Plenary Session IV: 7:00, Sixthday (Friday) evening

NPYM-2020.17 Opening

Friends settled in open worship. Presiding Clerk, David Zeiss, invited Friends to continue worship while welcoming the representatives of Jr. Friends Yearly Meeting who had come to share their activities.

NPYM-2020.18 North Pacific Jr. Friends

Adam Billen and Ezra Ford-Brown, co-clerks, joined us with the Jr. Friends recording Clerk, Hazel Smith-Jordan. Adam reported on their Yearly Meeting, including a powerful discussion of how Quakerism informs their response to Black Lives Matter and a three-hour business meeting. They appreciated their annual fishbowl with Young Adult Friends. Ezra reported that both the Jr Friends camp and their service trip this year have been cancelled because of COVID-19. They will be retaining the funds raised for the service trip for next year and waiting to reschedule their camp until their hoped-for Winter Ski Trip.

NPYM-2020.19 Uprooting Racism Working Group

Steven Aldrich reported that the group has continued meeting and working with the survey of Meetings about their work to end racism. He asked Friends to look at the report and the result of the survey with last year’s Minute on Uprooting Racism on the NPYM Web-site.

NPYM-2020.20 Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Leni Skarin, outgoing clerk, reported for the Committee. They have met twice during the year, including clerks of local meeting Peace & Social Concerns committees. They will be meeting quarterly next year, rotating clerks. They have winnowed the Committee’s job description to focus on two goals next: building a network of meeting representatives to join with them and share efforts, and building connexions with the representatives and liaisons with Quaker peace and justice action organizations. They expect to be working more closely with the Uprooting Racism sub-committee. Please send Susan Cozzens the names and contact information of clerks of peace committees or Friends who can act as regular liaisons or representatives from your meeting to the YM Committee.

NPYM-2020.21 Ministry & Counsel Committee

Helen Park reported that the State of the Society can be found by reading the State of the Meeting reports from 25 monthly meetings. She read a collection of selections from them. “We have learned that we can center in Zoom. We will survive. We have the Light.” The State of the
Society reports can be read on the NPYM Web-site. Friends are urged to read them and sense the depth of the communities in our Yearly Meeting.

**NPYM-2020.22  Youth Safety Policy**

Youth Programs Committee sent a proposal [attached] to Yearly Meeting. Debbie Townsend reported on this and referred Friends to the Companion Document explicating the reasons for this policy and changes. The Committee regrets the need for having such policies and regrets living in a time and in a world in which we must prepare for such difficult, unimaginable potentiality. Debbie read and clarified the significant changes that are being proposed, responding to questions. Friends responded with numerous concerns about the lack of trust, the reduction of true community, and the priority given to surveillance and control. Concerns were raised about the need for better education, full consultation with Jr Friends and Central Friends, and empowerment, as well as avoiding involvement with the governmental criminal system.

The proposal will be discussed in business meetings and seasoned to improve it. Friends are encouraged to share their feedback and concerns with Debbie, Mim Collins and the Committee also. They hope to reach unity on a new policy before we next meet again in person.

**NPYM-2020.23  Closing**

Friends returned to worship in silence. The Zoom hosts then opened a portal to facilitate attendance at the Quaker Fair that followed.