Friends met at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, from 17 to 21 Seventhmonth.

NPYM-2019.15 Closing

The meeting closed in silence and rose for lunch and other activities.

NPYM-2019.16 Minute of Record

Friends met in the evening in gathered worship discussion to speak to the concerns raised by our Friend in Residence. He responded to questions about the loss of hope and opening for a miracle, about holding to our Truths and dealing with toxic actions or personalities that weaken the Society of Friends from within, and elicited deeper queries. Friends were moved to share insights about how they became aware of truths, their hunger for the Spirit, their hopes.

Plenary Session IV: 8:30 Sixthday

NPYM-2019.17 Gathering

Friends gathered in open worship. Presiding Clerk Lucretia Humphrey welcomed Friends, reminding them of the glorious summer morning outside; comparing the diversity and beauty of the flowers in the gardens with the diversity and beauty of the Quakers within. We gave thanks for the life of former registrar Clint Weimeister, who died in May, leaving us many gifts in this Annual Session.

Warren Ostrom, past presiding clerk, spoke to us of his gratitude for the work that precedes the work of the Annual Session. He gave thanks for the careful discernment and the faithful Friends in attendance: the Presence grows as we gather in expectation of finding guidance.

NPYM-2019.18 Budget – Finance & Legal

Janet Jump, co-clerk of the standing Committee on Financial & Legal affairs, explained a few of the assumptions that back up the budget proposal. The budget is very similar to last year’s. The “Extraordinary Opportunities” line is a cumulative discretionary fund that allows flexible response to special requests. A Friend asked us to consider whether we are not facing an opportunity to use those funds to support some of the work for undoing racism\(^1\). It was suggested that members of the Committee meet with any Friends of Color to ask guidance for ways these funds could be made use of by them and to make this opportunity and decision-making more transparent. What committees and processes need to be involved in making procedures clear to all? Are we making decisions paternalistically for “them” or are all

\(^1\) Friends of Color
Friends participating and supporting Friends integral to our Yearly Meeting? Concerns arose about the lack of information and open communication of how the Yearly Meeting functions.

- Friends asked Finance & Legal Committee to follow up on these concerns and to meet with Friends of color in the Yearly Meeting and clarify ways that our support for needs they perceive can be made available to them.

- The Meeting approved the budget as presented. Friends support Finance & Legal Committee investigating an earmarked fund for supporting anti-racist changes – ideas ranged from promoting another retreat to contributing to reparations for African-Americans. We trust that Friends will season these concerns and be Guided to bring future proposals.

- Friends united in approving these minutes.

We thanked the Committee and Treasurer for their ongoing work.

NPYM-2019.19 Coordinating Committee

Jane Snyder, clerk of the committee, reported on the activities [Attachment D]. She commented on the challenges of unexpected crises and the ways “we get by with a little help from our Friends.” She sang us her thanks.

NPYM-2019.20 Outreach & Visitation

Paul Christiansen, who was a travelling minister for the Knitting Us Together Program this year, spoke of his experience. He visited Quaker groups from Pullman-Moscow to Lower Columbia with his concern for the Climate Crisis. He heard three points: we are afraid of the danger, we are thankful that someone is working for change, and our groups need more young people involved. He re-told the story of Noah and the Ark as updated to the current situation. In the present challenge, Paul says, either we actually fix the problems or there will be no ark for any “special survivors”.

Joe Snyder, clerk of Outreach & Visitation Committee, spoke of the committee and its work. He invited Friends, who feel a leading or concern, to speak to the committee as they seek travelling Friends and elders for next year and the future. They also want to raise concerns about how our Meetings do outreach.

NPYM-2019.21 Committee on Ministry & Counsel

Lucy Fullerton, Jim Humphrey, Tom Head and Melody Ashworth represented the committee. Lucy reported on the consultations they have done with local Ministry & Counsel committees. One of their topics was what local groups were doing to uproot racism.
They asked us to respond to a query: How are we making our Yearly Meeting a beloved community and a living testimony for all members and attenders? How can the YM support your local group or you as an individual? In what additional ways would you like the YM to offer support? What is your Quaker group doing? How can the Yearly Meeting support your efforts to respond to these challenges? We are very comfortable; how does the Light make us uncomfortable? Are we ready to respond, whatever the costs? We are deluged with words; how can we get to the core of information we need? How do we offer our gifts to the world? We must look at ways to connect at deeper levels, to promote empathy; are there ways to do this better with modern technology?

