From: American Friends Service Committee Representatives  
   Eddy Crouch (Multnomah), Lorna Stone (South Seattle) and Kirby Urner (Multnomah)

Date: June 13, 2012

Re: AFSC Annual Report to North Pacific Yearly Meeting

Overview: “The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.”

The AFSC works in 13 countries and 38 U.S. cities, including Seattle and Portland. The Seattle office provides two programs: 1) a Community Justice Program that develops youth leadership for social change and works to end racial disparities in the juvenile justice system and 2) an Indian Program that supports Native sovereignty, economic justice and cultural preservation efforts. The Portland office provides two programs: 1) the Peace Program develops youth leadership for peace and social justice activism and 2) the Project Voice Immigrant Rights programs that enhances the ability of immigrants to affirm their human rights and the impact of public policies that effect them.

Appointees:
Although there are four slots allotted for representatives to the AFSC from NPYM, at this time, only three representatives have been appointed to the AFSC from NPYM. Lorna Stone’s first, three-year term ends September 30, 2013. Kirby Urner’s second, three-year term ends September 30, 2014. Eddy’s first, three-year team ends September 30, 2015.

Portland Area Program Committee:
Both Kirby Urner and Eddy Crouch are serving three-year terms on the Portland Area Program Committee, officially begun on May 29, 2012. The program committee is governed by the West Region Executive Committee, and its primary responsibilities are to advise the Executive Committee about current and potential program work, and to provide consultation, support, networking and fundraising for AFSC programs in Portland. The committee is clerked by NPYM member, Carol Urner. Other NPYM members/attenders serving on the committee are: Joanne
West Region Executive Committee:
Eddy Crouch serves as a member of the West Region Executive Committee and began her term when this committee was established on April 27, 2012. Her term will conclude on March 6, 2016. Also on the West Region Executive Committee from NPYM are Steve Schreiner from Bridge City Friends Meeting in Portland and Anna James Miller. The Executive Committee (EC) serves as a regional governance body, with responsibility for the establishment of regional program priorities and budgets. The EC acts within the regional area as an extension of the AFSC National Board of Directors and the Co-Clerk of the Regional EC serves on the AFSC Board of Directors. In consultation with staff and appropriate committees, the EC is responsible for setting overall policy directions, attending to the well being of regional staff and programs, and ensuring that the region is acting in accord with national AFSC mission and priorities.

Multnomah Monthly Meeting Liaison to the AFSC:
Eddy Crouch serves as the MMM Liaison to the AFSC and was appointed to this position on November 18, 2012. Her term will end on June 30, 2016. This involves facilitation of informed communication between Multnomah Monthly Meeting Friends and the AFSC. In this role, Eddy recently coordinated with Kirby Urner, Mireaya Medina (AFSC Portland Peace Program Director) and Avery Welkin (High School Jr. Friends Coordinator) to support the Multnomah Meeting Junior Friends with joining in on an AFSC fundraising project involving painting a door at the Right to Dream Too Rest Area for the houseless.

AFSC Corporation Meeting
The AFSC Corporation is made up of representatives from Yearly Meetings in the United States and at large members. The Corporation meets annually at the Friends Center in Philadelphia. The date for the meeting is now the first Friday and Saturday in March (March 1-2, 2013). NPYM Representatives Eddy and Kirby attended the Corporation Meeting. Others from NPYM who attended were Tom Head (member at large, 2014 panel) and Allen Stockbridge (member at large, 2015 panel).

The featured AFSC program on Friday evening was the Wabanaki Program in Maine. The speaker was Denise Altvater, a member of the Passamaquoddy tribe and coordinator of the program. Denise has worked for the AFSC for 18 years and has been instrumental in developing the first Truth and Reconciliation Commission between the Tribal Nation, the Wabanaki and the U.S. State of Maine.
The Corporation approved a new working group that will examine the AFSC governance and its relationship to the Religious Society of Friends, including the role and the size of the Corporation. The working group is charged with engaging the wider AFSC community who will be discerning how the governance structure can best support sustainable stewardship of the organization’s mission and resources.

The AFSC is preparing for its 100th anniversary that will take place in 2017. The staff and a board committee are working on a feasibility study to determine if it is a good idea to have a fund raising campaign in conjunction with the anniversary.

The AFSC is considering revising the meeting structure for the March 2015 Corporation meeting to foster collaboration between Quakers and the AFSC on specific areas of work.

The AFSC has stabilized its expenses at a sustainable level. Grant and planned giving revenue has increased, but contributions have not grown. Income and expenses have been matched since FY 2010. Arlene Kelly will continue to clerk the board and corporation until March of 2015. A search committee is involved with finding a new clerk while looking at supporting inclusion and diversity.

**AFSC Board of Directors**

NPYM member, Carol Urner’s term ended on the AFSC Board this year. This leaves NPYM without representation on the board. Eddy attended the portion of the board meeting in March that was open to Corporation members. Recently, the size of the board was reduced and now the number of board committees is being decreased.

Revised language was approved for the Strategic Plan which includes two initiatives: 1) “Constructive Local Action for Economic and Social Change: Promoting alternatives for youth in fragile circumstances to engage in new paths to achieve peace and justice” and 2) “Changing the Narrative and War and Peace: Reducing the reliance on militarism and violence”.

**AFSC Epistle 2013**

The epistle, signed by Shan Cretin, General Secretary and Arlene Kelly, Board Clerk reminds us of the AFSC-Quaker meeting/church liaison program. The hope is that more meetings and churches will join this effort in the coming year. The epistle ends with this statement. “Please hold us in your prayers, challenge us, and engage with us. None of this work can happen without communities reaching out in love to help
make peace possible.”

**Contact Information**

Please contact us with questions, concerns or leadings.

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