

Pacific Yearly Meeting
Unity with Nature Committee
Report to Representative Committee (RepCom) 2023

At the turn of 2023, the *Unity with Nature Committee of Pacific Yearly Meeting* is hard at work building a website, hosting ecological grief workshops with Quaker Earthcare Witness, and reaching out to Quakers throughout our PacYM via monthly meeting visitations and events.

Members of the committee also have joined voices with Quakers, indigenous activists, and others expressing deep concern about a proposed gravel mining project on Juristac land.

Humanity is at an inflection point – profound change is both possible and necessary. Humanity will not survive another century of its creative and destructive potentials unless it becomes as *Wise as it is Powerful*. We have a responsibility to heal the wounds of our shared histories such that cooperation and trust, without naivety, become possible. We have a responsibility to heal our relationship with the living world and to become avid-humble students of the web of life. We have a responsibility to tend to the anxieties, myopia, and stories that have led our species down the road of the Sixth Extinction such that, through compassion, we can create the healing space wherein humility, deceleration, stillness, and reflection become possible for our course as a species as a whole.

Following the committee’s successful workshops this past summer at Annual Session, the Unity with Nature Committee developed its current *six-point action plan* and began setting the stage for the first phases of the work, namely:

- 1. Visitations** to monthly meetings to help build relationships with monthly meetings, facilitate generative dialogue within monthly meetings, and gather information for the Yearly Meeting. This will help the committee discern how best to serve the Yearly Meeting, tailor and expand its **website and resources**, build connections and collaborations among monthly meetings, and start to gain perspective on seeds of corporate witness within the Yearly Meeting that may eventually inform a *PacYM Climate Strategy*.
- 2. Eco-grief Workshops** with Quaker Earthcare Witness to explore climate crisis inner work and our fragmented relationship with the natural world – and empower Friends to take action born of love for all their biological kin and the planet we all call home.
- 3. A New Website** to empower Quakers in our Yearly Meeting to collaborate and take action born from faith and mysticism as Friends. In particular, this website intends to become a tool Quakers in our region can begin to use as a resource for systems thinking, spiritual grounding, and collective action. This may become a hub for monthly meeting *Consortia*, a map of environmental work throughout the Yearly Meeting, a landing page for *UwN Events*, and a meeting ground for discernment of a *PacYM Climate Strategy*.

To create space for rest and reflection and the work already moving forward, the UwN Committee took a short sabbatical from its usual monthly meetings in November and December of 2022. In 2023, it has resumed meetings most months.

For the upcoming PacYM Annual Session, the Unity with Nature Committee plans to present an interest group or groups. Also, Unity with Nature hopes many aspects of Annual Session will have climate change as a central focus.

Addendum

To more fully understand the relationship between the committee’s *charge* and its *six-point action plan*, please see the chart below:

Charges	Actions
<i>a. Helps Friends better understand and experience our unity with and our spiritual call to honor, celebrate, learn from and protect the natural world;</i>	Website
	Eco-Grief Workshops
<i>b. Encourages Friends to take action to support the health of the world we share with all living things, and to support the movement for Environmental Justice;</i>	Climate Strategy
	Website
<i>c. Advances the efforts of monthly meetings and individuals to share their questions, endeavors, failures and achievements, and to develop relationships with like-minded organizations;</i>	Visitations
	Website
<i>d. Engages in continued spiritual discernment, seeking input from the wide diversity within the yearly meeting so their work extends beyond any particular project, allowing for growth and adaptation to new opportunities and challenges.</i>	Visitations
	Events – Zoom-based and Annual Session Interest Groups

Six-Point Action Plan

- (1) **Website with resources;**
- (2) **Ecological grief workshops;**
- (3) **Visitations** to monthly Meetings.
- (4) **Consortia** – connecting monthly Meetings that have similar climate change interests/activities;
- (5) **Climate Strategy** – drafting an overall PacYM strategy;
- (6) **Event Planning** (e.g., Zoom topic-focused discussions).

Charges of the PacYM Unity with Nature

Committee. The Unity with Nature Committee:

- a.** Helps Friends better understand and experience our unity with and our spiritual call to honor, celebrate, learn from and protect the natural world;
- b.** Encourages Friends to take action to support the health of the world we share with all living things, and to support the movement for Environmental Justice;
- c.** Advances the efforts of monthly meetings and individuals to share their questions, endeavors, failures and achievements, and to develop relationships with like-minded organizations;
- d.** Engages in continued spiritual discernment, seeking input from the wide diversity within the yearly meeting so their work extends beyond any particular project, allowing for growth and adaptation to new opportunities and challenges.

Committee Members:

Suellen Lowry, Humboldt, co-clerk
 Keith Runyan, Santa Cruz, co-clerk
 Paty Constantino, Mexico City
 Michael Dunn, Inland Valley
 Marge Gianelli, La Jolla

Nancy Glock-Grueneich, Santa Cruz
 Billie Hamilton, Sacramento
 Ragni Larsen-Orta, Strawberry Creek
 Gayle Matson, Chico

In addition, individuals active with the committee include: Joseph Cotham, Klara East, Lucinda Olney, Shelley Tanenbaum, and Leoma Scott.