

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
RACIAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE
REPORT TO REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE (RepCom) 2024

The Racial Justice Sub Committee (RJSC) is under the umbrella of the Pacific Yearly Meeting's Ministry Committee. The primary purpose of the Subcommittee is to facilitate candid, loving dialogue and transformative activities regarding racial justice and racial healing within Pacific Yearly Meeting. As a foundation for this service, members of the Subcommittee should seek to “be patterns, be examples” (George Fox) for racial justice—that is, to model open, honest, and caring dialogue on issues of race within Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM).

Summary of some of our activities in the past year:

Racial Justice Sub Committee

The Racial Justice Sub Committee (RJSC) in 2023-2024, worked on the following issues concerning the members of Pacific Yearly Meeting (PacYM):

- Active gatherings at the PacYM 2023 Annual Sessions
- Mini anti bias workshop participation with the Ministry Committee
- White allies and Friends of Color dialogue during PacYM Annual Session
- Healing Workshops – Aaron as lead

- Several of the RJSC members appeared in person during PacYM 2023 and the others were active online via Zoom.

- The RJSC worked on many concerns and helped the Ministry Group put together a workshop with a very simple program ahead of PacYM2023. PacYM facilitators were invited to an “skit” where biased harm was shown and responded to for discussion. The two workshops were called “Workshops for Healing.”

The response to the program was different each time the workshops were held based on the experiences and participation of the people that participated. Program had 3-4 members of our RJSC group attending and one that is also on the Ministry Group being the “harmed” person. Biased racism and “othering.” There were breakout rooms, large group discussions and impactful takeaways. The two most important aspects of the workshops were the guidelines for a safe space for open discussion and the tools that were presented to respond to the Ouch, Oops and Whoa process when it might occur during a workshop or at any time during PacYM 2023 Annual Sessions.

Many meetings had started their own discussion on this topic, but this workshop gave each meeting and each participant an opportunity to have a discussion concerning anti bias and racism in a safe environment. Some meetings do not have a diverse membership/community and these workshops hopefully gave the participants ideas on how to respectfully start a discussion on race with others. The Ministry Group is in discussion to facilitate more of these workshops leading up to PacYM 2024.

- During PacYM 2023, the White Allies Group and the Friends of Color Group had several “combined” meetings with queries to get to know each other better. When you get to know about a person and realize that they are not much different than you, it breaks down many preconceived barriers. A space was still left open for members of both groups to meet separately during PacYM 2023. The last night of PacYM 2023 had both groups attending the dance in the dining hall at the Mount Madonna location. Diversity is asking someone to a dance. Inclusion is asking that person to dance – we had a great time, and everyone got to know each other a little better.
- Aaron Terry facilitated another Healing Workshop that was the second of such workshops he has provided and plans to build on that idea for PacYM 2024.

As we continue to work with the Ministry Committee and the members of our Friends Community, we want to thank you for your openness and hard work to help make the World a place of dignity for all.

The Committee consists of:

Marlene Coach
Diego Navarro
Rita Comes Whitney
Brenda Chung
Deborah Marks
Aaron Terry
Maryanne Michaels
Daniel Lean-Moctezuma
Faith Cantu

Note: that we did not have a dedicated Clerk and members shared different responsibilities