

Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee of Ministry Committee

Report to Annual Session 2022

Pacific Yearly Meeting

PYM's Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee was reconstituted and began meeting in December 2021. Eight members have been active and attended most meetings. Most, to their knowledge, are fully European in ancestry. Two members have some Native heritage.

This group started by sharing knowledge and backgrounds related to Indigenous concerns which provided a rich set of references and ideas, laying a foundation for addressing the needs of PYM's monthly meetings.

We then looked at five possible scenarios for focusing our efforts. Feeling called to connect with monthly meetings, members volunteered to contact a selection of monthly meetings. Getting responses from monthly meetings proved challenging. This exercise showed that the awareness of Indigenous issues was likely lacking in PYM generally. Not giving up, we persevere in reaching out to monthly meetings.

We have considered where monthly meetings are in relationship to indigenous concerns. Little, if any, action has happened in most meetings. Once Annual Session concludes we expect to find ways to guide monthly meetings toward more learning and action such as informing them about local, state and federal actions that meetings can connect with. Additionally we can explore steps that people and meetings can take to start relationships with Indigenous groups.

In response to a request from the PYM Presiding Clerk, we developed a water/land acknowledgement draft which was offered at Rep Com.

Having committed to providing an interest group at Annual Session, we spent the next three months brainstorming, drafting and reviewing the interest group program. The title is Beyond Land Acknowledgement. We will be providing an Indigenous perspective and some resources for stimulating thought and action.

We have been asked by the PYM Clerk to provide some kind of land acknowledgement or relationship building exercise at the opening plenary of Annual Session which we will be doing.

Subcommittee Members are: Barbara Babin, Redwood Forest; Gail Eastwood, Humboldt; Lisa Hubbell, unaffiliated; Yumi Kawano, Big Island; Genevieve Kules, Visalia; Tom Rothschild, Strawberry Creek; Kalani Leonard Tinay, Big Island; Leslie Zondervan-Droz (Clerk), Humboldt.