

## **NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING**

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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 Ford, Friends gathered in silent worship. Presiding Clerk Lucretia Humphrey welcomed all to our 47<sup>th</sup> 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) of Northwest YM.  
Vanessa Julye (Philadelphia YM), our past Friend-in-Residence, working for the Ministry on Racism 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 workshops at Multnomah 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 spoke of his work as a climate activist initiating high-profile, non-violent direct actions, his co-founding of the Climate Disobedience Center, and the faithful listening for Spirit's leading that directs his work. She shared her experience of meeting Jay when he visited Multnomah Meeting in 2016, saying "The Light that shone in Jay...called out to the Light in me and in the Friends gathered to listen. The possibility that lay before me, of being part of a people who put their faith in something much larger than our own minds and strategies; a people who listen for holy guidance and act with courageous faithfulness, who do this together - joyfully, lovingly, and boldly; this is the Religious Society of Friends of which I want to be a part. Jay's vision for us as a people has kindled a fire in me, and I pray that it might in you too."

### **NPYM-2019.14 Friend in Residence**

From the gathered silence, Friend Jay offered the vocal ministry alive in him. Grounded in Spirit, pausing to listen and to weep, he spoke with passion, humility, and power. Jay shared a love song to the power of the Holy Spirit and to God's people in the Religious Society of Friends and to the power of that Life and Spirit to move us in powerful history-shaking action in the world.

He spoke of the Domination System, the Empire's grip on our culture perpetuating climate destruction, racism and white supremacy and beyond, and it's influence in our individual spiritual lives that limits and domesticates us. And he named our condition of being in the thrall of this domination system which provides for us comfort and the illusion of security.

He testified to the antidote to that system and culture of domination and oppression in the God of Freedom, known to Moses and the Israelites, to Jesus and the early Friends. And he called us to be clear about our fundamental spiritual purpose together so that we may be more inviting to those who

hunger for the spirit rather than simply those who share the predominant cultural and social values and outlooks of liberal white middle and upper-middle class educated professionals.

Jay suggested we need to be clear about what is the core of Quakersim, so that we can hold ourselves accountable and be clear to those who walk through our doors what we are about. He suggested that this core has four parts, around which all of the other structures of Quakerism hang:

First, the clarity that there is a Spirit that goes by many names (Light, Truth, the Seed, Christ, God) but is known inwardly, and is always available to guide our lives. Second, that in coming to turn our whole lives over to that voice, and to put ourselves under it's direction, we can enter into a new world of joy and liberation that was attested to by early Friends. And third, that we need our community to help us clear away the internal and external distractions which keep us from hearing the voice and to help us discern what is the True Voice from the voice of ego or selfishness. And fourth, that we further need community to materially and spiritually support us as we take the risks and leaps of faith of submitting our lives to following that voice.

Jay highlighted two Quaker traditions that will need to be recovered if we are to hold onto that core and for our power as a prophetic people to take hold among us and in the world. First is an understanding of spiritual authority, a concept much abused by the dominant culture. Second is the tradition of naming gifts and truth, the movement of the spirit and the spiritual gifts, particularly the gift of ministry.

We closed our time by singing with Jay a song by Lisa Littlebird:

In desperation, we found freedom  
In freedom, we found love  
In love, we found devotion  
In devotion, Spirit found us.

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 of losing **Hope? Looking into the Abyss** and finding Faith for making a miracle and Kinship with all life. He apologized for not telling stories of what's wrong with the environment. Instead he hopes to offer a love song to God and to God's people in the Religious Society of Friends, and hope for our Earth.

He reflected that loud demonstrations screaming to be listened to on climate change were depressing and fruitless in dealing with the *status quo*. He saw the powers that be and the lack of "power with" among those agitating, as well as the lack of the Power Within, the spiritual power to speak to our real needs and to open the way. Our condition is that we lack power and we lack the power of community and Spirit. We are assaulted by the list of ills rampaging through our society, our economy, our racial

relations... and we feel overwhelmed. We do not know the tools available and how to engage with the problems. We are stuck in falling back on past patterns and efforts. We fall into old forms without Life.

