

Pacific Yearly Meeting Racial Justice Subcommittee Report to Annual Session 2021

SUMMARY

The Racial Justice Subcommittee of Ministry Committee (RJSC) in 2020-2021, worked on the following issues concerning the members of Pacific Yearly Meeting (PYM):

- Temperature Check on Meeting's Discussions on Race
- Cross Meeting Dialogue

REPORT

The group worked on these concerns and put together a workshop with a very simple program. We invited PYM Meeting members to an open forum with four queries for discussion, usually using only one or two queries. The five 2-3-hour workshops were called "Quaker PYM Racial Justice Subcommittee Discussion with the Community."

Program was different each of the five times we had the workshops based on the experiences and participation of the people that participated. Program had 2-3 members of our RJSC group speaking about personal stories of racism or their own bias- the rest of the program was videos, breakout rooms, large group discussions and takeaways. The two most important aspects of the workshops were the guidelines for a safe space for open discussion and the tools that were presented introducing the Ouch, Oops and Whoa process.

Many Meetings had started their own discussion on this topic, but this workshop gave each Meeting and each participant, an opportunity to have a discussion concerning anti bias and racism in a safe environment and share insights with other Meetings. Some Meetings do not have a diverse membership/community and these workshops hopefully gave the participants ideas on how to respectfully start a discussion on race with others.

The Committee consists of:

Note that we did not have a dedicated Clerk and members shared the different responsibilities

Marlene Coach – Co Clerk
Deborah Marks – Co Clerk
Maryanne Michaels – Co Clerk
Diego Navarro – Co Clerk
Rita Comes Whitney
Brenda Chung
Jorge Morales
Aaron Terry
Laura Magani