Annual Sessions 2020

Friends met on the World-Wide Web by video telecommunications from 22 to 26 Seventhmonth.

NPYM-2020.01 Minute of Record

The 2020 Annual Sessions of North Pacific Yearly Meeting were unusual in many ways. Like the whole world, we had to deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although few of us were infected before the gathering, almost every Friends Meeting in the area—of all branches—had to give up meeting together for worship or for any other activities. We had all learned to hold worship on-line with Zoom meetings. This eliminated those without reliable Web connections and brought in Friends from distant points; like most of the adaptations people were forced to make to the coronavirus, it had both a few benefits and key drawbacks. But when the Planning Committee decided to go ahead and hold a “virtual gathering”, we were able to count on most Friends’ familiarity with participating in on-line events. These minutes and other records may not reflect, as clearly as we might wish, the desire we shared for fellowship and exchange; so strong that we were willing to do it through tiny cartouche faces on a screen even when we could not be physically in each other’s presence. We have held interest groups and small worship groups through Zoom and still found the Light present. We managed to hold electronic Meeting for Worship for Business and still discern our Guide.

We gathered the Saturday before our sessions officially began, 18th Seventh month, to follow up on our efforts at Uprooting Racism—so timely during the Black Lives Matter movement—and hear from Multnomah Monthly Meeting attender Lew Frederick, an Oregon state senator, about the challenges that still face society and Quakers at this time.

Plenary Session I: 8:30, Fifthday (Thursday) morning

NPYM-2020.02 Opening

Our first Plenary session was held Fourthday evening as open worship. In today’s first Meeting for Worship with attention to Business, Friends were welcomed into a meeting foyer where they were greeted and guidance for business meeting by Zoom was offered. Then Friends connexion was transferred to the Meeting Room itself, where they were greeted by Tom Rawson leading songs.

At the appointed time, Friends centered in silent worship. Presiding Clerk David Zeiss welcomed all to our 47th Yearly Meeting. He reflected that our Friend in Residence, Kenya
Casanova, wrote him that in her Monthly Meeting, worship, without internet, gathers in silent worship, each person in their own home, and holds the time together. We are thankful that we at least have the ability to connect electronically.

**NPYM-2020.03  Introductions**

The Presiding Clerk introduced those Yearly Meeting officers present:

- David Zeiss (Eugene), presiding clerk
- Lucretia Humphrey (Great Falls WG), former clerk assisting
- Lucy Fullerton (University), and
- members of the Committee on Ministry & Counsel,

*Planning Committee:*

Members of the Annual Session Planning Committee who have worked to organize this first virtual Yearly Meeting were presented and thanked:

- a) Nora Percival (University), staff Secretary
- b) John Gotts (Pullman-Moscow), webmaster, technical advisor extraordinaire
- c) Lew Scholl (Multnomah), Event Planner (General Arrangements Clerk)
- d) Judy Lackey (University), Registrar
- e) Angie Alexander (Tacoma), Quaker Fair
- f) Margaret Coahran (Pullman-Moscow), Worship Groups
- g) Mim Coleman (Tacoma), Children’s Program
- h) Susan Jones (Multnomah), Interest Groups
- i) Pablo Stanfield (University), recording clerk
- j) Mark Kille (Multnomah), program and arrangements assistant

Then the Presiding Clerk introduced the business of the day:

**NPYM-2020.01  Finance & Legal Committee report; Proposed budget**

Janet Jump summarized the report of the Committee [attached]. Concern was expressed for making sure that investments are made to “Green Fund” of Friends Fiduciary. That has been done.

The Committee Clerk shared the proposed budget [attached file]. A concern was raised about the source of the salary for the AS Planner, which currently comes from AS income. The Treasurer, Donal Sullivan, reported that with abundant financing and funds from Monthly Meetings the income and outgo of AS are balanced. Discussion about how we monitor the budget of the AS followed. In the future the Committee should be able to make the AS budget report more easily available. A concern was expressed that paid staff raise the cost of our gatherings.
NPYM-2020.02  Nominating Committee: Proposed nominations

Ted Etter reported on Nominating Committee’s work. Once again there is a lack of volunteers for a number of vacancies. They have not been able to work on reducing the number of positions that must be filled each year.

**Officers:**
- Rising Clerk  Transitions to Presiding Clerk position for 2 years
- Annual Session Recording Clerk  Oct 20 – Sept 22
- Coordinating Committee Associate Clerk  Oct 20 – Sept 21
  Transitions to CC Clerk for 2 years and Associate Clerk for another
- Archivist  Present – Sept 22

**Annual Session Planning Committee**
- Audio–Visual Equipment Coordinator  Oct 20 – Sept 21
- Program Coordinator  Oct 20 – Sept 21

**Committees, Advisors, and Representatives**
- Ministry and Counsel  Oct 20 – Sept 23
- Epistle Committee (3)  Oct 20 – Sept 21
- Information Technology Committee (1)  Oct 20 – Sept 23
- Correspondent to FLGBTQC (2)  Oct 19 – Sept 21
- FWCC Representative (1)  Jan 21 – March 24
- Outreach and Visitation (2)  Oct 20 – Sept 22
- Peace & Social Concerns  Oct 20 – Sept 22  all current positions term out in 2021
- FCNL Rep. (1)  Sept 20 – Aug 23
- Junior Friends Advisor (2)  Oct 19 – Sept 21
- Quaker Earthcare Witness (1)  Oct 20 – Sept 22
- Faith & Practice (3+)  current & pending terms of 3 years
- Site Committee (3)

Ted presented the slate of nominations [attached] and asked that anyone willing to serve or with ideas for who can serve, contact him or other members of the Nominating Committee as soon as possible.

NPYM-2020.03  Site Committee Report

Their report was shared [attached]. Presiding Clerk reported that we have made a commitment for the University of Montana (Missoula) for 2021-22, however, it is unclear that the pandemic will have passed and we will be able to gather next year.

Friends were asked to consider the effect of Friends General Conference being at Western Oregon University in 2022. How do we wish to coordinate with them? Various opinions were expressed. There was reference to the successive meetings NPYM and FGC held in Tacoma (PLU) in 2005. We must also take into account future
need to include Zoom participants. Trying to make it possible for Friends to participate in both events is not an unmitigated positive: concerns about the effect on MGoF, cost and children’s program, among others, were commended to Coordinating and Site Committees.

- Friends asked Site Committee to consider how our Annual Session in 2022 can be organized to facilitate Friends participation in both Annual Session and the FGC Gathering, taking into account the concerns raised this morning.

NPYM-2020.04 Faith & Practice Committee Report

Debbie Townsend reported for the Committee [attached]. Three members work to maintain the published 2018 version. Editorial corrections (addenda and corrigenda) are listed on the NPYM website, the most significant of which were noted.

NPYM-2020.05 Roll Call

Clerk then invited us to gather in the foyer, where we were able to present ourselves by Meeting and Worship Group through a Zoom poll [which was not entirely successful]. In all, 84 of 91 persons in attendance at that point identified with groups in our Yearly Meeting. Friends from other yearly meetings were welcomed.

Meeting closed with time for small group talking, to reconvene this evening.