He spoke of chaos and collapse and dark futures predicted and he grieves, as many of us do, because we have not met the challenge. He held up the good news of the Power that led Moses and the Power of Liberation; the Power shown by Jesus in upending the money-changers' stalls; the Power of Friends who called forth the first Quakers to build a new world. He referred to Walter Wink's concept of the Domination System that enriches the few at the expense of many and the destruction of our world – the calamities of climate change that can consume even brilliant flashes of inspiration. And he then challenged us to leave the model of religion that is abstract beliefs and move on to a way of life that has faith in Life and moves us to rise above.

His experience is that the Divine is prophetic; it goes where She wants and does what is necessary to bring Good and share Life, the opposite of Dominating. It actively testifies and invites: a whisper that is the opposite of control and exploitation. How are we as the Religious Society of Friends doing? If we are not clear about the religious and faith reasons we gather to discern together, if we do not hold our Quaker core, we cannot see to move forward and attract more than a majority of upper middle-class, white professionals.

There is One –who goes by many names: Light, Spirit, Christ, Truth... – that can enlighten us and lead us into justice and healing. We need and must work in community to sort out the truth and eliminate the despair, lack of self-esteem, prejudice and fear, in order to focus on the real work and free ourselves to do what is right. Without the Spirit bubbling up like a spring to water our growth; we dry up and remain stuck, and fall to the voices of ego, comfort, madness, social custom.

Jay highlighted two Quaker traditions that he believes we must recover to act wisely in the challenges ahead. We must recover awareness of Spiritual Authority. It is a concept abused by the dominant culture, but Quakers must hold up the Spirit, not the practice of possessing authority. We must recover the gift of Meaning, the power to Name the Truth, to recognize what is really going on and what needs to change, and to nurture the gifts of ministries that reflect the Truth. There is Power that is challenged when we practice our tradition. What will our world look like if we cultivate an eruption/irruption of the Spirit among us?

There is no shortage of “burning bushes” telling us, and younger people, that things must change. Can we rediscover the Fire burning within, in joyous relation with creation, in the actions we need to take, the inner voice telling us the steps away from the Abyss and into Kinship?

Friends returned to listening for the Guide for clear Light on the future.

## **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**<sup>1</sup>. 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 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.

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1 Friends of Color

- 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, the other was on vocal ministry.

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? Some responses included: 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 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/friends\\_engage](http://afsc.org/friends_engage) 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." ~W<sup>m</sup> 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.

## **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.

*Plenary Session VI: 8:30 Sabbathday*

**NPYM-2019.28      Gathering**

As Friends entered, the Meeting settled into silence of worship. Presiding Clerk Lucretia Humphrey welcomed us with words of thanks for the new day. Past presiding clerk Janet Jump shared her appreciation of the work of meeting for worship with attention to business and the commitment it requires of us to be engaged in deep listening in order to find unity.

**NPYM-2019.29      Discernment & Action on Minute on Racism**

Clerk invited Steven Aldrich (Olympia), clerk of the committee that has shepherded the minute on uprooting racism, to present the latest version of the minute that has been seasoned over the past year.

*NPYM's Proposed Uprooting Racism Minute June 2019*

We Friends affirm our commitment to live the intertwined testimonies of Integrity, Equality, and Community as we look to the transformative power of love to guide us in uprooting racism. Friends recognize the detrimental impact of racism on all people and the injustice of substantial racial disparities. Under Divine guidance, we are led to dismantle the system of white supremacy which rewards white people with unearned advantages while often punishing people of color with pervasive disadvantages. We seek a deepening awareness of how these privileges and barriers have manifested in each of our lives. We endeavor to use this awareness to act against racial injustice.

We acknowledge that white Friends have erected barriers to Friends of color and continue to perpetuate systemic racism in Quaker systems. We commit to examining Friends' traditions and actions for barriers that exclude people of color and altering them accordingly. We seek guidance in how to remedy continued injustices perpetuated by systemic racism and in the creation of improved alternatives.

