North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session 2017
Friday, July 28, 2017

8:30 am – 9:15 am

VI. Minutes—Meeting for Business

Singing prior to beginning the meeting for business was led by Jonathan Betz-Zall.

1. Approval of Budget
The proposed budget was approved without comment or questions.

2. Approval of Nominations

a. As requested by one of our members, names of individuals who had been nominated by the Nominating Committee for positions and clerkships were read aloud by the Clerk and by Ted Etter of the Nominating Committee. These nominations were approved as read.

Finance and Legal Committee—Janet Jump and Nancy Irving, for approval as co-clerks
Information Technology Committee—approval of new members Jonathan Brown (South Seattle), John Hatten (Bellingham)
Ministry and Oversight—Betsey Kenworthy, for approval as clerk. Judith Clarke (Sandpoint), Elinor Jordan (Olympia)
Outreach and Visitation—Joe Snyder (Bridge City)
Youth Committee—Meghann Wolvert, for approval as clerk.
Western Friend Board—Sakre Edson (Eugene), Diane Pasta (Salmon Bay)
Coordinating Committee Recording Clerk—Debbie Townsend (Eastside)
Epistle Committee—Sakre Edson (Eugene)

b. As proposed by the Pre-Nominating Committee and reported in the minutes of July 27, new members of Nominating Committee were approved (Shannon Perry, Mountain View Worship Group; Linda Ellsworth, Eastside Monthly Meeting; Ginger Boyle, University Monthly Meeting). Ted Etter was approved as clerk.

3. Proposed Letter of Support for Northwest Yearly Meeting and Sierra-Cascade Yearly Meeting of Friends

The epistle from the new Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends was read. A copy is attached.

One of our annual session’s interest groups has asked that annual session approve sending letters to this new yearly meeting and to Northwest Yearly Meeting. The interest group offered a draft letter, emphasizing (1) historic and ongoing cooperation and inter-visitation between North Pacific Yearly Meeting and Northwest Yearly Meeting, (2) welcoming the new yearly meeting, and (3) expressing the hope that we will continue these ties with Northwest Yearly Meeting and establish similar ties with Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends. We are holding both meetings in our prayers.

We approved sending the letter. Several editing suggestions were made; our clerks were authorized to edit, sign, and send it. A copy of the final letter is attached.

4. Concern about Systemic Racism
Sea Gabriel reported that revitalization of the Peace and Social Concerns committee is underway. She asked that anyone interested in bringing concerns to the committee to speak with her or other members of the committee. Committee members are Katherine Northrup, Barbara Westmoreland, Cims Gillespie, and Ron Metcalf.

Steven Aldrich urged that we engage in examination of our own positions about racial privilege and discrimination. Peace and Social Concerns Committee intends to help local meetings and worship groups deepen our knowledge and explore our own racial privilege and systemic racism. With input from local meetings, the committee may propose future yearly meeting actions.

Steven invited Friends to enter into silent worship and to speak into the silence if they have concerns or questions:

Friends' Comments and Questions follow:

- It can be recognized that we have much privilege even though we may not be in positions perceived as powerful. We were encouraged to examine how we can act to help those with less privilege.
- We should aim to abolish rather than reduce white privilege.
- One speaker is part of a monthly meeting that has been studying this issue for several years. The result for her has been higher degree of consciousness about these issues. It is important to monthly meetings to do this, especially given the current political climate. Hope is that NPYM will nurture further study by all meetings.
- Another speaker reminded us that Vanessa Julye from Friends General Conference will be our 2018 Friend-in-Residence. She has been working solely on issues of racism including education. She can be a resource to our meetings and in Annual Session next year. Study of these issues can be daunting without some guidance.
Minutes of Record

VII. Worship in Song with Tom Rawson
Tom led us in a variety of songs focused on peace-making and community, including the well-known song about the Christmas Truce during World War I.

