

MINUTES -- Second-Month, 28th, 1998
Claremont Friends Meetinghouse, Claremont, California

1. *OPENING* In our opening worship we marveled at the wonder of flocks of small birds who soar and wheel together even amid the towers of the city.

Larry Perry made arrangement announcements for our day together. Presiding clerk Eric Moon presented the day's agenda and a draft of the schedule for our summer session. We began with an exercise called "appreciative inquiry", asking those sitting next to us what they liked most about their Monthly Meeting and about Yearly Meeting, then introducing each other to Representative Committee.

PYM RepCom 98-1 We accepted the services of Sandra Farley as recording clerk in the absence of MaryBeth Webster.

Margaret Mossman, Assistant Clerk, referred us to the packets of information about whom to see for what -- and by when -- in preparing for Yearly Meeting. She then read excerpts from some of the 149 evaluations received last August

2. *TREASURER* Phyllis Jones, Co-Treasurer, explained the differences between column 1, budget, and column 2, actuals, on pages 1 and 2 and led us through major points in the balance sheet, page 3 (Attachment 1). We have reserves beyond one year's operating expenses so "we are in very good shape."

PYM RepCom 98-2 We accepted the Treasurer's report for FY97 and the interim report through 2-19-98.

3. *FINANCE COMMITTEE* Harry Bailey reported for the Finance Committee. He presented the proposed budget for the summer session 1998, which will be more expensive than previous years. Finance Committee proposes we create a \$10,000 attendance assistance line item (6231 on page 4) and solicit extraordinary contributions to offset as much of it as possible.

Reconvened after a delicious lunch of sandwiches, salad, and fruit catered by Claremont Friends, Harry Bailey continued the Finance Committee report.

PYM RepCom 98-3 We approved a \$300 augmentation of the Unity with Nature Committee's budget for the current year, answering to the high level of activity in that committee this year.

Further discussion of the attendance assistance provisions ensued with both practical and philosophical considerations. The anticipated need for such assistance seems clear, but questions about how best to make it work within Yearly and Monthly Meetings were raised. We asked a small group of Friends -- Steve Birdlebough, Mimi Edgar, Brian Vura-Weis, and Harry Bailey -- to work out these details in line with the concerns raised.

PYM RepCom 98-4 We approved the budget proposed for our 1998 annual sessions as shown in column 4, page 4 of Attachment 1.

4. **ARRANGEMENTS** Arrangements clerks, Noel Cragg and Sue Torrey, reported on plans for meeting our needs this summer. As indicated on Margaret Mossman's chart of timelines, they urge that requests for space and equipment be received by May 31. They noted that display space may be outdoors, so bring paperweights and dew-resistant covers. They answered questions about the Mount Madonna Center site.

5. **REGISTRARS** Registrars Mimi Edgar and John de ValCourt reminded us that because the food service is seen by our hosts as part of their religious service to their guests, we must not bring any food onto the site. We will have snacks available from the dining hall and snack shack, and we are allowed to take uneaten items away from the meal tables.

The registrars distributed copies of a proposed fee schedule for attenders, developed with the help of Finance Committee. Camping will be the cheapest housing option, and they ask that any who can camp do so. Significant differences from previous YM fee schedules were noted.

PYM RepCom 98-5 We approved this year's fee schedule, with some suggestions for clarifying the explanatory introduction.

6. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** Clerk Gary Wolff reported for the Nominating Committee, presenting their interim report. The Committee recommends **Jeannie Graves** (Orange County Meeting) to fill a term ending August 2000 on the Board of Directors of the *Friends Bulletin* (this nomination to be considered for approval later today).

Gary encouraged Representatives to promote Yearly Meeting participation and to invite Friends in their Meetings to fill out survey forms indicating how they might be willing to serve.

7. **NAMING COMMITTEE** The Clerk then called for nominations from the floor to constitute a Naming Committee to propose three new members and to designate a clerk for the Nominating Committee, for the year commencing August 1998.

PYM RepCom 98-6 We approved the following Friends to serve: **Tom Huff** (Honolulu Friends Meeting), **Kimi Nagatani** (Orange County Friends), **Lois Bailey** (Grass Valley Friends) as convenor, and **Jim Anderson** (Chico Friends), pending his acceptance of service.

8. **MINISTRY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE** M&O clerk James Navarro reported for the Committee. The worship sharing and affinity groups will be restructured.

The M&O Subcommittee on Sexual Minority Concerns has completed its work, and M & O will recommend that it be laid down.

M & O anticipates that some attenders this year may experience difficulties in adapting to the new site and solicits volunteers to help them meet these support needs.

9. **M&O SUBCOMMITTEE ON RIGHT HOLDING OF YEARLY MEETING**
Clerk Jane Mills reported the Subcommittee's recommendation that the "emergency site decision procedure" proposed last summer be adopted as our regular fall-back protocol. The Subcommittee will bring this recommendation to plenary this summer.

They also recommend that Yearly Meeting continue partially to subsidize the travel costs of Monthly Meeting Representatives to the summer sessions, because it seems important that each Monthly Meeting have someone in attendance every year. This recommendation will also be brought to summer session.

10. *FAITH & PRACTICE REVISION COMMITTEE* Kitty Barragato, reported for the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. They expect to distribute a completed draft at our 1999 summer sessions, with a view to presenting the final printed version at our summer sessions in 2001.

11. *HOLDING CORPORATION* Steve Birdlebough reported for the Holding Corporation. They are exploring the idea of Monthly Meetings uniting into a common pool for liability and other insurance coverage. They ask Friends with recent experience in shopping for Meeting insurance to contact them.