Important roles for white Friends include listening directly to and supporting Friends of color, educating other white Friends about racism, and holding each other accountable. We commit individually and as meetings to take action that dismantles oppressive societal attitudes and institutions, that creates equity, and that constructs multiracial movements to solve the pressing

problems of our times. We accept the challenge to co-create Beloved Community with equality of opportunity, respect, and spiritual and economic well-being for all people everywhere.

After the minute proposal was read, we entered into open worship. Friends appreciated the work that has been offered to bring the process this far. They spoke to concerns about finding comfort in the proposal, when the issue demands that we be uncomfortable; with the exact meaning and implications of some of the phrases; with acknowledging past prejudicial practices in our history; with its lack of specific challenges for change; the difficulty in getting Friends in our home meetings to examine the subject and deal with what it requires of us; the need to send prepared Friends around the YM to move us forward; questions of how we welcome and accept difference and change; how we identify ourselves with these statements and commit to the many years of struggle that will be necessary to effect improvement; with owning the hurt we have caused and with dealing with unconscious cultural norms that put up barriers; with Friends of Color are invisible in what it speaks of; its lack of “intersectionality” with interlocked systems of oppression and exploitation of the Earth; with how its meaning varies from area to area in our large geographical region; and with specific wordings.

Clerk asked if we could unite with the general sense of the meeting and make revisions that could be ready for approval in our next session. It was the sense of the meeting that Friends should work on incorporating these ideas and try to improve the language in ways that the Meeting might unite with the next day. Friends made a few suggestions of edits and then returned to silent worship to give thanks for the sharing and to ask for Light to see where to go.

### **NPYM-2019.30      Nominating Committee**

Ted Etter returned with good news of new nominees to add to the lists of nominations. Spirit has been leading individuals to serve and a few Friends are still in the process of discernment of taking positions.

<i><b>Position</b></i>	<i><b>Term</b></i>	<i><b>Nominee</b></i>
Finance and Legal (co-clerk)	10/19 - 9/22	Nancy Irving (Olympia)
Finance and Legal (co-clerk)	10/19 - 9/22	Janet Jump (Bridge City)
Ministry and Counsel	10/19 - 9/22	Tim Vischer (MGOF)
Ministry and Counsel	10/19 - 9/22	Lucy Fullerton (University)
Outreach and Visitation (clerk)	10/19 - 9/21	Margaret Coahran (Pullman-Moscow)
Outreach and Visitation	10/19 - 9/21	Joe Snyder (Multnomah)
Friends Committee on National Legislation	9/19 - 8/22	Tom Rawson (Salmon Bay)
Friends Committee on National Legislation	9/19 - 8/22	Jasmine Krotkov (MGOF)
Western Friend Director	10/19 - 9/22	Tom Head (Bridge City)
Friends Peace Teams	10/19 - 9/22	Katherine Northup (MGOF)
Friends Peace Teams	10/19 - 9/22	Steven Aldrich (Olympia)
Quaker Earthcare Witness	10/19 - 9/21	Mary Ann Percy (Bellingham)

Friends World Committee on Consultation	1/19 - 3/22	Elinor Jordan (Olympia)
Friends World Committee on Consultation	1/19 - 3/22	Lucy Fullerton (University)
American Friends Service Committee	10/19 - 9/22	Caroline Wildflower (Port Townsend)
American Friends Service Committee	10/19 - 9/22	Peter Husby (Missoula)
Coordinating Committee Recording Clerk	10/19 - 9/21	Barb Luetke (Salmon Bay)
Epistle Committee	10/19 - 9/20	Shannon Perry (Mountain View)
Peace and Social Concerns	10/19 - 9/21	Leni Skarin (Clerk) (Agate Passage)
Peace and Social Concerns	10/19 - 9/21	Susan Cozzens (University)
Peace and Social Concerns	10/19 - 9/21	Leslie Hickcox (Multnomah)
Youth Committee	10/19 - 9/21	Yalda Asmatey (Corvallis)
Youth Committee	10/19 - 9/21	Anna Row (Bellingham)
Youth Committee	10/19 - 9/21	Peter Ford (Multnomah)
Youth Committee	10/19 - 9/21	Debbie Townsend (Clerk)(Eastside)
Assistant Treasurer	10/19 - 9/20	Corin Whittemore (Umpqua Valley)
Youth Committee	10/19 - 9/21	Chris Cradler (Multnomah)

replaced the list already presented. The list of vacant position was read and Friends were asked to consider serving.

