

NPYM Seasoning process for proposed minute welcoming all genders

North Pacific Yearly Meeting has a process for seasoning minutes proposed for action at Annual Session. Multnomah Meeting has proposed such a minute (below) on the inclusion of individuals of all genders in preparation for consideration at the 2017 Annual Session. (This minute is similar to the one they approved in 2015 after significant education in the Meeting.)

Meetings are to educate themselves, discuss the issues and respond with questions, suggested changes and eventually either support of the minute, with or without changes, or acknowledgement of lack of unity. Multnomah members are committed to helping. They have prepared an information packet that includes queries. They are willing to travel with trainers to other Meetings. They can also offer connections within local communities. Contact Kepper Petzing, 503-284-2068 kalmkalm@msn.com or Anna Fritz, 503-771-0726, anna@annafritz.com for assistance, questions and report of progress.

Meetings can also seek support and advice from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC), which will be gathering for their winter gathering in February 17-19 near Portland. In Seattle both Salmon Bay and South Seattle Meetings have supported a member of their community who was transitioning.

Proposed Minute

North Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, an organization of unprogrammed Quaker meetings and worship groups in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming is an open and affirming faith community. We welcome all who come as religious seekers to share in worship and fully participate in the activities of our common life.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting understands that the Divine Source is leading our Meeting to honor the gender identity and expression of each person, as determined by that person. We affirm that gender expression and identity may be fluid and changeable. We recognize that when we embrace the Light within the full spectrum of gender identities in our Meeting, our worship deepens and our community is enriched.

As part of our evolving struggle to live our testimony of equality, North Pacific Yearly Meeting minutes our commitment to becoming an affirming, safe, and nurturing place for everyone to live fully that which the Spirit is leading them to be. We extend our loving care to people of all genders, including transgender, genderqueer, cisgender, gender non-conforming and intersex persons, their families and friends.