

North Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
2004 Annual Session Plenary Minutes
Missoula, Montana

Plenary Session I
Twenty-ninth day of the seventh month, 2004
7:30 - 8:00 PM

04 - 01	In preparation for the session singing was led by Laurie Childers; selections included the old favorites, “Study War No More “ and “I’ve got that Joy, Joy, Joy Joy”
04 - 02	<p>The first plenary of the 32nd Annual Session opened with worship and remarks by the Clerk, Jon Prescott. Our theme this year is a query: How are we being called to deepen our spiritual path in times of turmoil? How is your soul responding to troubled times? How do you find the path to that deep well when the path is obscured? What is absolutely essential to your spiritual path at this time and how are being called to deepen it? The Clerk reminded Friends that we have everything we need in this precious moment.</p> <p>The Clerk presented the session’s agenda, which was approved by Friends.</p>
04 - 03	<p>The Clerk introduced Friends with responsibilities for Annual Session and Traveling Friends, including those from other Friends organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bonnie Tinker, recording Clerk ○ Ted Etter, introduced members of the AS Planning Committee members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eden Grace ○ Margaret Frasier, Exec. Secretary FWCC Section of the Americas ○ Arthur Meyer Boyd, FCNL's Associate Executive Secretary, brought greeting from Claire Sinclaire. ○ Folks from other Yearly Meetings (Traveling Minutes read) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patty Federighi ▪ Margaret Fraser ▪ SueEllen Lowry, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Pacific YM will be joining us. ○ Others: Carrie Glasby, visiting staff from FGC who first joined Friends in Eugene. ○ Anthony Manousos the Editor of Friends Bulletin. ○ Children’s Program Coordinator, Leonora Kent, was introduced by the Clerk and she introduced the rest of the Children’s Program staff. The children were excused to go to their evening program. ○ Meghan Willard, Co Clerk of the young adult Friends group

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	<p>invited young Friends to meet after the plenary session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Kathy Hyzy introduced the advisors of the Junior Friends program. Junior Friends have just returned from camp. They made t shirts and are selling them as a fundraiser for Junior Friends transportation.○ Nance Kirk invited Friends to beginning planning their performances and attendance at community night.○
04 – 04	<p>Friends heard readings from the great wealth of Epistles received by NPYM. The Epistle Committee has read all of the Epistles and shared selections from some of them. 29 yearly meeting and 7 other Friends organizations. More than 2/3 spoke to the peace testimony and how it is moving among Friends. The Epistle will sponsor an interest group on the Peace testimony among Friends in NPYM tomorrow. The Clerk expressed Friend's appreciation for the work the Epistle Committee does to search out and bring the gems to be found in the Epistles to Friends at the plenary.</p> <p>Warren Ostrom read Britain Yearly Meeting's letter of greeting to NPYM which was a detailed response to our last year's Epistle which spoke to them strongly. They share many of our concerns about the war in Iraq and encourage each Friend to make a difference for those people in their own lives. They also share our concern for the rights and protection of children. They echo the NPYM call to be "truly radical." Friends were encouraged to read the Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting in full.</p>

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Plenary Session II
Twenty-ninth day of the seventh month, 2004
8:00 – 9:15 PM

04 – 05	<p>A Roll Call of Meetings and worship groups of NPYM and excerpts from their State of Society Reports was led by Linda Ellsworth with members of Ministry and Oversight: Judy Visscher, Deborah Gottlieb Lewis, and Renee Stringham. Isolated Friends were also introduced. A full list is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>A Friend rose to express the desire that in the future we might find a way to make the role call of meetings intergenerational. Another Friend spoke what many had silently noticed: The Florence Worship group recently lost Ernie Goertzen. Shortly before he died Friends gathered with him to sing “As we leave this Friendly place.</p>
04 – 06	<p>Our Clerk presented information on how Quakers relate to money. Two ways are notable: The John Woolman model and the Cadbury’s.</p> <p>John Woolman traveled and spoke extensively about slavery. From awareness of the way his own financial life was intertwined with and benefited from slavery he chose to withdraw from economic life as much as possible. The Clerk shared several quotes from his journal including the one that asks if the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions. Woolman sought to withdraw from economic activity.</p> <p>The Cadburys took the model of economic engagement. The Cadburys tried to build a village the served the workers chocolate; they did well while doing good.</p> <p>Which model suits our needs? In reviewing our financial condition it appears NPYM uses the Woolman model on the income side and the Cadbury model on the expense side.</p> <p>A Friend spoke of the modern day reality that in Latin America, chocolate has historically been raised by slave labor, often leading to the starvation of the workers. Another Friend added information that the Cadburys actually worked to improve conditions for the field workers as well.</p>
04 - 07	The minutes from sessions I and II were read and approved.
04 - 08	The session closed with silent worship.