**NPYM-2019.22 Transition**

Friends took a short break for rest and rearrangement of the facing table, then returned for:

*Plenary Session V: 10:00 Sixthday*

**NPYM-2019.23 Gathering**

Friends returned to open worship. The Clerk thanked us for bringing focus to each item.

**NPYM-2019.24 Epistles**

Iris Granville, Shannon Perry and Debbie Townsend read excerpts from epistles received from Asia/West Pacific Region of FWCC 2018, Ireland Yearly Meeting 2019, Britain Yearly Meeting 2019, General Gathering of Friends in Mexico 2019.

We were invited to look at copies of many epistles from other Quaker groups. The epistle committee is drafting our epistle for this year. They invite Friends to consult with them during their lunchtime meetings or leave them suggestions for their writing.

**NPYM-2019.25 Quaker Organizations**

Johanna McNee (Pullman-Moscow) attended Sierra Cascades YM and Nancy Irving (Olympia) will represent us to Northwest YM as our official visitors. This is one way we are connected to Friends in the Pacific Northwest. Friends were urged to speak to them about their experiences with other Quakers in our region.

Clerk then introduced presenters from Quaker organizations.

A. *American Friends Service Committee – The representatives and members of the AFSC Corporation introduced themselves. Lucy Duncan, AFSC staff, director of Friends relations, invited us to keep connected through them and spoke to us about the Service Committee work on the Southwest border. They were able to get considerable media attention. She*
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showed photos of events at the end of Channukah last year, including action leading to arrests, as well as marches along the border wall.

She wanted to demonstrate some of the kinds of work that is possible for people of faith in the situation of political problems involving immigrants seeking refuge from threats to their lives. Many of the initiatives that AFSC volunteers have taken model ways we can confront policies of injustice. She called it deep work that builds empowerment and opportunity; she invited Friends to support and join their work, both in the U.S. and internationally.

She invited us to look at afsc.org/friendsengage and find out about other ways that we can individually be involved in AFSC’s work.

B. *Quaker Earthcare Witness – Shelley Tannenbaum, general secretary of QEW, introduced QEW Representatives Eric Maya Joy and Mary Ann Percy, and stated: our society has lost something that indigenous peoples have tried to hold and we need to rediscover: our connexion with all Creation. She wants to reclaim a link with the Creator and expand her spiritual interaction with the land and all of Nature. This is a way to regain our humanity. She reminded us that the ecological crises are unprecedented; we know what causes them and what to do about it; we are all related so we must act. She challenged us to overcome despair and to join the work of their network. She asked us to support the global youth Movement for the Planet. They are beginning to speak to the 1% richest, the decision-makers.

We need to inspire each other and sustain such work to save the environment. The growing awareness of the role of our national government and businesses contributing to the destruction of the planet, gives cause for hope, as in the Children’s Environmental Trust case.

People of faith are called to act: the problems we face are bigger than all of us; if there was ever a time for a response it is now. She asked us to be open for guidance on next steps, to regain what it means to be human: we are all connected.

“It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it.” ~Wm Penn, 1693

Mary closed by asking: What does love ask of us in loving all members of the web of Life?

C. * Right Sharing of World Resources: Simple Meal – Jonathan Brown, newly a member of the board of RSWR, spoke about why we were not able to offer a simple meal this year as a fund-raiser for RSWR, as we have done in the past. He spoke of their work in supporting women’s empowerment in Sierra Leone, Kenya and India, and invited Friends to learn more at the Quaker Fair and to give financial support for them.
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NPYM-2019.26   Closing

Meeting returned to silent worship to close at 11:48.

NPYM-2019.27   Minute of Record

Junior Friends led an evening session in which they introduced the gathering to a Spectrum Game. This consisted of arraying ourselves in a continuum across the floor of the room according to how closely we agree or disagree with a statement one of the Jr. Friends read. Questions covered our comfort with confronting Climate Catastrophe, our ability to respond to crisis, our hopes for the future, our ability to separate our biases from our actions, our experience of being judged, and our ideals for treating others. We found ourselves arrayed quite broadly, sometimes uncomfortable with where we had to stand compared with where we wished we could be, other times glad of where we had arrived in our development. Friends were given the opportunity to speak about why they had placed themselves on the spectrum where they did, their feelings about the issue represented, and their hopes for building a sustainable world. After closing in a few minutes of worship, Jr. Friends were loudly thanked (applauded!) for their effective choice.

/Stanfieldh., recording clerk                         / Lucretia Humphrey, presiding clerk