

North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session 2018

University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

Minutes of Record, Sixth Plenary Session

July 27, 2018; 10:15 am – 11:45 am

Announcement

Reminder: Meeting of NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee and M and O representatives from meetings and groups today during lunch.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Meeting, October 11-14, 2018, Dumas Bay Retirement Center in Federal Way, WA. See them at Quaker Fair for details and invitation cards.

Epistle Reading (Pablo Standfield)

Several paragraphs from the epistle of New England Yearly Meeting were read. The emphasis in their epistle was on the need for personal and community transformation, both of which are difficult. Copies of the full epistle are posted in the plenary room (Rotunda) and will be online.

Quaker Organization Presentations

Western Friend (Editor Mary Klein)

Mary Klein began by emphasizing that the work of *Western Friend* is our work, too. She presented the list of editors from 1929 through today. She also noted that *Western Friend* publishes its financial reports, something that some non-profits do not do. Board includes representatives from Pacific Yearly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, and NPYM (Sakre Edson and Leni Skarin).

As editorial policy, the articles are planned to be general and attractive to a variety of readers. There is not as much emphasis on the health and survival of Quakerism; the emphases are on issues of our lives.

Western Friend also publishes books; examples are *Being Quaker...Where You Are* by Sakre Edson, the NPYM *Faith and Practice*. The book by Sakre Edson is the first of the author-driven books to be published by the press.

We were also informed about the *Western Friend* on-line library and the on-line worship sessions, workshops, and conversations that Mary hosts. The library includes the archives of the magazine's publications since 1929.

Friends' Peace Teams (Steven Aldrich)

In 2015, Robin Mohr challenged us to be the Friends our world needs. Steven responded to a call to become a representative to Friends' Peace Teams. He asked us if we recognized the Peace Teams sub-groups that focus on major regions of the world. Teams are providing alternatives to violence training and other actions. Each spring our representative takes part in world-level meetings. This includes Peace Quest at which people participate in exercises that use alternatives to violence training and other advanced approaches.

As a specific example, Steven described the situations created in communities by gang violence in Latin America. He asked us to imagine the threats from gangs in the street, especially intended to encourage young people to join the gangs. The choice is which gang to join rather than whether or not to join.

Peace Team members create alternatives to violence training in those communities. For example, if a person can resist being provoked by the gang members, the gangs leave them alone. The Peace Team also helps people deal with past trauma.

Friends World Committee on Consultation (Lucy Fullerton, Eleanor Jordan)

FWCC is the organization that creates communication and opportunities for encounters among Friends from around the world. They worship in a variety of ways and in a variety of languages. The emphasis is on communication at their gatherings. One of the four sections of FWCC is the Section of the Americas, geographically spanning the geography from the Arctic Circle to the southern tip of the Andes Mountains. They are mindful to do their work in inclusive ways as much as possible.

Their current emphasis is on organizing and supporting traveling ministers. World gatherings are very expensive and heavy work, so they are putting energy into sending people to smaller, local groups. We viewed a video that describes the latter program. A major emphasis is on bringing together the various Quaker traditions. An example of such a smaller gathering is the visit by Debbie Humphries to Tacoma Monthly Meeting, a workshop that also drew participants from Olympic View Friends Church and North Seattle Friends Church.

Promise Partner and Carolyn Laskowski reported on the worship at Tacoma. Positive experiences included the sense that the Spirit unites us even though we worship in different ways, sensing the vulnerability of the traveling ministers themselves, hearing how the traveling ministers model ways to be as Quakers. The topics of the workshop included the minister's sharing of her spiritual journey, describing ways of discerning and responding to leadings. There was opportunity to do deeper spiritually.

Julie Peyton spoke to her experience as a traveling Friend. She was concerned that she did not have a "message." One discovers what to say as one listens deeply. The traveling ministers of FWCC are new at this kind of venture, and they learn as they travel. There is more information about the traveling ministry at Quaker Fair.

First Sunday in October is designated World Quaker Day. There are resources for activities for that day. This is also an opportunity to share about the core experiences of being a Quaker.

One of the ventures from the world office is connecting with larger world-wide organizations around the issues and actions needed around climate change.

Prepared by Angie Alexander, Recording Clerk