North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session  
Sunday, July 30, 2017  
10:00 am – 10:45 am  

Minutes of Record  

IX. Celebration of Our Gathering  

1. Review of Minutes from Meetings for Business on July 28 and 29  

   a. The minutes from July 28 were approved as read.  
   
   b. The following questions arose concerning the accuracy of the minutes from July 29, especially as they pertained to the process of approving the minute on gender inclusivity:  

      Some Friends recalled that there was mention of continuing work by the committee that guided our preparative work on this minute. That was not stated in the minutes that were read.  

      Friends objected to the description of “standing in the way” as “blocking approval”.  

      Friends agreed that the people who were most likely speaking about these issues and the Recording Clerk would together seek clarification and correct the minutes as needed. The minutes were approved pending resolution of these questions.  

2. Registrar’s Report  

   Registrar Kim Williams reported on the number of people attending this annual session as follows:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number attending</th>
<th>First-time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infants and Toddlers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Elementary</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Elementary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Central Friends  6  2
Junior Friends  20  1
Young Adult Friends  7  1
Other Adults  203  25
Totals  254  36

Kim apologized for the failure of the on-line registration system and thanked the team that processed all the paper registrations so that reports could be made to the volunteer coordinator, the interest group coordinator, the worship group coordinator, and others who needed specific information. Many people in with planning responsibilities were impacted. She appreciated all the support she has received during her term as registrar. The role has been both challenging and rewarding. She invited others to consider doing this work and to talk with her about the responsibilities as well as changes we expect to make in the registration process in the near future.

Friends joyously thanked Kim and her support team.

3. Epistle
The epistle from this session addressed to all Friends world-wide was read by Bill Ashworth. The epistle comes to us as a gift, but since it is sent out on our behalf, it was approved with gratitude. A copy is attached to these minutes.

One of the Central Friends read their epistle. A copy is attached.

4. Abundant Financing
Rising Presiding Clerk Lucretia Humphrey spoke about abundant financing, a new method of financing for Annual Session.

A proposal had been developed by an ad hoc committee (Lucretia Humphrey, Clint Weimeister, Laura Arcidiacono, Margaret Coahran, Dave Ek, and Nancy Irving [re]presenting Finance and Legal Committee) based on the method of paying for annual session that has been in use by New England Yearly Meeting for several years. Coordinating Committee enthusiastically supported the idea, and the Annual Session Planning Committee adopted the idea in April of this year. We have also learned
that Intermountain Yearly Meeting will use this plan for their annual session next year.

The concept of abundant financing is that those attending annual session will give what they are led to give. We all contribute a variety of gifts, including financial generosity. All gifts can deepen our spiritual community and also broaden our community to include all Quakers as our ministry. Some Friends have found that the use of scholarships based on Friends’ requests are clumsy and embarrassing do not foster a sense of loving community.

We will implement this experiment for next year’s annual session (2018). On the registration form the cost of annual session for an adult or a child will be given. It will also clearly state that those who are able and led to do so may pay more. Monthly meetings and worship groups will be asked to give as well, probably whatever amount they have been awarding for scholarships each year. The outcome will be evaluated before we continue in following years.

Lucretia closed her remarks by saying that the hope is that Friends will fell relieved, encouraged, and inspired by this new effort.

5. Annual Session in 2018

Lucretia Humphrey announced that Annual Session 2018 will be held on July 25-29 on the University of Puget Sound campus. The Friend-in-Residence will be Vanessa Julye of Friends General Conference. Her work concerns racial justice and white privilege. With co-author Donna McDaniel, she has written Fit for Freedom Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice.

Warren Ostrom and Angie Alexander were thanked for their work as presiding clerk and recording clerk, respectively.

Prepared by Angelia Alexander, Recording Clerk
To all Friends everywhere:

Two hundred fifty-four Quakers of all ages from all corners of the Pacific Northwest gathered on the green, tree-covered campus of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, as North Pacific Yearly Meeting met for its 45th Annual Session, July 26-30, 2017.

Our theme this year has been "Everything is Connected." Friend in Residence Peterson Toscano presented a lecture-performance which included three moving sketches using comedy to connect his personal story as a gay man with gender nonconformity, Bible stories, and climate change. We used focused worship to consider a minute first proposed by Multnomah Meeting in Portland, Oregon, regarding welcoming transgender and gender nonconforming people into our Meetings; this minute was seasoned carefully through the monthly meetings during the last year, seasoning that continued through conversations and small-group discussions among Friends at this Annual Session. The Young Adult Friends presented their own minute in support of action on this concern by the Yearly Meeting. Heartfelt responses were shared by Friends.

Following worship, Friends were treated to tender musical ministry by Friend Anna Fritz, a cellist/singer, lifting the issues we were grappling with into spiritual space. Friends later united on this minute, following a deep, patient, Spirit-filled business session, with one Friend standing aside.

Contra dancing, Community Night skits, Bible study, daily early morning worship, and worship in song led by Friends Jonathan and Rosy Betz-Zall and folksinger and former NPYM presiding clerk Tom Rawson, rounded out Friends' experience. A song Tom presented, John McCutcheon's "Christmas in the Trenches," regarding the ad hoc Christmas Truce of World War I brought about by the soldiers themselves, brought tears to many eyes.

We were aware as we met that a new Yearly Meeting was being formed nearby, as Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends (pastoral), following a difficult process, split into two Yearly Meetings over the issue of human sexuality. A letter was drafted to be sent jointly to both Northwest Yearly Meeting and the new Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting, honoring our existing relationships and welcoming the new Yearly Meeting into the family of Friends.

Friends heard from Kate Gould, a Friends Committee on National Legislation staff person in Washington DC, on the power of persistent and persuasive citizens' advocacy; and from Mary Klein on her work as editor of Western Friend. Junior Friends (High School age) led a Spirit-filled and humorous community-building exercise. We
gratefully accepted the final version of our newly revised Faith and Practice, seasoned carefully over the last twelve years, which will be published this year by Western Friend.

When we meet again next year on this same (hopefully construction-free) campus, we will be experimenting with Abundant Financing, a form of financing Annual Session by asking Friends to pay as led instead of charging a fixed amount. We will also be addressing racism and white privilege as a rising concern within our Yearly Meeting.

Attachment B

North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session
July 2017

An Epistle from the Central Friends of North Pacific Yearly Meeting

To all Friends everywhere

During this 2017 NPYM Annual session, the Central Friends did a number of activities together. We climbed a tree with Peterson Toscano, who did a performance in the tree explaining his life. We wrote cards to prisoners. We talked about climate change. We failed at the human knot but did build a human pyramid.

We also learned some things. We learned about transgender people and gender differences. We learned how to climb trees. We learned about the Lummi Tribe, and how they stopped a coal port. Peterson taught us about the evil “homo no mo’” homosexual conversion house. We learned that Chad should stay away from Calvin Klein cologne.