12. *RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE* Vanita Blum reported for the Religious Education Committee. They have requested that the Committee's name be changed slightly, to clarify their responsibility for children's education in local Meetings.

PYM RepCom 98-7 We approved that the name of this Committee be changed to **PYM Religious Education for Children Committee**.

13. *DELEGATES TO FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC)* Janet Leslie reported for the FWCC that the Section of the Americas is planning to meet in Southern California in March 1999. Our clerk offered to write an official letter of welcome on behalf of our Yearly Meeting. One Friend asked whether gay and lesbian Friends would be welcome at such a gathering, and one of our FWCC delegates, Jeanette Norton, assured us that every Friend is welcome.

PYM RepCom 98-8 We approved that the Clerk write a letter welcoming FWCC Section of the Americas to the Pacific Yearly Meeting area for its 1999 meeting.

14. *COMMITTEE ON UNITY WITH NATURE* Clerk Michael Dunn reported for the Committee. They have already met twice this year and are working on various retreats and a pre-YM campout, July 24-27 at Big Basin Redwoods State Park, as well as a "Deep Ecology" curriculum for adults.

The umbrella Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN), involving Friends Meetings and individual Friends from all over North America, plans to hold their annual meeting in southern California in October of this year. This spring, FCUN is publishing *Earthcare for Children: a First Day School Curriculum*, a project of Palo Alto Meeting Friends.

PYM RepCom 98-9 We approved that the Clerk write a letter of welcome to Friends Committee on Unity with Nature for their meeting in the fall of 1998.

15. *EAST WEST RELATIONS COMMITTEE* Clerk Karen Street reported for the Committee; they have separated Committee project finances from those of Friends House Moscow. Donations for FHM may be sent to Julie Harlow of Davis Meeting.

16. *LATIN AMERICAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE* Clerk Brian Vura-Weis reported for our newest committee. They request 45 minutes to an hour of plenary time to report on Friends projects in Latin America.

17. *PEACE COMMITTEE* Brian Vura-Weis also reported for the Peace Committee, filling in for Committee member Trudy Storm. There will be no Hiroshima vigil this year, as our session week does not include August 6.

18. FRIEND IN THE ORIENT COMMITTEE Clerk Leonard Dart reported that the March issue of *Friends Bulletin* will carry a brief history of the Committee's projects. They expect to bring to plenary in July a recommendation that this Committee be laid down. This committee is a joint project with North Pacific Yearly Meeting, so any changes will need concurrence from NPYM. Some of our concerns and connections in the Asia/Pacific region may be carried on by our Peace Committee.

19. SOCIAL ORDER COMMITTEE Clerk Liz Baker reported on their continued concern for the Single Payer Health Care coverage approach. There are legislative measures coming up, and Monthly Meetings may wish to support them remembering that Yearly Meeting endorsed Single Payer last summer.

The Committee is open to combining with Peace Committee, because so many of their issues are similar. Perhaps an interest group, early in the Yearly Meeting, could consider this. One continuing topic is support of Friends refusing to take oaths.

20. HONOLULU FRIENDS MEETING Tom Huff reported for Friends in Hawaii, where there are two Monthly Meetings, Honolulu and Big Island, and an active worship group on Maui. Honolulu Friends have minuted their support for equality in marriage regardless of gender.

21. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM Committee clerk Tom Farley reported on plans for the Children's program at Yearly Meeting. Following last year's pattern, the morning program would have infant/preschool childcare and lower and upper elementary workshops including some Quakerism and religious education, with the afternoon given over to various recreations. They propose hosting an evening family center, as in the last two years, where Friends could come and be with children for whom they are responsible.

There was a request for more organized infant/preschool child care or babysitting in the evenings. It was noted that two evenings had family oriented activities, the JYM Dance and Community Night, so perhaps we need only provide care on the other nights. The leaders are concerned about the projected short set up time at the site this year and how they will be able to schedule a parent orientation meeting. There will be a transition program for kids entering middle school, staffed by and coordinated with the JYM program. Registration forms need to include grade level next fall as well as age for each child.

22. JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING (JYM) Committee clerk Alan Edgar reported for Junior Yearly Meeting, who have been holding a planning session concurrent with ours. They have decided not to carpool to an off-site camping area this year, but instead to camp together in a designated area at Mt. Madonna in a way that respects the quiet and privacy needs of the community that lives there.

They plan to spend more time on "respectful relationships" topics this year in anticipation of camping together. They will also have a "snack committee" which will represent the needs of children and youth to our hosts.

23. YOUNG FRIENDS Co-clerks Brooke Stanley and Devon Bleile-Kratzer reported for Young Friends; they are anxious to revitalize their program and their sense of community. They plan to send letters of invitation to encourage attendance by Young Friends. Their sponsored events will be open to all with a

published schedule. One topic they wish to discuss is Meeting membership.

24. SITES Co-clerk Joy O'Connell reported for the Committee. Since our preferred pattern is to meet at the same site for at least two years in a row, they are now collecting information on possible new sites for 2000 and 2001.

25. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

PYM RepCom 98-10 We approved Nominating Committee's recommendation of Jeannie Graves to fill out a term on the *Friends Bulletin* Board of Directors.

We then discussed the draft schedule for our July sessions. Our clerk explained that he had tried to keep it as similar to last year's as possible, but the late breakfast meal times had created some problems and possibilities. Considering that we are all to be coping with a new site, Eric suggested that we try to be under-scheduled rather than over-scheduled.

Recording clerk Sandy Farley re-read the minutes of action, previous approved, and some modifications of language were suggested.

We closed with a period of worship, thankful for our productive time together.

Eric Moon, Presiding Clerk
Sandra Moon Farley, Recording Clerk