

Peace and Social Order Committee Report to Annual Session 2022 Pacific Yearly Meeting

Minutes of Concern:

Peace and Social Order Committee (PSO) proposes that PacYM extend the following approved experiment (indented below) for another 2 years until AS 2024. This would allow for more time for monthly, quarterly and yearly levels to give feedback for improvement in the current system, or for offering PSO concrete alternate solutions for possible ways forward.

For context, in past years 2 separate needs were identified that our PSO committee has attempted to address. First, the need for networking and for better communication between monthly meetings regarding peace and social concerns. Second, a need for how to bring, approve, and distribute social concern minutes, since former Annual Session (AS) evaluations showed consensus that Friends attending AS did not feel that discerning the language of Social Concern Minutes during plenary sessions was the best use of plenary time.

At Annual Session in 2020 the following was approved on a 2 year basis:

PSO will no longer bring Minutes to AS for discernment.

1. Minutes of concern may be initiated by any Monthly Meeting, by a major Quaker organization (e.g., FCNL, FCLCA, AFSC), or PacYM committee or affinity group.
2. A Minute of concern initiated by a Monthly Meeting will be brought to PSO, which will distribute it to all Monthly Meetings within PacYM. In the event a minute is initiated by a major Quaker organization or other PacYM committee or affinity group and is relevant to the work of PSO, PSO will also support the distribution of these minutes to Monthly Meetings. Monthly Meetings may then consider their stand on the issue raised, discern whether to approve the minute as is, or approve a minute of their own.
3. We ask that all Monthly Meetings which approve minutes of concern:
 - a) send letters to the editor and other local news sources and take concrete actions in the world to amplify the message and expand public awareness of the issue,
 - b) reflect on and take actions realigning our own personal thinking and Quaker patterns and structures purposefully integrating the ideals of our minutes,
 - c) let PSO know what actions they have taken, so that we can track the movement of the Spirit among us. PSO will post on the PacYM website.

Since AS 2020, PSO has distributed approved monthly meeting social concern minutes and posted them on the website. More monthly meetings, especially in SCQM have approved minutes being distributed. In addition, separate from PSO, SCQM initiated a Racial Justice group which shares resources and PSO feels that this experiment has worked well in addressing the two original concerns for better communication between monthly meetings regarding social concern minutes and better use of plenary time.

Service Description for PSO:

Separate from the tasks of PSO, we have asked Nominating committee to revise the service description of our committee to reflect the approved experiment. Nominating will discuss that issue in more detail in their own report.

Our Report:

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PSO wants to highlight the great work of the Racial Justice Network of Southern CA Quarterly meeting. A recent report of their network actions can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ldzOfgSCbKua56oq8aGcX4v3D9q3j7a9DUfyMPrrHnE>

Overall, PSO celebrates a functioning committee that has faithfully met monthly online since last annual session despite committee members dealing with Covid, losses due to wildfire, and doing street ministry and asylum advocacy during the current refugee crisis. It has been an honor to witness the ongoing dedication of this committee.

PSO affirms that faith and practice are interdependent, including how we communicate with each other inside of PacYM. While we move forward in times of great change, PSO continues to discern how to forge bonds of support and engage with monthly meetings regarding peace and social justice concerns. We appreciate and welcome your suggestions for strengthening our yearly meeting's involvement in being the change we seek in the world.

Reminder:

-Please encourage your monthly meeting to check Peace and Social Order Committee's updated webpage to review the template and simple instructions for writing social concern minutes and for an overview of minutes of approved by various monthly meetings by categories.

<https://www.pacificyearlymeeting.org/committee-newsletters-and-reports/peace-social-order-committee/>

-Please send all approved Social Concern Minutes to our new role based email address:

PeaceAndSocialOrderClerk@pacificyearlymeeting.org (capitalization is optional).

Respectfully, Shannon Frediani, co-clerk

PSO Committee: Zae Illo, Brian Johnston, Daniel Ulloa, and co-clerks Linnea Hanson, Betty Guthrie, and Shannon Frediani