

Pacific Yearly Meeting Friends General Conference Representatives Report to Annual Session 2021

SUMMARY

Since the Annual Meeting, your two Friends General Conference (FGC) representatives attended the FGC Central Committee Meeting in October and three FGC Executive Committee Meetings in addition to other committee meetings on which your representatives serve (Michelle on Long Range Planning Committee, Don on Finance Committee, and Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee).

FGC Executive Committee September 25-26

Don Kewman attended the Executive Committee as a guest and rising member representing PacYM. Michelle Bellows already served on the Executive Committee.

FGC Central Committee Meeting October 16-18

Unity was reached to hold a virtual annual Gathering again this year from June 27-July 3, 2021. The Annual Budget was approved with continued long term unsustainable draws from reserves to meet expenses.

Central Committee approved the appointment of your representative, Michelle Bellows, as Clerk of the Long Range Planning Committee. Don Kewman's appointment to the Executive Committee representing PacYM was approved.

FGC Executive Committee January 29-30

Don Kewman's nomination as Clerk of the Finance Committee for a 9 month term was approved. 2020 was a challenging year programmatically and financially for the organization. However, the requirement to use Virtual conferencing resulted in many new programs and connections forged. The launching of a Capital Campaign in 2021-2022 was approved. Long Range Planning Committee, Michelle Bellows reported on planning for the 2021 virtual Gathering and the face-to-face gatherings in 2022 and 2023. The 2023 gathering at Western Oregon University will be hosted by PacYM.

FGC's Central Committee, including all of its subcommittees and Executive Committee, continues its practice of testing each decision with the query that arose out of the 2018 Institutional Assessment: "How does this decision support FGC in its goal to become an actively anti-racist faith community?"

FGC Executive Committee May 1

FGC is embarking soon on the previously approved \$2.4 million Capital Campaign. Most of the requests for donations to the campaign will occur over the next two years. Approximately \$1 million raised will be used to create an endowment to help offset expenses of holding the Gathering. The remainder will be used for shorter term program needs over the next 3-5 years.

Carl Magruder of PacYM has been appointed as the FGC delegate to the World Council of Churches 2022 Assembly in Germany and will also serve on the Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee of FGC.

An emerging priority of FGC is to find more ways that affiliated monthly and yearly meetings can connect and communicate through FGC. A vision for this endeavor was presented for initial discussion by the Yearly and Monthly Meeting Connector Working Group.

PacYM representatives to FGC are Michelle Bellows (Strawberry Creek) and Don Kewman (Sacramento).