North Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Annual Sessions 2019

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

NPYM-2019.00 Minute of Record

The arriving Friends first met on Fourthday evening in Meeting for Worship, which was centered on ministry around the query “What does love require us to do?” in this day. All our plenaries gathered with singing led by members of the Yearly Meeting, a tradition that reminds us fondly of past song leaders.

Plenary Session I: 8:45, Fifthday (Thursday) morning

NPYM-2019.01 Opening

After entering to songs familiar to our children led by Chris Cradler and Peter Husby, Friends gathered in silent worship. Presiding Clerk Lucretia Humphrey welcomed all to our 46th Yearly Meeting, reminding us that we had assembled on land taken from the Kalapuyah and Tillamook peoples. Like them we will try to honor the Earth that sustains us here.

NPYM-2019.02 Introductions

The Presiding Clerk introduced those seated at the head table and facing seats:

- Lucretia Humphrey (Great Falls), presiding clerk
- D. Pablo Stanfield (University), recording clerk
- David Zeiss, assistant clerk (rising)
- Jim Humphrey, of the Committee on Ministry & Counsel,
- Nancy Irving, Finance & Legal Committee,
- Ann Stever, former Presiding Clerk, who remarked on the Light leading us in making decisions in business meeting,
- Vanessa Julye of Friends General Conference

She asked those connected to the various meetings and worship groups of the Yearly Meeting to rise to identify themselves as she read the list of all the groups in North Pacific Yearly Meeting, by Quarter and affiliation.

Clerk then introduced visitors to our Annual Session:

- Julie Peyton (West Hills MM), Norma Silliman (Camas FC), and Eli (North Seattle FC), from Sierra-Cascades YM, as well as Anna Baker (North Valley FC) Northwest YM.
- Vanessa Julye (Philadelphia YM), our past Friend-in-Residence, working for the Ministry on Racial Reconciliation of Friends General Conference
- Lucy Duncan (PhYM), American Friends Service Committee, liaison to Friends Meetings
- Shelley Tannenbaum (Pacific YM) representing Quaker Earthcare Witness
Pedro Sosa and Emiliana Aguilar, and their sons Tojil and Pedrico, with a concern for issues involving immigrants and the AFSC Immigrant Rights Project
Jay O’Hara (Sandwich MM), Friend in Residence, and Susan Davies (Vassalboro MM), his accompanying elder, of New England Yearly Meeting
Mary Klein (Pacific YM), editor of Western Friend

NPYM-2019.03 Planning Committee

Then she introduced the Annual Session Planning Committee who have spent the last year preparing the program and organizing its elements. All of them were asked to stand to receive recognition and thanks for their efforts.

Lucretia Humphrey, presiding clerk; Pablo Stanfield, recording clerk, John Etter, general arrangements clerk; Kathy Hyzy, physical arrangements clerk; John Gotts, Webmaster, registrar, and volunteer coordinator; Judy Lackey, assistant registrar; Leni Skarin, program coordinator; Mim Lily Coleman, children’s Program coordinator; Mary Ann Percy and Nancy McLauchlan, worship group co-coordinators; Susan Jones, interest group coordinator; David Zeiss, Rising Clerk.

NPYM-2019.04 Youth Programs

Mim Lily Coleman, Coordinator of Youth Programs, spoke of Junior Friends and the Children’s Program. She told a story, “Giddy and the Flowers”, with meanings for all different ages. Then the teachers for each children’s group were introduced and the children left with them to find their rooms and begin their separate program.

NPYM-2019.05 Minute of record

The session concluded by returning briefly to worship in silence, after which Friends entered

Plenary Session II: 9:30 Fifthday

Clerk invited us to turn our attention to meeting for worship through attention to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

NPYM-2019.06 Budget

Nancy Irving and Janet Jump, co-clerks of the Finance and Legal Committee, discussed the financial work of the Yearly Meeting. Nancy introduced the budget proposal for the next fiscal year, starting 10/01. [Attachment A] The document had been made available on the YM Website during registration time and was projected on a screen for review while she pointed out key information. She mentioned that last year’s deficit was caused by the decision to use available funds to provide a copy of the new Faith and Practice to everyone in the Yearly Meeting.
Friends may speak with them at lunchtime. There will be a meeting of Financial & Legal to discuss any issues before we act on the proposal at Sixthday morning’s business meeting.

**NPYM-2019.07 Nominations**

Jana Ostrom, convenor of the Pre-Nominating Committee, including Deborah Lewis and John Allcott, reported on their work to fill the openings in the Nominating Committee. They propose John Allcott (Eugene) and Jasmine Krotkov of MGoF, to serve till 2020 and Linda Ellsworth to serve till 2021, acting as clerk the last year. Ted Etter’s term as clerk of Nominating Committee will thus end 10/01/20.

Ted Etter brought the report of Nominations to be approved for the next period. This document was also available on the Web site [Attachment B] and copies were available while lists were projected for review. Ted reminded Friends that his report this year was identical to last year’s: a concern that we have many more positions than we have persons willing and able to fill the jobs. He discussed what they learned through an *ad hoc* Committee on Nominations in investigating the work of other yearly meetings.

He also discussed vacancies which need to be filled soon and asked Friends to consider leadings to serve.

**NPYM-2019.08 Gender Inclusivity**

The Clerk reminded us of our recent minute and commitment on gender inclusivity. She asked us to remember that our actions make real its good intentions.

**NPYM-2019.09 Follow-up on Uprooting Racism**

Vanessa Julye, from the Ministry on Racism of FGC, discussed efforts that have followed on last year’s concern for uprooting racism. She discussed the Retreat for Friends of Color at Ben Lomond Quaker Center 4/05-07. She thanked those who supported the event; they hope to meet again. She has also led two local workshops on issues of White supremacy and community-building.

Vanessa reported on Friends General Conference’s assessment of Systemic Racism sparked by (mis-)treatment of People of Color by the police at Gatherings. The Site Selection Committee now has members of color who can assess treatment in venues. FGC has a list of goals for changing to become more welcoming and eliminating systemic biases. She discussed the assessment findings and recommendations that led to the commitment to become an anti-racist organization.

Lori Patterson of Multnomah MM read the epistle sent from the spring Retreat.

**NPYM-2019.10 Proposed Minute on Uprooting Racism**
Steven Aldrich (Olympia MM) introduced the committee that has worked on this issue for the past four years. He read the revised version of the minute that has been seasoned by members of the Yearly Meeting since last sessions. [Attachment C]

NPYM-2019.11  About Minutes

The Recording Clerk reviewed the process for approving minutes of the Annual Session. Policy and action minutes are approved in the act. Narrative minutes are reviewed by the Presiding Clerk and then posted on-line and in the central announcement area of Walker Hall. Friends are asked to review them and to raise concerns or offer correction to the Recording Clerk outside of plenary sessions.

NPYM-2019.12  Closing

Friends returned to silent worship to close the session at 10:40 for a break.

Plenary Session III: 10:55 Fifthday

NPYM-2019.13  Gathering

Friends gathered in open worship.

Anna Fritz of Multnomah MM introduced our Friend in Residence, Jay O’Hara from Sandwich Monthly Meeting of New England Yearly Meeting. She mentioned his past leadings to nonviolent direct actions to halt environmental degradation, to form the Center for Environmental …, and his faithfulness to act in the Light to save our planet from human action.

NPYM-2019.14  Friend-in-Residence

From the gathered silence, Friend Jay spoke to the concern… (Jay and Pablo are working on a summary of the message given out of the silence, not a speech…)