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Plenary Session III
Thirtieth day of the seventh month, 2004
8:30 – 10:00 AM

04 - 09	In preparation for the session singing was led by Laurie Childers; selections included the words: “Heaven knows how we will get there. We know we will.”
04 - 10	The session opened with silent worship.
04 - 11	<p>Our Clerk reminded us that the good order of Friends may be different in a large group such as annual session than in our smaller meetings. In the large group we ask for recognition and address our remarks to the Clerk as a symbol of the center of the meeting. Once offered, our concerns belong to the group. This also protects us from lapsing into arguments with each other. It is also helpful to leave a space between speakers to allow us to weigh what we have just heard.</p> <p>The Clerk presented the morning agenda which met the approval of Friends.</p>
04 – 12	<p>Renee Stringham read an attachment from the Ohio Valley YM. It is a minute on the occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq calling for an end to the occupation, tuning over control to the UN and then to the countries. They call on fellow Americans to question the motivation for the occupation of these countries, to question how these occupations are consistent with democratic processes and the spirit of love and compassion. There will be an interest group this afternoon to discuss our response to this message.</p> <p>Renee Stringham also shared a short message from the Epistle from young Friends in Australia Yearly Meeting. They wrote of their delight in swimming, canoeing, and worshipping in the water in the moonlight.</p>
04 – 13	<p>Friend Jane Snyder introduced our Friend in Residence, Eden Grace. Eden is from Beacon Hill Monthly Meeting and brought a message about her reconciling ministry. She will travel to the East Africa as field staff for FUM with her family. Eden Grace spoke from the silence.</p> <p>Eden Grace spoke to us of how the Lord has prospered in her life during the past two years as she was led to accept a call to ministry in Kenya. She read to us from first Peter of the fiery ordeal that those who are called to ministry may pass through. From passing through the wilderness and the desert to the resurrection, Eden Grace used Biblical texts to describe her own experience, and the experience of Friends in trusting that way will open in spite of our own unknowingness. She shared her experience of the death that comes when we feel our lack of knowledge and the resurrection that come when we</p>

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trust in following God's calling.

In the silence that followed Eden Grace's message. A Friend spoke to the sense of the Gathered meeting saying "This Friend speaks to my condition."

Another Friend spoke to confess her doubts about a Christo-centric message from an FUM Friend, but then she recognized the Truth of the message that was delivered. She remembered the joy in her own life when willfulness moved out of the way and she felt the joy of being free to simply share. The words that will stay with her are: "release willfulness and embrace willingness."

A Friend spoke to her identification with going through the fire of doubt to a place of faithfulness, but also spoke to her troubledness over the story of how God could order the Israelites to slay the Canaanites. She cannot reconcile this to a God of love.

A summary of Eden Grace's remarks follows. The full text of her message is attached to the minutes.

Eden Grace went to Kenya in 2002 to Kenya for the triennial where she felt the confusion and ungrounded ness of the challenging new reality. The anxiety grew after she returned home as she was gripped with panic. She was plagued with exhaustion and despair when she attended the world Council of Churches in Switzerland.

Her confidence shattered she returned to the US to a state of unknowing, which she believes to be the only condition appropriate for undertaking a ministry. It is an experience akin to the wilderness trials.

The wilderness is a place of confusion and exposure to extreme risk. Eden Grace reminded us of the stories of the escape of the slave in Numbers, and the repeated rebellion, their fear of God's promise.

Eden Grace has seen the promise of what God calls her to and known the fear. The path from spiritual death through the wilderness of fear and risk is necessary to be ready for God's calling.

Spiritual maturity comes in knowing we are always in the wilderness, unknowing, broken.

For a while she lost all confidence n her ministry. She was in a muddy place and had no idea what her ministry was. She longed to know the truth of her

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life.

The path of faithfulness lies not in getting back to oneself, but in going forward. It is difficult to choose the way of uncertainty. John Woolman writes of his experience as making his way through a miry bog looking for a few certain stones.

When she heard she would be going to Kenya she still felt confused and anxious, gazing at the elephant in the living room.

To be our most true selves we must face our limitations and know that we need God.

Fear, dread, rage and panic and anger cut her. She was reminded of Christ's words: "I have come to call not the righteous, but sinners."

The psychiatrists determined that her state was a reaction to the anti-malaria drugs she had taken two years ago which had left her with a mental illness. She asked if the illness and medication would invalidate what she had done, what she had been through, and who she is, but chose to accept treatment.

