North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session 2017
Thursday, July 27, 2017

8:30 am – 9:30 am

I. Welcoming Session—Minutes of Record

Singing prior to this session was led by Jonathan Betz-Zall.

1. Welcome / Introductions
Presiding Clerk Warren Ostrom introduced himself and Angie Alexander, Recording Clerk.

For the Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups members and attenders were invited to stand as the meeting/group names were called.

Others who were introduced included the following:

Friend in Residence: Peterson Toscano
AFSC: Eisha Mason
Western Friend: Mary Klein

Also visiting, Margaret Sorrel, previous NPYM member, now from Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Childrens’ Activity and Program Leaders were introduced by Mim Lilly Coleman, Children's Program Coordinator. Children's Activities began this morning; formal program begins this afternoon.

2. Announcements

Clerk Warren Ostrom apologized for the problems that developed with on-line registration this year and announced that the planning committee has committed to using a purchased registration system beginning next year.

Anyone who is uncomfortable with their current bathroom situation given our request for non-gender facilities should contact Registrar Kim Williams to be moved to a more appropriate accommodation.
There have been changes in volunteer assignments; members were asked to consult the lists in the registration room (rotunda).

### 3. Minute of Inclusion

Dave Fabik of Bridge City Meeting read the current version of the proposed minute on gender inclusivity that will be considered during this annual session.

We were reminded why we are to consider this proposal—Friends’ testimonies of equality, community, and integrity. The members of Gender Concerns Committee at Multnomah have considered requests from other meetings not to include the list of gender categories, but they maintain that the list is important because of naming those whose sense of gender identity has not been supported. Although we do not have power over our gender identity itself, we do have power regarding how we welcome all. Members of the Multnomah committee welcome conversations with others who need to talk about these issues.

Our process will include a focused worship/threshing session on the proposal this evening and discernment regarding approval at the full-group session on Saturday morning.
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II. Preparation for Business - Minutes of Record
This session comprised clarifications about proposed action items to be considered in our regular business session on Friday morning.

1. Budget
Finance and Legal Committee members Janet Jump and Nancy Irving spoke to the budget proposal.

Finance and Legal Committee has undertaken a review of the details of income and expenditures. For example, some committees have not been spending the funds designated for their work; it is not clear what this means about their level of activities. There are also funds committed to special initiatives. In addition to this review, they are proposing adjustments to some items. The adjustments are based on emphasizing spending as a role in advancing the mission and work of NPYM.

Two items were described in detail. (1) The budget includes funds for publishing printed copies of the revised Faith and Practice for each member who is counted in the assessments plus two copies for the meetings and worship groups. (2) They also recommend greater amounts of contributions to national Quaker organizations to $300 each. This increases charitable donations to about 4% of income. (3) For support of Western Friend, they have included an additional $1000. The budget continues to show a loss, but we have ample reserves to counteract the loss.

2. Pre-Nominating Committee
The report was by Betsey Kenworthy on behalf of Tom Rawson and herself. Members of Nominating Committee have 2-year terms, overlapping. Three members complete their terms this year: Kathryn Willard, Jerry Graville, and Kathy Hyzy. Nominees are Shannon Perry, Linda Ellsworth, and Ginger Boyle. Ted Etter is recommended as clerk.
3. Nominating Committee
The report by Kathryn Willard, Clerk, included current nominations as well as the listing of positions that are still open.

Many open positions are not filled with nominees until we all arrive at annual session in spite of the fact that the Nominating Committee works year-round. It is also true that the committee’s job is never done because many people complete their committee terms in a given year.

Kathryn reviewed the grid of nominations to date as published and posted. There are a significant number of positions yet to be filled, including several that involve responsibilities for annual session. So that we better understand the scope of the work that collectively must be done, she asked us all to review the job descriptions for committee members, especially if we are nominees.

The committee this year has included Ted Etter, Ethen Perkins, Kathy Hyzy, Jerry Graville, and Maya Whitley in addition to Kathryn.

4. Epistle Committee
Current committee members Chris Cradler and Bill Ashworth announced that they needed a third committee member.

They read the epistle from Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends. This is the group that resulted from the January 2017 decision to divide Northwest Yearly Meeting. SCYMF commits itself to “recognizing the full participation of LGBTQ people in all aspects of the life of the new yearly meeting.” They also wrote that they want to move forward as a “Quaker, Christ-centered yearly meeting.”

5. NPYM Ministry and Oversight
Members of NPYM Ministry and Oversight Committee were introduced by Clerk Nancy McLaughlin: Tom Head, Betsey Kenworthy, Dorsey Green, Lucy Fullerton, and Melody Ashworth. These people are available for conversations.
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III. Presentation by Friend-in-Residence Peterson Toscano

Peterson Toscano’s evocative presentation was part personal narrative and part dramatization of issues around gender identity as characters drawn from his own past and from the Bible. He spoke of his own struggles to claim his identity as a gay man. His depiction of Joseph of the coat of many colors was through creating a persona for Joseph’s Uncle Esau, whom he played as an out-spoken man from the Bronx. The result was both heart-warming and thought-provoking.

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IV. Focused Worship (Threshing Session)

Adult and Junior Friends gathered for focused worship concerning the proposed minute on gender inclusivity.

V. Worship in Song with Anna Fritz

At the end of the threshing session, Anna Fritz provided a musical worship period, singing songs she has written, some of which were focused on seeking and identifying one’s gender. All of her music deepened Friends’ worship. She also led the Friends who were present in joining in some of the songs.

Prepared by Angelia Alexander, Recording Clerk