by the Pacific Yearly Meeting Committee on Unity with Nature



Come early on Good Friday [if you can] for a 3:00 pm Friends Meeting for Worship in the Redwood Circle.

On Saturday, there will be a restoration ecology work project. Bring work gloves and work clothes. We will find ways to include everyone, regardless of abilities.

RESOURCE PEOPLE: Kathleen Van Velsor-Newton and Eric Sabelman, Directors of the Montara Institute for Citizen Research, Planning, and Action
Paul Burks, editor, *EarthLight* magazine
Bruce Davis, Community Action Bd. of Santa Cruz Co.

Easter Morning Sunrise Meeting for Worship

Registration: Lodge room and six meals	\$65.00
Camping and six meals	\$55.00

Return Registration by April 10, 1992 (after April 10, add \$5.00 per person) to: Tom Farley, Clerk, PYMCUN, 1301 Himmel Ave., Redwood City CA, 94061 (415) 366-1818 Make checks to PYMCUN

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Name _____

phone (____) _____

Address _____

Lodge + Meals \$65.00 _____

Camp + Meals \$50.00 _____

Request for scholarship aid _____

donation to scholarship _____

Special Needs _____

after April 10 \$ 5.00 _____

Total (PYMCUN) _____

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING

of the RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

January 3, 1992

TO: PYM Officers, PYM Committee Clerks, Quarterly Meeting Clerks, and Monthly Meeting Representatives

RE: Representative Committee Meeting to be held on Saturday, Feb. 29 and possibly Sunday, March 1st at Berkeley Meeting House 2151 Vine St., Berkeley, CA 94700
and
Pacific Yearly Meeting to be held August 3-8, 1992 at Chico, CA.

Dear Friends;

We have been invited to hold our usual Spring meeting under the care of Berkeley Friends, assisted by Strawberry Creek Friends. Despite the disastrous fire in which some of their members suffered greatly, they have assured me that they feel ready to welcome us. We are a bit off schedule, since both Representative Committee and Yearly Meeting will be meeting in the northern area, but we are also off schedule in the place of the Yearly Meeting, so it seemed best to hold to the pattern, at least for this year.

Therefore, Representative Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting will meet on Saturday, February 29 at Berkeley Meetinghouse from 9:00 a.m. 'til 9:30 p.m. If we cannot complete our work by that time, we will need to continue on Sunday morning. Some committees will meet on Friday, Feb. 28: arrangements for these meetings and announcements of committee meetings will be made by the committee clerks. Since we will need to start early and promptly on Saturday morning, Friends coming from any distance should plan to travel on Friday and either make their own arrangements or request sleeping accommodations on Friday night.

It is a pleasure to look forward to being hosted by Friends from Berkeley and Strawberry Creek, who are jointly arranging for our hospitality. At this writing, I have the names of the two Hospitality Committee Clerks. Alice Chalip serves Berkeley Meeting in that way, as Erica Atkin Orvis does Strawberry Creek. Please write or phone Alice, letting her know of the times of your arrival and departure and of the manner of transportation you will be using. I expect to be able to include a map in my next month's mailing for those of you who plan to drive.

As soon as possible, please send the above information to:

Alice Chalip
636 Tarryton Isle
Alameda, CA 94501 Tel: (510) 522 4187

Please try to make your reservations early, since there are usually much better prices if you do so. Reimbursements for travel expenses come directly from the Treasurers for everyone except Monthly Meeting Representatives. Monthly Meeting Reps. should expect to receive travel funds from their Meetings, which will be partially reimbursed according to the PYM guidelines. (Monthly Meetings can simply endorse these checks over to their representatives, if they so desire.) Clerks of Subcommittees of the Yearly Meeting are reimbursed if they are requested to attend by the Clerk of their major Committee. If there is any confusion about reimbursement policies or amounts, your Monthly Meeting Clerk should have a copy of a very clear statement prepared by the PYM Treasurers.

Purpose: Representative Committee meets in March to continue, as a corporate body, the work of Pacific Yearly Meeting. We may take action on behalf of PYM if the action is needed prior to the Annual Meeting in August and providing that the action does not involve any new principle for PYM. We will also need to take action in the following 5 areas:

(1) Name the Committee to Name the Nominating Committee, a 3-member Ad Hoc Committee which will report to Representative Committee in August with the names of the new Nominating Committee.

1/3/92, p.2

(2) Hear about the work of our Committees, their plans for the August session, and any recommendations they may have. It is important that Committee reports be clear and carefully prepared so that Friends may have the information they need in order to consider any action requested by the committees.

(3) Prepare the Agenda for the 1992 Annual Session of Pacific Yearly Meeting. You will recall that Friends have been asking for and suggesting a few changes in our procedures. Evaluations indicate that the changes we made a year ago in our planning were well received on the whole. However, I believe we are all aware that there are some areas which need further examination and refining. There are also some other adjustments which have been suggested for a long time and which we may want to consider at this session in February.