Eden remembered the cloud that guided the Hebrew people in the wilderness. They were not lost, they were guided. We are not lost; we are guided as way opens. They were left in the wilderness for an entire generation while those who had lived in slavery died off. There is no way to know what will come, we can only believe in the promise.

The most important thing to take away from the wilderness is that God is with us always. Throughout her time of trial and doubt one hymn stayed in her mind: "Great is thy faithfulness".

The wisdom comes in knowing that we don't need to see the road, we only need to take one step at a time.

There is liberation in abandoning control. Sometimes we don't need the thing we think we must have.

The greatest fault of the Hebrew people in the wilderness was their lack of trust in God.

In times of wilderness we learn that our willingness to trust is not even our own will. We must relinquish willfulness for willingness. Willingness requires surrender and obedience. "You are my Friends if you do what I

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	<p>command you". From this we get our name.</p> <p>We must give over our own desire, even the desire to be faithful. Courage comes from going one step beyond that which we believed we were capable of.</p> <p>Eden Grace wondered if she would be worthy of ministry if she were on medication to quell her anxiety, but she has felt God rescuing her from the miry place.</p> <p>We come to know ourselves through paradox and reversal: when I was weak then I was strong (Paul). Strength abides in weakness.</p> <p>The light as early Friends knew it was the agent of refinement.</p> <p>He who loses his life will find it. The slave generation will not be able to enter the promised land, but these faithless, rebellious people are beloved by God.</p> <p>The ordeal is frightening, but it is not surprising. We share in Christ's suffering and his resurrection.</p> <p>This is the experience of ministry, daily finding ourselves dead and buried, daily finding ourselves raised up.</p>
04 – 14	After a time of silent worship the Clerk closed the session by thanking Eden Grace for her message.

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Plenary Session IV
Thirtieth day, seventh month, 2004
7:00 – 8:00 PM

04 -15	In preparation for the session Friends gathered to sing together and from memory they produced many verses of the George Fox song.
04 – 16	The session opened with silent worship.
04 – 17	The Clerk reviewed the evening’s agenda and it was approved with several clarifications and one addition.
04 – 18	The Clerk introduced Suellen Lowery who is visiting NPYM on behalf of Quaker Earthcare Witness. A traveling minute introducing Mickey Edgerton and Carolyn Wilson were read and the Friends were welcomed to our meeting.
04 – 19	Friends brought announcements about service projects tomorrow and about the Junior Friends t-shirt fundraiser.
04 – 20	<p>This is the year that FWCC provides an update on our Quaker organizations. FWCC presentation, Lucy Fullerton and Ann Stever, Margaret Fraser, Jane Snyder, Elizabeth Willey, Patty Federeighi, and Nancy Yarnall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Fraser presented an introduction to the section of the Americas in Spanish FWCC encourages fellowship among all branches of the Society of Friends. Jane Snyder provided translation and explained to Friends that they had just heard the manner in which /friends do business through translation, and the way in which this add grace and blessing to the care required in sequential translations. • Elizabeth Willey led a game to demonstrate the size and distribution and theological variety in the membership of FWCC. • The Pacific NW has some very close ties to FWCC. Nancy Irving of Olympia Meeting is General Secretary appointed at Triennial in January 2004; Annis Bleeke, Multnomah Monthly Meeting just retired as associate General Secretary, and Asia Bennett is a former General Secretary, and Tom Head from Multnomah Monthly Meeting is chair of the Q UNO committee. • Through a show of hands, Ann Stever helped Friends to see the number of NPYM Friends who have been involved in FWCC programs, including: • Quaker Youth Pilgrimage;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wider Quaker Fellowship• QUNO Quaker UN Office• Conferences and Gatherings• Visitation• Patty Federeighi experience visiting here, new rep to FWCC going to Triennial. She was especially touched to see that it is important to other Friends to have Northwest YM an active part of FWCC• FWCC is not a large organization. The section of the Americas has only eight staff. But one of the most important things FWCC does is to connect people and its capacity to be a catalyst. For example, Friends in Bolivia were concerned with the problem of rights of conscientious objection. Cuban Friends were able to provide support from their own experience. The AVP program is spread through connections of FWCC around the globe. Ann told of a meeting with Korean Friends and Japanese Friends where the Japanese Friends asked to apologize for atrocities Japan had inflicted on Korea. These are some of the seeds sown by FWCC.• Margaret Frasier shared the personal transformation she went through when she was sent from London to Honduras. She told of someone in a picture of the 1952 world gathering of Friends pointing out Barrow Cadbury and saying, he paid for it all. There was a time when Friends with deep pockets in Britain simply paid for everything. That's not how we operate now. We all share the responsibility. Our testimony on equality is much deeper than a political statement. It is about the access all of humanity has to God and to God's words. There are no first class Friends and second class Friends, no place for class and privilege. We are working to overcome social barriers. This is one reason the section of the Americans stayed as one section rather than dividing into North and South. These challenges are a microcosm of the world. She would like to see more Yearly Meetings twinning with each other and gave the example of New England M with Cuba. She would like to see FWCC do work camps and study tours. They hope there will be an annual meeting in Latin America in 2006. Hispanic Friends Churches have been very welcoming. Margaret Fraser finds that worshiping with Friends who are different is the most important aspect of FWCC for her.• Lucy Fullerton spoke of her experience with young Friends. In 1985 she attended the World Gathering of Young Friends. The
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	<p>spirit was strong and that meant that many of the Evangelico Friends were testifying to the glory of Jesus. A Guatemalan Friend held an alter call at a silent meeting for worship. This was very difficult for Friends in the silent tradition and some walked out. The young Friends stayed up all night talking, singing, praying, holding each other. The following day they all shared their feelings with each other. She found hearing the different experiences transformative, with an appreciation for our different styles of worship. Our divisions can be our friends and our divisions can be our enemies. We are a Peace church, but we do not make peace among our selves. We need to trust that we can hear each other's Truth. The next international gathering for Young Friends is in 2005.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Yarnall shared that her work with FWCC comes from her belief in the Society of Friends and this work strengthen her belie. She travels in the western US as field staff for FWCC, visiting monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings. Nancy has compiles email summaries from all of the western newsletters. At the fall meeting of Willamette Quarter, Elizabeth Duke from London will be speaking. At the end of Feb 2005 there will be a regional gathering of all Friends from throughout the Northwest. • There will be an FWCC interest group tomorrow. •
04 - 21	The session ended with a meeting for worship for stretching and visiting in preparation for the ext session.

