

Unity with Nature Committee Report to Annual Session 2022 Pacific Yearly Meeting

Pacific Yearly Meeting's Unity with Nature Committee is energized by recognition that we are at a pivotal place in addressing the climate crisis – a place that requires both practical creativity and spiritual tenacity. The committee's determination and enthusiasm are shown, in part, by its many activities and by meeting regularly over the last year. We will lead ourselves to a more positive climate future as we join, learn, and act together.

In more than one instance, wisdom-containing writing has spurred exploration. Through 2021, the committee facilitated a monthly *Braiding Sweetgrass* worship-discussion group to help yearly meeting Friends explore indigenous insight and imagine alternative ways of interacting with Creation. This group regularly had more than 25 Friends attend. Also, inspired by Philadelphia YM's impressive document "Moving Forward in the Face of Climate Change" – with inspiration and information for individuals, monthly meetings, and its yearly meeting – the Unity with Nature Committee is pursuing a similar comprehensive call to action and roadmap for Pacific YM. A major step toward this is the **July 30 Zoom-based workshop** offered by the committee, "*Creating a Climate Action Strategy*," that is open to all.

The Unity with Nature Committee has a commitment to facilitating creative sharing among PacYM monthly meetings. Thus far, two Zoom meetings have been offered to all PacYM monthly meetings, where people have learned about and discussed "Moving Forward in the Face of Climate Change" and the Sacramento Meeting climate change efforts. The committee plans to facilitate more yearly meeting-wide discussions and encourages suggestions from monthly meetings about topics. In addition, the Unity with Nature Committee is hosting **interest groups at the upcoming 2022 PacYM Annual Session**, as discussed elsewhere in AS materials.

To come together effectively on climate change, the committee is aware that people must have personal, spiritual, and tangible needs met. Therefore, Unity with Nature is looking toward offering opportunities for both (a) climate change grief work among yearly meeting individuals and meetings; and (b) providing guidance, gathered from a wide variety of sources, about specific Quaker and societal steps to stem climate change and its impact. Such steps must include both mitigation and adaptation strategies, since each is crucial, especially for the most vulnerable among us. The committee hopes such support and steps can be communicated via a website, written materials distributed by PacYM, and further yearly meeting-wide collaborations among monthly meetings and others.

All are welcome and encouraged to join us in this work together.

Best wishes for now and the future from the Pacific Yearly Meeting Unity with Nature Committee: Co-clerks Gayle Matson and Keith Runyan; and members Nancy Glock-Gruenich; Suellen Lowry; Joseph Cotham; Marge Gianelli; Patty Constantino; Ragni Larsen-Orta.