(4) Advise Committees, Officers, and Meetings about work to be done in the coming months.

(5) Gather information about requests from Committees or other groups for Interest Groups, Sharing Groups, or other activities to be considered for inclusion at PYM. Also, any particular concerns being brought by Representatives from Monthly Meetings needing examination, discussion, or action prior to PYM in August should be brought here.

There will be time on the February Agenda for a limited amount of necessary reporting, although the actual annual reports of Yearly Meeting Committees belong to the Yearly Meeting and not to Representative Committee. Reports made to Rep. Comm. should be relative to the work of Rep. Comm. and related to the planning of Yearly Meeting, unless a Committee needs some guidance or response prior to that date. This Rep. Comm. meeting is the time and the place for laying detailed plans for the Agenda in August. It will be a help if you can get your requests and needs to Jane Mills, Assistant Clerk, as soon as you know them. Jane Mills is also Clerk of the Agenda Review Committee.

I will be writing to you again around the first of February, mostly to be sure you have all the information you need in order to register and also to get into your hands the agenda I will have prepared for the Rep. Comm. meeting. If you have considerations you would like me to have in mind, please get them to me before the 1st of Feb.

Monthly Meetings are urged to appoint Representatives who are aware of and capable of expressing the views of the Meeting, interested in the work of PYM, and capable of carrying clear reports and/or requests for discussion or action back to the Monthly Meeting. It is particularly helpful to both the Monthly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting if these Friends are able to attend both the Representative Committee Meetings and the Yearly Meeting Annual Session and if they do not carry heavy responsibilities within the Yearly Meeting. Monthly Meetings are urged to appoint both a Representative and an Observer. Usually the same persons serve in that capacity relative to the Quarterly Meetings. The post of Observer is important both as an alternative in case of need and as a part of training for leadership among us. There are no PYM budgeted funds for the Observer, so Meetings or Representatives may want to make special arrangements for travel. Friends are referred to pages 68-69 of FAITH AND PRACTICE for a clear description of the function and composition of the Representative Committee.

A special note to Committee Clerks: Thank you for working with the suggestions made last year. It seems important that a few matters be clarified among us and possibly discussed further. First, the matter of presenting reports: It was certainly never the thought of any Friends that Committees should not have time on the Agenda! Quite to the contrary, the thought was that if Reports (that is, reports of actions taken during the past year) could be presented in written form at the start of the Yearly Meeting, Friends would have the opportunity to read and "season" them prior to the Plenary Session at which the Committee appeared. Such a design, according to the experience of several other Yearly Meetings and in the opinion of several Friends, would free the Plenary time (always precious among us!) for in-depth discussion of matters on which a Committee desires the guidance and seasoning of the wider group of Friends present at Yearly Meeting. Such items might be projects which are under consideration, statements of principles which Committees are trying to articulate, or other soul-searching matters on which the

Committee wants the guidance of corporate Light. **If you have concerns or help about this, please come prepared to offer them at Rep.Comm. or write to me this month.** Our experiment last summer seemed to presage well for the future, although I'm sure we are all aware that there were several awkwardnesses. I hope that we will be able to articulate a practice on which we are all clear during our work together in Berkeley.

In the matter of Minutes from Committees for approval by the Y.M.: It is of the greatest help if Minutes can be written and made available to Friends in advance. Any Minute will be best understood if a few paragraphs precede the actual Minute. These introductory paragraphs should give some of the background of the Minute - enough so that Friends can understand how the Minute arose and some of the thinking of the Committee in creating and supporting the Minute. On the same page, following the background information and the Minute itself, there should be a written statement of how this Minute is expected to be used and by whom. Such a presentation has been found to help Friends focus on the Minute itself and center into a worshipful consideration of it. **If you have advice or concerns about this, please come prepared to offer them at Rep.Comm. or write to me this month.** The use of transparencies seemed to be helpful last year. Friends may want to come prepared to utilize this paper - and energy-saving technique.

On the whole, evaluations indicate that Friends do like having the Minutes recording the work of the session read back at the session at which they are generated. The loose-leaf books on the front table were an attempt to be sure that all Friends could read them by the following day. It did not go as smoothly as we had hoped, and we will all need to consider the many implications and ramifications in order to solve this problem. **If you have suggestions about this, please come prepared to offer them at Rep.Comm. or write to me this month.** We surely do need to be clearer about our procedures in this area! It may be that we (Representative Committee) may want to consider recommending to the Yearly Meeting that there be a formal committee created whose duty is to read and edit the Minutes of Record. Minutes of Action, of course, are approved and stand as approved.

There are probably other matters which you will wish to discuss. It will take both discipline and faith for us to find the path we are supposed to follow. I am looking forward to being with you as we seek together to find and to follow the Light during our Meeting for Worship on the occasion of doing the business of Representative Committee. May you be well and of good courage until we meet.

In peace and with love,

Jane W. Peers

Jane W. Peers, Clerk
808 Melba Rd.
Encinitas, CA 92024
(619) 753 6146