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Plenary Session V
Thirty-first day, Seventh month, 2004
8:00 – 9:00 PM

04 -22	The session opened with reading of the minutes from sessions III & IV. The minutes were read I abbreviated form and were accepted.
04 -23	<p>Beth Hunt Clerk of Steering Committee, presented their annual report: report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ She asked Steering Committee officers to stand for recognition: Chris Willard, treasurer, Kathy Hyze, Margaret Sorrell, Pablo Stanfield, Recording Clerk, Eugene Norecross Renner. Don Goldstein, Directory Editor, Ted Etter, arrangements Clerk, Jane Ewert, Central Friends Coordinator, and Dave Fabik, website coordinator. ○ The Clerk is pleased to have transitioned from the new green of spring to the deep green of summer, and she looks forward to the fall and winter. Financial concerns have been a major concern of Steering Committee during the past year. Steering Committee decided to put of consideration o a youth coordinator and faced other challenges due to dwindling resources. Changes to the directory will reduce costs next year. The new budget does not have much room for flexibility. It retains our representatives to national organizations and increased our contributions to the national organizations we support. Beth asked for Friends thanks to our Steering Committee representatives. ○ The Discipline Committee is now the Committee on the Discipline. It is concerned with discrepancies that have been noticed between our Faith and Practice book and our actual practice. ○ Our youth are now defined in three groups, Central Friends. Central Friends were approved as a group this year and given a budget for activities. The co-clerks of Junior Friends attended a clerking workshop at Pendle Hill, and one representative was sent to FGC. Young Friends now have funded interim coordinators. They are excited about the coin gathering of Young Friends and FGC coming to Tacoma. A youth opportunities fund has been established. ○ We do not have special funds for adults wishing to attend FGC. Monthly meetings are encouraged to consider this need. ○ Steering Committee took on responsibility for transportation to Junior Friends camp ○ Other issues: Have we followed leadings on LG marriage, on

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	<p>the war in Iraq? How are we led on a whole list of peace and justice issues? We did undertake a simple meeting this year with proceeds going to Right Sharing of World Resources. A full copy of the Steering committee report is attached to the minutes.</p> <p>After the report, the Steering Committee Clerk called for questions from the meeting. The following inquiries and comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why isn't there a change in advisors between camp and annual session? Answer- we are really tired, and yes, you are all encouraged to become Junior Friends advisors. ○ What is the long term on budget- how do we get our savings back? Chris Willard, the Treasurer said that it was not a matter of running out of money, it was a conscious decision to spend down reserves that had been collected in excess of what we wanted to hold in reserve, we wanted to use it. We have used those funds and now need to return to living on our annual income. We have to be more conscious of our budgeting process and our assessments, and to reexamine our values and priorities. ○ Why do families want to go o the youth gathering? Answer from Beth Hunt: individuals want to go to the youth gathering. Families may need help to go to FGC in 2006. ○ Question/comment from a Steering Committee representative: He let go of a leading to be a Junior Friends advisor to be a Steering Committee representative. He suggests that nominating committee might take more of a role in finding Junior Friends advisors. Steering Committee representative agreed that finding Junior Friends advisors needs to be a joint effort between Junior Friends and Steering Committee.
04 - 24	<p>The Clerk asked Friends to return to silent worship in preparation for consideration of a minute to be brought as the next agenda item.</p>
04 - 25	<p>The Clerk noted that there are several processes for bringing a minute to annual session. Usually a minute goes to Steering Committee, and then it is seasoned by Monthly Meetings and then brought to Annual Session. There is also a process by which an interest group can bring a concern.</p> <p>John Selker brought a concern from the interest group: Quaker Witness for Marriage Equality.</p> <p>The proposed minute is entirely consistent with the 1997 minute, but gives us some new words in light of the current legal situation. John Selker</p>

