NPYM Nominating Committee Report to Annual Session, 2020

Dear Friends,

Your nominating committee met frequently over the last year looking for leadings and suggestions for Friends to fill leadership and committee positions established by the Yearly Meeting. We are presenting 15 nominations for approval at Annual Session this year. Six nominations for vacancies were approved earlier by either the Executive Committee or the Coordinating Committee.

Two years ago, the Yearly Meeting approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for Nominations to consider the challenges of filling approximately 90 positions in what we call the grid. The committee investigated what other Yearly Meetings have in terms of membership, paid staff, and whether they meet at fixed or rotating sites. One outcome of the committee’s work was a recommendation that North Pacific Yearly Meeting hire an event planner and a registrar for annual sessions. Those positions were formally created at the end of Annual Session last year, and two Friends were hired to fill those positions late in 2019. That took a significant burden off of the Nominating Committee considering the struggles we had trying to find a General Arrangements Clerk, Physical Arrangements Clerk, and a Registrar in recent years.

The Ad Hoc Committee for Nominations did not get to the issue of the numbers of committees chartered by NPYM or the size of those committees. The committee members have discussed reconvening and taking up that issue, but we haven’t resumed that work yet.

At this time, there are approximately 87 volunteer leadership and committee positions in NPYM; the exact number depends on how many members we feel the Faith and Practice (Discipline) Committee needs now that the revised text is in print. We now have 5 paid positions with the addition of the Event Planner and the Registrar.

As we gather for Annual Session this year, there are 26 vacancies in the grid. A few of those are not the responsibility of the Nominating Committee—mainly, new members to that committee and Junior Friends Advisors. For most of the positions in the grid, we feel that familiarity with the Yearly Meeting is required and recent attendance of annual sessions is important. There are some committee positions that are good entry points for people new to Friends or NPYM, but committee clerk and leadership positions require some knowledge of NPYM structure and process. As the members of the Nominating Committee call upon Friends and learn how many have major roles in their monthly or quarterly meetings—or have very busy lives, we have a relatively small pool of Friends to consider for nominations.

The members of Nominating Committee often ask Friends they contact one or two questions aside from a query about a specific position:
• If you have the energy to serve on a Yearly Meeting committee or office, which one(s) resonate with you?
• Who can you think of who might be a good candidate that the Nominating Committee may not be aware of?

This year present a special challenge for us because we will not be meeting Friends face-to-face in the dorms and the dining room and talking about the vacant posts and potential candidates. We hope you will take advantage of some of the meeting spaces this year and discuss with others who you think the Nominating Committee should contact. Of course, if you feel led to consider any of the vacancies, we’d be happy to learn of that, too. Ted Etter will be the main contact for suggestions, but you are welcome to contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee with suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Etter, Clerk

North Pacific Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee
Nominations for Approval at Annual Session, 2020

Volunteer Coordinator for 2021 Annual Session: MariRuth Petzing (Multnomah)

Finance and Legal Committee (one year, ending 9/21): Carl Abbott (Multnomah)

Ministry and Counsel (10/20 – 9/23): Elinor Jordon (Olympia)

Outreach and Visitation (10/20 – 9/21): Necia Quast (San Juan)

Outreach and Visitation (current – 9/22): Al Hendrix

Peace and Social Concerns (one year, ending 9/21): Eric Straatrsma (Tacoma)

Peace and Social Concerns (one year, ending 9/21): Lucinda Hites-Clabaugh (Multnomah)

Youth Committee (10/20 – 9/22): Nick Salmon (Missoula)

Youth Committee (10/20 – 9/22): Brayden Miller (Eugene)

Youth Committee (10/20 – 9/22): Debbie Townsend (Eastside)

Youth Committee (10/20 – 9/21): Chris Cradler (Bridge City)

FCNL Representative (9/20 – 8/23): Linnea Wang (Missoula)

Western Friend Director (10/20 – 9/21): Sakre Edson (Florence)

Western Friend Director (10/20 – 9/23): Lucretia Humphrey (MGOF)

FWCC (1/20 – 3/23): Bill Shroder-Ehri (Olympia)