VIII. Quaker Organization Presentations

1. Friends Committee on National Legislation
Dorsey Green, one of our representatives to FCNL, introduced speaker Kate Gould, the FCNL Legislative Representative for Middle East Policy.

Kate spoke about several successful efforts from FCNL to Congress to block legislation not in line with Friends' values, e.g. healthcare changes. In some cases, FCNL workers must act to offset the influence of the current administration, e.g. President Trump’s pronouncements about the agreement with Iran. She also mentioned the effectiveness of lobbying efforts by individual Friends as we influence our representatives and senators.

She invited us to sign up for the FCNL Alerts. She emphasized that we take actions and stay involved, as we find our strength. She also spoke to the great need for us to take action and passionately encouraged us.

2. Western Friend (Leni Skarin, Sakre Edison, Mary Klein)

Leni Skarin talked about how exciting it has been for her to serve on the board of Western Friend for several years, especially how it was different from service on other non-profit boards. She thanked us for the opportunity to serve on this board.

Mary Klein thanked us for welcoming her into our NPYM community and for the opportunity she has to serve as editor of Western Friend as well as the support we give her and the magazine. She referred us to the magazine’s annual report, which includes a list of ways Friends can provide support.

Sakre Edison urged isolated Friends to join the on-line discussions and worship sessions presented by Western Friend. She also mentioned her new book, Being Quaker Where You Are, about the experiences of isolated Friends in the Northwest. This book was published by Western Friend.

Prepared by Angelia Alexander, Recording Clerk
North Pacific Yearly Meeting  
of the  
Religious Society of Friends  
Meeting in Annual Session, Tacoma, Washington  
29 Seventhmonth, 2017

To: Friends in Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church  
Friends in Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends:

We remember the many years of connections between our Yearly Meeting and Northwest Yearly Meeting. We remember that when our Yearly Meeting was set off from Pacific Yearly Meeting, representatives of Northwest Yearly Meeting were present and brought us blessings from you. We are happy that the Holy Spirit has given us opportunities to build friendships in Friends World Committee for Consultation, the Pacific Northwest Quaker Women’s Theology Conferences, the School of the Spirit and the Greater Seattle Council of Churches.

We have been sensitive to the differences you have dealt with and the difficulties you have been going through. We remember that similar questions tried us some years ago and we wrestled with many of the same concerns; we remember how painful were the divisions and the conflict. Our emotions ran high and hurtful things were said by some. We are thankful that God led us to unity at last and we have been able to move forward, although some individuals did break from us, leaving hard feelings. Because of the painful history of schisms among Quakers, we have been concerned for you, many of us holding all of you in Divine Light to discern the path forward.

We hope you are in unity about the good order of your division and hope to see both of your Yearly Meetings move forward renewed with the Spirit’s energy to serve God in the world.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting will continue to honor the accords we have with Northwest YM Friends. We look forward to welcoming your representatives to our gathering, to sending our observers to your Yearly Meeting sessions, and to continuing friendships with individuals in your churches.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting welcomes Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting to the family of Friends and looks forward to exchanging representatives to each other’s Annual Sessions, to participating with you in gatherings and to continuing friendships with individuals in your churches. Friends in the Pacific Northwest, in all our meetings, are challenged to hold each other in the Light, to pray for each other’s ministries, and to model Friendship, Community and Harmony for the people of our region. We, as much as you, are challenged to be open to the new ways where the Holy Eternal is leading us and to finding new ways to work together for the Kingdom of Heaven in these times. We welcome future dialog with you in walking faithfully and humbly with our God. We ask for New Light to discern the best way to maintain ties of friendly interchange in the coming years and imagination to follow leadings in the Light.

“All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world...Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one.” [John 17:10-11]

Your friends in God’s Light,  
signed in and for the gathered Friends,

Warren Ostrom, presiding clerk  
Angelia Alexander, recording clerk  
North Pacific Yearly Meeting