Plenary Session VI: 8:30, Firstday (Sunday) morning

**NPYM-2020.29 Meeting for Memorials and Celebration of Life**

Friends met to celebrate those Friends who have died since our last gathering. Their memorial minutes were made available on the Annual Session Web-site. Friends spoke to the joy of living with the following Friends, of the blessings they brought to our Meetings, the effect they have had on our Society and the witness they made. All are missed and we held them in the Light.

[list inserted here]

Plenary Session VII: 10:00, Firstday (Sunday) morning

**NPYM-2020.30 Opening**

Meeting gathered in silent worship. David Zeiss (Eugene), Presiding Clerk, greeted everyone and welcomed those who had joined us for the first time. He made several announcements about review and approval of minutes, clerking, including how to discern unity in Zoom meetings, and logistics.

**NPYM-2020.31 Registrar Report**

Judy Lackey showed her report [attached] and summarized it. There were over 340 persons registered, but we have no way to know how many attended. Children’s participation was very limited and badly missed.

**NPYM-2020.32 Yearly Meeting Census**

Our Yearly Meeting still has 44 meetings and worship groups. However the Society has grown very little this year and in some senses has gotten smaller. However, assessments have been paid for 964 adults. The report was clarified in response to a few questions.

**NPYM-2020.33 Epistle**

The Epistle Committee presented and read for us our Epistle to Friends Everywhere [attached]. We accepted it with thanks, to be sent to all Quaker groups around the world. Shannon reminded us that our Committee reads and collects epistles from Friends around the world; Friends are encouraged to read them at [http://fwcc.world/epistles-from-quaker-groups-from-around-the-world](http://fwcc.world/epistles-from-quaker-groups-from-around-the-world). She also raised a concern for Mexico City MM and the Casa de Los Amigos which have been under assault and seek a nonviolent resolution.
We returned to discussion of the proposed policy changes. The clerk began to guide the meeting through the Youth Committee’s list of significant changes, but Friends quickly turned the conversation to deeper and more fundamental concerns they have about the NPYM youth program.

A Friend, a former Jr. Friend, spoke with great feeling about the loss, even destruction, of the Jr. Friends—which formerly was a community 60 to 70 young people—because of increasing limits in the name of safety and control. In part this has been a response to a negative event and outside pressures like new laws. We wish to re-write the safety policy in a way that honors our children, young people and staff and volunteers so that it feels more welcoming and even fun while building community. How do we reach out to young Friends so that they feel engaged and welcome? Many aspects of the proposed changes feel necessary and we need to recognize that children today grow up in a very different world that most of us do not fully comprehend: most children and young people already deal with similar policies in other parts of their life. We must listen carefully for Continuing Revelation of Truth in order to discern the way forward, where adults and young people and children build together in forming a healthy community, where both safety and autonomy, love and discipline, are basic agreements in our Quaker culture. Many Friends had more insights, but time limited us and clerk asked Friends to continue to seek discernment in their meetings.

The Policy and proposed changes will be considered over the coming year in business meetings. Friends are urged to discuss and seek unity on the Safety of children and Jr. Friends through their local groups and to send in their feedback as the Committee seeks to formulate policies that satisfy our needs and hopes.

Friends returned to silent worship and closed the business sessions. After lunch, we gathered again in open worship, graced with vocal ministry, and said farewells, to gather again, G'dwilling, in Seventhmonth, 2021, as way opens.

D. Pablo Stanfield,  
Recording Clerk  

David Zeiss,  
Presiding Clerk