- Friends **approved** the nominations as presented.

Jana Ostrom brought the nominees for the Nominating Committee.

- Meeting **approved**

To serve until 9/20: Ted Etter (Missoula) clerk; John Allcott (Eugene); Jasmine Krotkov (MGoF).

To serve until 9/21: Katie Uhte-Strohbehn (Multnomah); Linda Ellsworth (Eastside), to become clerk 10/20.

### **NPYM-2019.31 Epistle**

Debbie Townsend presented the first draft of our Epistle to Friends Everywhere. Friends responded with comments and suggestions. There are opportunities to edit and discern final wording, especially for the parts referring to events which have not yet occurred. Friends may meet with the Epistle Committee to make further suggestions. Meeting will approve the Epistle by accepting it without discussion at its final reading on Firstday morning.

### **NPYM-2019.32 Closing**

The Recording Clerk reminded Friends to review the narrative minutes as posted and offer improvements. Meeting returned to silent worship to close at 10:05.

### **NPYM-2019.33 Minute of Record**

During the afternoon, we held a meeting for worship to celebrate the lives of Friends who have departed this life since last annual session. Memorial minutes were read for:

Brigid Bonners, Corvallis	Barbara Rosen, South Mountain
Jeff Cawley,	John Saemann, Eugene
Martin David Crouch, Multnomah	Russ Salisbury, Great Falls
Karen Sue Braddock, Eastside	Barbara Spring, MGoF
Harrick Harlow Hudson, Eugene	Robert Taylor, MGoF
Rose Lewis, Salem	Henry van Dyke, Corvallis & Ann Arbor (LE YM)
Merepeace, Boise Valley	Clint Weimeister, Port Townsend
Sue Monahan, Eugene	

*Plenary Session VII: 10:00 Firstday*

### **NPYM-2019.29 Gathering**

After singing, the Meeting settled into worship. Presiding Clerk Lucretia Humphrey welcomed all, thankful for faithful attendance. Past presiding clerk John Allcott spoke about discernment, about the need to lay aside personal opinions to unite

### **NPYM-2019.31 Minute on Uprooting Racism**

Revisions to the minute were presented by Steven Aldrich. He read the revised minute proposal.

Friends thanked those who had worked hard to adapt the statement. A few concerns about grammar and clarity were accepted with rewording.

➤ Friends **approved** the minute as amended:

Clerk announced that Finance & Legal Committee has met with Friends of Color present at Annual Session to share information and

### **NPYM-2019.32 Registrar's Report and ASPC**

John Gotts reflected on the census of the Yearly Meeting, which shows a drop in participation, but assessments paid on 966 members and active attenders. There were 234 attenders total at Annual Session, with 36 Jr Friends and children. He thanked Clint Weimeister and Judy Lackey for their help in preparing registration.

We thanked John for all his good work.

### **NPYM-2019.32 Epistles**

Iris Graville read excerpts from epistles from Southeastern Yearly Meeting Young Friends, QUIP (Quakers Uniting in Publication), Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 2018.

The attached epistles were read and will be sent to all other Yearly Meetings, Friends World Committee for Consultation, and other Quaker publications and organizations, as has been our practice.

Iris Graville for YM [Attachment F]

Devin Peterka and Kaeli Frank, co-clerks of Young Adult Friends [Attachment G]

**NPYM-2019.33 Clerk's Minute**

Rising Clerk David Zeiss announced next year's Friend in Residence: Kenya Casanova of Cuba Yearly Meeting.

Lucretia Humphrey gave thanks for the work of this year's plenaries and closed the business. We will reconvene, God willing, at Linfield College again next summer.

**NPYM-2019.30 Closing**

Friends returned to a few moments of centering worship, then prepared the room for open worship, which was graced with vocal ministry. Our children and Jr. Friends returned to join us and we closed these Annual Sessions, thanking the Creator of all Good for the Light we have shared.

*/dpstanfieldh., recording clerk*

*/ Lucretia Humphrey, presiding clerk*