North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session
Minutes, Preparation for Business (Session 5)
Friday, July 15, 2016
8:30 am – 9:30 am

Presiding Clerk Warren Ostrom

Singing prior to convening this session was led by Tom Rawson.

Worship
Friends began this session with unprogrammed worship. One Friend spoke of the coincidence of dark places of pain and experiences of joy.

Introduction
Warren Ostrom introduced our new NPYM secretary, Nora J. Percival.

Minutes
The following message was read: Since we are not referring to all of our full-group sessions as plenary sessions, we are able to distinguish between minutes of record, which report that we assembled and worshipped, listened to presentations or reports, and minutes of process and action, which record our business discussions and decisions. The minutes of the first four sessions that we have completed are minutes of record. Because they are not subject to approval, we are not intending to read these minutes of record to you; they will be posted and archived on the NPYM web site after the end of annual session. We will read, for approval, minutes of this session and remaining sessions at which we prepare for or make business decisions.

Nominating Committee (Kathryn Willard)
Other members present were Ted Etter and Lucretia Humphrey. Kathryn used a pear with a bite out of it to represent how far we had come with securing nominations; the bite represented success. We were made aware that “yes” answers to requests for service were not more than about 15% of those asked. Nominating Committee is charged with filling 98 committee and leadership positions. As they worked, the committee found that there is a systemic issue. Given the numbers of adults who participate in Yearly Meeting, it appears that we are asking too much leadership participation. Previous committees have also worked very hard to secure nominations. This committee began by working very hard to fill every position. However, they realized that finding people to fill positions has to come from the Spirit.

They want to make the process more spiritually based. One solution is to reduce the numbers of people on some committees. Since our overall numbers have reduced, we perhaps should reduce the numbers of positions—not for decision today, but for seasoning. It may be a decision for Coordinating Committee to make.

She also read testimonies from some Friends who have served on committees. These Friends spoke to the deep meaning of service to NPYM as well as to local meetings. For some, service to NPYM has changed their lives.

The grid of present committee members and nominees was reviewed in detail. It was noted that the web-keeper position is critically important, and a nominee is needed. They may recommend that this position be a paid position for a professional person. Current Nominating Committee members feel that committee service should arise from leadings and not be forced on anyone.

Comments:
Since we have moved from communication on paper so much toward communication by the web, we must take the responsibility for web keeping.

Junior Friends do not always know who is interested in becoming Junior Friend advisors.
There is enough money to hire someone to take on some of the tasks that are done by committee members, relieving Nominating Committee of some of its burden. In addition to paying a web-keeper, we could hire an event planner for annual session.

**Pre-Nominating Committee (Janet Jump and Tom Rawson)**

Geographical distribution on the Nominating Committee is very important for knowledge of who might be available for service. The Pre-Nominating Committee members also wanted to have age distribution on the Nominating Committee. Currently held positions are one each from Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting (PNQM), Willamette Quarterly, and Montana. Jerry Graville agreed to serve one more year. Maya Whitley (Sandpoint, Young Adult Friend) and Ethen Perkins (Eugene) are nominated as new members. Approval of continuing membership will be needed for Ted Etter for another term (Montana) and Jerry Graville (PNQM).

**Budget Preparation (Jonathan Brown, Treasurer)**

The proposed budget was posted on the NPYM web site. Jonathan hopes to move us from despair about the budget toward strength and hope. The budget and third-quarter reports are posted in this meeting room. Lee Bennett and Tom Head are the members of the Finance and Legal Committee.

There are only a few changes for the next budget. We have added $2700 to cover printing costs for the new edition of Faith and Practice. Other changes are due to increases in some costs, e.g., insurance costs. Although this budget shows a deficit, over a sequence of years, the finances are generally balanced. Financially, NPYM is strong; we have the money to fulfill the ministries to which we have committed. He hopes that we will approve the budget tomorrow.

**Comment:**

One Friend suggested that we budget $5000 to hire a professional web-keeper. Response was that this issue should be brought to Coordinating Committee in October. The Finance Committee did consider this and conferred with Nominating Committee. Clearness was not reached. However, if a decision is made during this coming fiscal year, there is a fund for extraordinary expenses that could be tapped.

We finished with worship.

After a short break, this business session was followed by a Meeting for Music with Anna Fritz.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Alexander, Recording Clerk