North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session  
Welcoming Session (Session 2)  
Thursday, July 14, 2016  
8:45 am – 10:15 am

Presiding Clerk, Warren Ostrom

Worship
During worship one Friend reminded us that, contrary to the words of the song we had just sung, we do not walk the valley by ourselves. We walk together with God and each other. The kingdom of God does not come to us as first person, singular.

Roll Call of Meetings
Members representing each monthly meeting and worship group stood as the name of their meeting/group was called. It was announced that the Lopez Island Preparative Meeting was approved as a monthly meeting during this past year (April 2016).

Review of Schedule
We were reminded that none of our sessions are obligatory; we each choose which sessions to attend.

Introductions
Children’s Program leaders were introduced by program coordinator, Jay Thatcher. He asked that people who had been involved with the Children’s Program and Junior Friends since 1972, including this year, stand to be acknowledged as a group. This was a large fraction of the total present.

Clerk Warren Ostrom introduced the following visitors to Annual Session: Wayne Schwartz, from Spokane Friends Church and Northwest Yearly Meeting; Mary Klein, Western Friend editor; Melissa Stoner, Philadelphia Office of American Friends Service Committee; Friend-in-Residence Diane Randall, Executive Director of FCNL; Jim Summers, Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Coordinating Committee Report (Otis Kenny)
The committee met here at Spokane on Wednesday, July 13, 2016. We were reminded that the charge of the committee is to support and enrich the life of the Yearly Meeting (YM) by promoting sharing and providing support for the standing committees of the YM. Members of the committee represent monthly meeting and the standing committees. Coordinating Committee members seem to have completed the transition from the roles of a steering committee toward the roles listed above.

They also make some policy decisions that, for this past year, included approving mid-year nominations to committees and other leadership positions and authorizing that the NPYM directory be made available to monthly meetings and worship groups in the fall of the year rather than at annual session. This report also included mention of the activities of various standing committees (see the full report for details).

The issues that emerged from an interest group at last year’s annual session about the structure and practices at annual session itself had been referred to Coordinating Committee as an emerging concern. Some changes were made this year as a result, e. g., naming the larger sessions by their function rather than simply as plenary sessions. Although the Coordinating Committee will accept recommendations for change from individuals they prefer suggestions to come after seasoning by monthly meetings and worship groups.

Faith and Practice Committee Report (Debbie Townsend and Theo Mace)
Gratitude was expressed for guidance received by the committee from Friends and from the Spirit as they undertook revisions to early chapters of the Faith and Practice document. Three sections have been sent out for review, as follows: Chapter 3, Spiritual Discipline, for final review of content; Appendix, Information Technology, for final review of content; Chapter 4, History, for initial review. Comments are
needed by October 2. The committee is glad to receive comments from individuals and meeting groups; seasoning by meetings is especially valuable.

Other dates leading to publication are: January 2017, distribution of the completed transitional Faith and Practice for final review (for clarity and minor revisions); July 2017, ready for posting on-line and for publication of printed copies. The books will be published by Western Friend, and Mary Klein will be the designer. A printed copy will be sent to each monthly meeting and worship group. It was also suggested that we consider producing voice-recorded copies.

The committee is considering whether to include illustrations (line-drawings and charts in black and white) in the final version. A call for submissions with guidelines will be issued by the end of this calendar year. The call will also ask for suggestions as to what types of illustrations might be included.

**Outreach and Visitation Committee Report (ELee Hadley and John Alcott)**

Outreach and Visitation Committee is tasked with bringing us together as members of Yearly Meeting, especially including those who are more isolated geographically. Participation on this committee is of high value to the isolated Friends who serve on the committee because it brings them into contact with other Friends. It was acknowledged that most of us have either visited other meetings or welcomed those who have visited ours.

The other two members of the committee are Pablo Stanfield and Candida Quinn. Pablo has been most active this past year, visiting seven groups in southern Oregon where he was well-received and encourage to serve as a resource person. It is clear that wherever is one’s spiritual home, one can be connected to—knitted into—the yearly meeting.

**Friends with Traveling Minutes**

Three members of NPYM are traveling under the auspices of the meeting: Pablo Stanfield (to Latin America and, especially, Cuba), eric maya joy (to encourage finding revelation and the Light in nature), and Margery Post-Abbott (to New Zealand and Australia).

**Announcements**

In addition to announcements about specific events at the annual session, Clerk Warren Ostrom reminded us that on the 25th day of the 7th month in 1992, the NPYM Annual Session approved a minute that affirmed the 300-year tradition of belief in the equality of all persons as reflecting God’s will, including individuals of all gender identity categories in use at that time. A broader understanding of gender identity and our practices in response is again an emerging concern.

Reported by Angie Alexander, Recording Clerk