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summarized our history and referred Friends to printed materials that had been handed out:

Proposed Minute on Marriage Equality
July 30, 2004

History:

Since 1980 Friends of the NPYM have been actively working for the rights of same sex marriage. After extensive threshing, in 1997 the NPYM passed a minute stating our support for gay marriage both in spirit and legal contexts.

This minute was primarily addressed to the internal community, as resources were not provided for the extension of this calling to the wider community.

In the past year the issue of same sex marriage has grown to a national issue, and has unfortunately become a political tool for advancement of narrow and hurtful agendas. In this politically motivated context the issue has become a local matter of constitutional concern, with amendments proposed in both Oregon and Montana that would enshrine this discrimination in the foundational documents of these states.

In the last year Corvallis, Multnomah, Salem, Bridge City, and University Meetings have passed minutes in support of the civil rights of same sex marriage. We ask that the NPYM pass the following minute:

In accordance with the historical testimonies of The Religious Society of Friends on equality and marriage, the North Pacific Yearly Meeting opposes all legislative and constitutional attempts to deny legal recognition of marriage of same sex couples.

As an action on this basis we ask the NPYM direct the NPYM Steering Committee to appoint a committee entitled "Ad hoc Committee for Marriage Equality" that will make this minute and its basis in our in religious, spiritual and social justice testimonies known to the people living in the NPYM geographic region.

A Friend from Olympia Meeting indicated his would be in line with minutes from Olympia meeting.

A Friend asked for clarification on how we could oppose judicial attempts to discriminate. Another Friend provided the information that we might write amicus briefs or bro bono legal services.

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	<p>A Friend thought Judicial might not be necessary because the two current strategies</p> <p>A Friend suggested we simply oppose all attempts to deny legal recognition of same sex marriage.</p> <p>The minute was approved with this revision:</p> <p>In accordance with the historical testimonies of The Religious Society of Friends on equality and marriage, the North Pacific Yearly Meeting opposes all attempts to deny legal recognition of marriage of same sex couples.</p> <p>John Selker noted that there would be costs associated with our decision and urged Friends to make earmarked donations to NPYM for these actions. A hat was provided to collect donations.</p> <p>A Friend suggested that when we as a body approve something, we as a body need to fund it, and therefore is not comfortable with a separate fund and would therefore prefer that we direct Steering Committee to consider this need within the budget.</p> <p>The Clerk expressed his appreciation to Friends for considering this urgent matter in a constrained time period and referred the financial concerns to Steering Committee.</p>
04 - 26	The session ended with silent worship.

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Plenary Session VI
Thirty-first day of the seventh month, 2004
8:30 – 10:00 AM

04 - 27	Laurie Childers helped Friends prepare for worship by leading singing. The message of one of the old favorites, “Magic Penny” also appears on one of the Junior Friends t-shirts: “Love is something if you give it away.”
04 – 28	The session opened with silent worship.
04 - 29	Clerk Jon Prescott shared information from Arthur Larabee’s Clerking workshop at Pendle Hill. The “sense of the meeting” is “a shared awareness of the place to which the Spirit has led us.” First we have to show up to have a “shared awareness”. We have to bring our own Light, share it and then release it to the group as a part of a “shared awareness.” We release our own will to empty ourselves to receive the Light offered by others. Our job is to listen to the words of others with tenderness and compassion. We can’t open ourselves to others if we are still filled with our own ideas. We must ask us if this is a place the Spirit has led us. Sometimes we use non Spirit led processes such as authority, majority rule or consensus. Consensus is not a spirit led process; it is an intellectual process of coming together on practical terms. The search for unity requires trust that the Spirit has a will for us that can be found amidst our differences. Unity is like a body. WE may not all have the same opinion, but there is a shared awareness even though our thoughts may have different function. Unity is like a musical cord; the notes sung together make something beautiful that transcends the individual notes. The role of the Clerk is not to make the decision, but to reflect the decision of the group, to gather and reflect back until unity is found.
04 - 30	<p>The Clerk introduced a threshing session on decisions regarding our 2006 Annual Session. NPYM invited Friends General Conference to hold a FGC Gathering in the Pacific Northwest. They accepted and the FGC Gathering will be held in Tacoma in 2006. This raises the question of whether we have the need and capacity to hold a FGC annual session in 2006.</p> <p>Margaret Sorrell provided an overview of the typical Gathering schedule, which covers a full week and includes a children’s program for all ages, including a separate dorm and program for high school Friends. Adults attend daily three hour workshops that continue for the week. Margaret asked two Friends to share their experiences as first time attenders at the FGC Gathering. Meghan Willard shared her experiences as a first time attender joining the Young Friends this year. Lorena Hall focused on workshop choices and the value of meeting with the same group for worship</p>

