

# Pacific Yearly Meeting Ministry Committee Report to Representative Committee 2021

## **SUMMARY**

The Ministry Committee took up its work on Zoom, in the context of three crises—apocalyptic wildfires, pandemic, and national upheaval. The shifting ground of these crises made us think deeply about what is important in the work of the committee and the work of the yearly meeting. Some highlights of our work are included below.

**Action Items:** none

## **Requests:**

*Friends of Color*--The Friends of Color Subcommittee holds bi-monthly open house and worship sharing meetings. Representatives are asked to make sure that Friends and attenders who identify as people of color are aware of these events.

*Extra Extra email list*--All Friends, especially meeting representatives, meeting clerks and meeting newsletter editors, are encouraged to sign up on the Western Friend website for Mary Klein's "Extra Extra" emails. These emails have become an important and enriching source of information-sharing among meetings. They include announcements of meetings and events on Zoom.

## **NARRATIVE**

### **On Becoming a Diverse and Anti-Racist Faith Community; Racial Justice Subcommittee**

The work of the Racial Justice Subcommittee continues to inform and inspire us, as we work on realizing our intention to become an inclusive and actively anti-racist faith community. Each time we meet, we take time to reflect on how we are doing in this work.

A subgroup of the Racial Justice Subcommittee is working on an "ouch" process to help our meetings bring racial hurts to awareness and to foster healing. The subcommittee is planning a three-meeting event (Palo Alto, Redwood Forest and Santa Cruz) in February to discuss the issue of racism in the Society of Friends.

### **Friends of Color Subcommittee**

Fueled by momentum from the Friends of Color affinity group at annual session, a leading emerged to create a Friends of Color Subcommittee. The needs of Friends of color were a part of the Racial Justice Subcommittee job description, but were not getting any attention because so much energy was going toward dealing with white people's education.

The subcommittee meets once a month, and every other Friday holds an open house and a worship sharing meeting. These events dovetail with open house and worship sharing meetings sponsored by the FGC friends of color group on the Fridays event are not hosted by our subcommittee. As a result both groups have attenders from across the country. To connect with these events, Friends and attenders who identify as people of color can email co-clerks Bertha Pena ([berthapena@gmail.com](mailto:berthapena@gmail.com)) or Marlene Coach-Eisenstein ([drmcoach@yahoo.com](mailto:drmcoach@yahoo.com)).

Another offshoot of this subcommittee is an unaffiliated worship group for Spanish speakers, which draws attendance from numerous countries across North and South America.

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## **Eldering Subcommittee**

The Eldering Subcommittee continued to support the spiritual deepening of the PYM by offering and arranging spiritual accompaniment for people in clerking and other demanding roles, and by holding the plenaries in prayer. Members adjusted to providing this support via Zoom.

This past year our subcommittee committed to offering workshops to grow eldership in our monthly meetings. We have offered one elder workshop, with a request for another and plan to pursue this work in the coming year. The committee welcomes invitations from meetings to conduct additional workshops in this next year.

In this year, the subcommittee said goodbye to valued members, Thistle West and Carl Magruder, and welcomed three new members, Dinah Bachrach, Chamba Cooke and Nancy Wilkerson. They have brought an infusion of energy and spirit to the work.

## **Religious Education Subcommittee**

Work is in progress to re-populate this subcommittee and to re-create its vision. A community of Friends - including the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative - is exploring alternatives to traditional classroom-style teaching. Zoom presents new possibilities for sharing ideas, programs, and general “shop talk” among religious education practitioners and families and students themselves. Those who would like to be included in conversations about religious education, or wanting to participate in the work of this subcommittee can contact Eric Sabelman ([eesabelman@gmail.com](mailto:eesabelman@gmail.com)).

## **Mexico City Meeting**

We’ve maintained an active liaison with Mexico City Meeting. Notably Jorge Morales led the afternoon session of a daylong retreat. The first part of the afternoon was a mini zen retreat consisting of meditation instruction, zazen, chanting, dharma talk and question and answer period. The second part was a Sufi remembrance ceremony, or zikr, where we remember God by chanting its name, different qualities of the deity and a chant for forgiveness.

## **Admin Position**

We supported the clerk in bringing forward for threshing a proposal for a part-time admin position, based on needs that have been brought to our attention by various committees.

## **Role of Rep Com**

In consideration of the press of all crises and necessary tasks in all of our lives, we have postponed to a more spacious time the threshing session on augmenting the role of Rep Com, which was spoken of in our report last July to annual session.

## **Meeting for Worship for the Healing of the Nation.**

Inspired by Davis Meeting’s meetings for worship, announced to “Friends everywhere,” we offered an inauguration eve meeting for worship for the healing of the nation. About ninety people attended this meeting, mostly from Pacific Yearly Meeting. Numerous people reported a deep experience. One participant reported, “it was a deeply healing experience for me to be immersed in the love of this gathering, as we held our nation and new administration in the Light. Something changed in me; I still feel the depth of that love.”

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The Committee consists of Shan Cretin (Santa Monica), Kylin Navarro (Berkeley), Jorge Morales (San Jose), Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto), Jim Summers (La Jolla), Rolene Walker (San Francisco), Gail Eastwood (Humboldt, Co-Clerk), and Valerie Nutmann (Santa Cruz, Co-Clerk)

*Note: Elena Rosales-Anderson resigned her position; we feel the loss*

The Friends of Color Subcommittee consists of Susan Cervantes (La Jolla), Ritt Dudley (Santa Cruz), Nathan Moon (Strawberry Creek), Jorge Morales (San Jose), Marlene Coach-Eisenstein (Honolulu, Co-Clerk), and Bertha Peña (unaffiliated, Co-Clerk)

The Racial Justice Subcommittee consists of Brenda Chung (Big Island), Rita Comes Whitney (Palo Alto), Laura Magnani (Strawberry Creek), Deborah Marks (Strawberry Creek), Maryanne Michaels (Redwood Forest), Jorge Morales (San Jose), Kylin Navarro Burger (Berkeley), Aaron Terry (Honolulu), Marlene Coach-Eisenstein (Honolulu, Co-Clerk), and Diego Navarro (Santa Cruz, Co-Clerk)

The Eldering Subcommittee consists of Dinah Bachrach (Redwood Forest), Gordon Bishop (Grass Valley), Chamba Cooke (Grass Valley), Elaine Emily (Strawberry Creek), Mica Estrada (Strawberry Creek), Valerie Nuttman (Santa Cruz), Nancy Wilkinson (Strawberry Creek), and Dorothy Henderson (Grass Valley, Clerk)

The Religious Education Subcommittee consists of Eric Sabelman (Palo Alto)