

Racial Justice Subcommittee (RJSC) of Ministry Committee Report to Annual Session 2022 Pacific Yearly Meeting

Following the 2021 Annual Session the RJSC reviewed our experiences and the survey feedback from the Session. In general, the feedback was supportive of the Subcommittee's work even though there were some areas of sensitivity to racism being addressed during Sessions and improvements needed to our Plenary Stepping Stones to Sacred Space Process preamble, addressing its redundancy while informing first-time plenary attenders.

We have spent time reviewing the RJSC Sacred Space Process and identifying the changes needed for the 2022 Annual Session. We have focused on supporting the Ministry Committee and Presiding Clerk in their upcoming Annual Session 2021 Temperature Check process by drafting an initial survey. We have attended two Ministry Committee meetings to discuss these areas of joint effort. We have received a request to provide more RJSC workshops following our series of five workshops for the Spring 2021. It is clear to the RJSC that holding such workshops is not a priority given the other work we are involved in, however helping train others to hold these workshops is something we may consider.

A query we have been exploring is, what can be done to help Friends shift their understanding of the Stepping Stones to Sacred Space Process? How to help Friends understand it is not about calling out and shaming, but rather calling in and learning about what we do so we can do what we want, which is to build up our beloved community. We provided a letter to the Ministry Committee and the Yearly Meeting Clerk that addresses these queries, particularly in the context of Meeting for Worship. We are grateful to have a Ministry Committee liaison who is on both the RJSC and the Ministry Committee who actively participates in the work of both, which helped bring forth new openings in our work with the Ministry Committee.

The members of RJSC are Aaron Terry, Brenda Chung, Deborah Marks, Diego Navarro, Marlene Coach, Maryanne Michaels, Rita Comes Whitney