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and discussion throughout the week. She attended a workshop on “Centering Prayer.” She found the workshop personally enriching and also discovered some tools that she hopes to share with her meeting.

A Junior Friend who attended the Gathering this year, Walt was unable to attend this mornings session, but Margaret reported that the High School Friends have decided to lay down their annual session in 2006.

The Clerk invited Friends who had questions of fact to speak.

The capacity of the 2006 Gathering will be 1,200 and Margaret Sorrell hopes we will fill it.

The 2006 Gathering may be shortened by one day.

Partial attendance is possible, but it is not ideal because of the way the workshop content builds throughout the week.

It was added that there is a lot of singing, led by the editors of “Rise Up Singing.”

You can lower your expenses with work grants. It is not clear if expenses can be lowered with a camping option. It is not yet determined if there will be the option of a simple living meal.

A Friend from Tacoma offered that local families may be able to offer hospitality to lower costs.

The 2005 Gathering is in Blacksburg Virginia. Friends are encouraged to attend.

It is not anticipated that a large attendance from NPMY would limit attendance from all of those from out of the area who might want to attend. Registration is on a first come first serve basis.

Cost information, and other program details can be found in the program on the FGC table in the lobby.

There has been some discussion of the Annual Session options in meetings. Responses include “cancel Annual Session”, Hold Abbreviated Annual Session; and “Cancel Annual Session.” Steering Committee has not found unity on the question.

The issue today is not our affiliation with FGC (we are not affiliated); it is

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simply our decision about our own Annual Session in 2006.

The Clerk outlined the tradeoffs in making this decision. The FGC Gathering does use our human and financial resources. On the other hand, we gain from the resource of sharing with Friends from other places. He posed thee queries:

- What trade offs between NPYM's Annual Session and FGC's Tacoma Gathering are we willing to make?
- Are there essential elements of NPYM's Annual Session that must be offered in 2006?

A Friend from University meeting said that they have discussed this and do not have unity. Many Friends favored canceling NPYM AS or holding an abbreviated session either right before the FGC Gathering or later in August. As a previous Gathering attender he values the experience, but also values the NPYM Annual Session. He noted that no other yearly meeting has canceled annual session because the Gathering was in their area.

A Friend spoke of our peace and social concerns actions. FGC does not take actions. NPYM could not take positions without an annual business meeting. Friends do not have a national body to take positions; it is done through our yearly meetings. We need some forum to take action that year.

A Friend from Tacoma who has attended FGC loved it and has taken the position of general arrangements Clerk to facilitate her involvement in the wider community of Friends. From a logistical point she is concerned of the work that will be involved in also holding an Annual Session. She fears it is too great a strain to do both, and would like to consider a way to have a smaller gathering to conduct NPYM business.

A Friend from Eugene said the Gathering sounds wonderful, but we have an identity as a yearly meeting. She fears that not holding Annual Session breaks our continuity and is not good for us. She would like to see some form of Annual Meeting even if abbreviated. She would leave it to steering committee to figure out the logistics of Annual Session.

A Friend noted that many Monthly Meetings cancel their business meetings in the summer. FGC is similar in that many will have their energy directed to FGC and we may not have the presence. She thinks we need some form of Annual Session for our own sense of identity, but does not think we can plan a three day yearly meeting on top of the Gathering.

A Friend suggested this is a gift to consider what we most value about

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gathering in Annual Session once a year. She thinks that if we know the shortness of time we can use it wisely and do our business in a day.

The Clerk noted that we value the conduct of business, even if in an abbreviated form, and we value our identity as a yearly meeting and we are willing to give that up. Not many are saying we should not hold an Annual Session.

Friends spoke approval of holding some form of an Annual session in 2006.

The Clerk asked Friends to turn their attention to consideration of what form of Annual Session would be possible and useful given our resources and needs. The Clerk called for silent worship before continuing hearing those led to speak on this issue.

A Friend from University Meeting shared his agreement with the decision to hold some annual session. He sees the advantage of connecting our Annual Session in time to the FGC Gathering because of travel considerations, but would want it to be clear that they are independent.

The Clerk asked Friends to use discernment in rising to speak as we are limited in time. Some decisions may need to be left to Steering Committee. Another Friend indicated that this Friend spoke her mind.

A Friend from University meeting suggested serious consideration of the August date. The day before Gathering those involved in planning will be very focused on the Gathering. From descriptions of the intensity of the FGC Gathering it is questionable if people will be able to shift and be present for the Annual Session. She urges a full Annual Session later in the summer and offers to invest energy in that planning.

Steering Committee Clerk said that we have spent much time speaking to process. This issue is too important to send this to steering committee. Either take this back to Monthly meeting and feed it into the October meeting.

A young Friend spoke to the need for those who are not connected to monthly meetings to have input.

The incoming Clerk of Annual Session spoke to the opportunity an Annual Session in August would provide for new involvement in Annual Session.

A long time attender of FGC and Annual Session spoke to encourage holding

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	<p>a full Annual Session in August.</p> <p>There was not unity to hold a full session in August.</p> <p>The Clerk of Salem rose to say Salem Meeting had united in opposition to holding an annual session in 2006 and she was unclear as to why the Clerk of Annual Session did not have that information.</p> <p>There will be an interest group to further consider the timing and length of the 2006 Annual Session of NPYM.</p>
04 – 31	<p>The minute to hold some form of Annual Session in 2006 was read and approved.</p>
04 – 32	<p>Rene Stringham presented the first reading of the Epistle.</p>
04 - 33	<p>The Young Friends announced a hair cutting fundraiser to help a Friend repair her car for the return journey. A friend requested that there be a hat for donations for virtual haircuts.</p>
04 - 34	<p>The session closed with an expression of appreciation from the Clerk for Friends' discernment on the matter of holding a 2006 NPYM Annual Session.</p>

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Plenary Session VII
First day, eighth month, 2004
9:45 – 10:45 AM

04 - 35	Laurie Childers prepared us for worship by leading group singing. Echoing the spirit of this year's Annual Session she led us in singing the words: "Give yourself to love, if love is what you're after. Open up your heartbeat to the tears and laughter."
04 - 36	The session opened with silent worship.
04 - 37	<p>Margaret Coahran presented the registrar's report. 259 people registered, nearly all have been at the entire session, and a few arrived early or left early. 48 are first time attenders. There are 2 infants, 5 pre school children, 7 first and second graders, 3 fourth and fifth graders, 14 Central Friends (junior high), 29 Junior Friends (high school), 20 Young Adults Friends, and 179 other adult Friends.</p> <p>About half of our registrations came in over the internet this year; internet registration worked best for the registrar.</p> <p>The Clerk expressed his appreciation of the effort, and calm, given to Annual Session by our registrar.</p>
04 - 38	<p>Epistles from each of the age groups meeting at Annual Session 2004 were presented.</p> <p>Warren Ostrom presented the final reading of the 2004 Epistle from the Annual Session of North Pacific Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.</p> <p><i>To Friends everywhere:</i></p> <p>The 32nd annual session of North Pacific Yearly Meeting convened in Missoula, Montana from July 29 through August 1st, 2004. We greeted old and new Friends with joy, and shared our experiences of travel and travail in arriving at this beautiful mountainous state. In worship each day, we shared that portion of the Light which flowed through each of us. We celebrated the lives and remembered the gifts of those no longer here.</p> <p><i>Our Friend in Residence, Eden Grace from Beacon Hill Meeting,</i></p>

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New England Yearly Meeting, spoke of how God moved through her during a life changing traumatic personal experience. She likened her journey to that of the Israelites in the wilderness. She affirmed that the path forward lay through the brokenness, illuminated one step at a time. We understood that she was willing to relinquish her willfulness and embrace her willingness. Soon she will be working as field staff in Kenya with Friends United Meeting in conjunction with the East African yearly meetings.

In epistles from around the world, we saw reaffirmations of the Quaker peace testimony, and its roots in our religious experience. Our own local State of Society reports also reflected enthusiastic work for peace. We know we are not called to do everything; but as one worship sharing group heard, "Where the passion of your heart intersects with the world's need, that is the place to throw the frail ounces of your weight." (author unknown)

The clerk patiently educated us about Friends' business process. In speaking about finances, he noted that we appear to follow the example of John Woolman in limiting our income, and of the Cadburys in expending moneys in support of our concerns.

Margaret Fraser, general secretary for the section of the Americas for Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and Patty Federighi from North Seattle Friends Church, Northwest Yearly Meeting, joined our FWCC representatives in presenting an overview of the committee's activities.

The following minute arose from an interest group convened because of recent legislative attempts to restrict marriage: **"In accordance with the historical testimony of the Religious Society of Friends on equality and marriage, the North Pacific Yearly Meeting opposes all attempts to deny legal recognition of marriage of same sex couples."** Yearly meeting approved and

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	<p>will publicize this minute.</p> <p>Saturday afternoon, Friends scattered to various community work projects around Missoula.</p> <p>During our traditional Community Night—full of music, skits, and laughter—we gave a standing ovation to our member Peg Morton, who described her ninety-day imprisonment for protest at the Western Hemisphere School For Security Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas), where the United States military trains other militaries in the tools of torture and repression.</p> <p>We threshed whether or not to lay down Annual session in 2006 when Friends General Conference will be coming to the Northwest, then minuted our intent to have an annual session, without specifying the form or time that annual session will take place. We realized that we have become a precious community to each other.</p> <p>Our meeting closed with worship.</p> <p>Signed on behalf of the meeting,</p> <p>Jon Prescott Presiding clerk</p> <p>The Clerk thanked Warren Ostrom as the representative of the Epistle Committee.</p>
04 - 39	<p>Marika Kromberg and Eliza Reynolds presented the Epistle from the Infants, Toddlers and Preschool. Their Epistle included a picture and this message: <i>Greetings from Preschool and Infant/Toddlers Children's program. We made princess hats. We dressed up and did a bird dance, a butterfly dance and a Koala dance. We drew chalk pictures outside and met the bigger kids. Some of us played</i></p>

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	<i>in the pool and sprinkler. We made a tie dye and glue picture.</i>
04 - 40	<p>Kaeli Frank presented the Epistle from the first and second grade <i>We played games and made music. At the theater, we saw the big backstage. We built a community together that had a bakery and a pharmacy and a farm and apartments and a train.</i></p>
04 - 41	<p>Jordon Selker, Emilie Garrison, and Skylar Grove presented the Epistle from “The not quite youngest Friends”, the third – fifth graders. <i>Dear Friends,</i> <i>We are the not quite youngest Friends – in other words, the third through fifth graders. We talked about Life from the center. We put on a play about our theme. We played lots of games that had to do with circles and centers. To play amoeba we chose one nucleus to be the brain and the rest of us held hands in a circle around the nucleus and we went up and down the stairs and elevator.</i> <i>We also played snake pit and telephone. We did yoga asanas called palm tree and blooming flower. We made mandalas and thought about how to make them unique and personal. Some of us are also making god’s eyes.</i> <i>We went on two field trips to the children’s theater and the amazing carousel. It was so, so fun, and one of us got the golden ring.</i> <i>From NPYM 3rd-5th graders.</i></p>
04 - 42	<p>The Central Friends Epistle was presented by; Julie Selker and Iris Lewandowski. Friends greeted Iris’s 13th birthday by singing Happy Birthday. <i>Dear Friends around the world,</i> <i>The 2004 NPYM met in Missoula Montana, ready to have some fun. In our yearly meeting Central Friends are the children in 6th, 7th and 8th grades.</i> <i>We started out the weekend by discussing in depth the rules for capture the flag. This gave us an opportunity for consensus building.</i> <i>Friday we left for our inner tubing trip. But before we left we went to the Missoula Children’s Theater. We got to sit on a bench that had been in the green room for the Ed Sullivan show. We then took the tour of the theater and played improve games on the stage.</i> <i>Once we left we went to the Blackfoot River and floated down it. We saw two water snakes, and a few of the people wouldn’t get back in the water. Most of us got pretty banged up from the rapids and the big rocks.</i> <i>The next morning we did worship discussions. Our query was: “How do you support your friends in a peaceful way?”</i> <i>For lunch that day we had a simple meal (beans and rice). A few of us</i></p>

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	<p><i>were not too thrilled, but we decided it was for a good cause which is Right Sharing of World Resources.</i></p> <p><i>Almost all of us did service projects Saturday afternoon. We did prairie restoration, community gardening, and worked at the homeless shelter folding clothes.</i></p> <p><i>Sunday we did worship walking. We will be leaving for camp this afternoon.</i></p> <p><i>We had a good time and hope that others had a good experience at their annual sessions also.</i></p>
04 - 43	<p>Walt Javins read the Junior Friends Epistle:</p> <p><i>Dear Friends-</i></p> <p><i>We gathered this year for our summer camp in 2004. WE enjoyed a gigantic campsite in Farragut State Park. There we enjoyed the theme of our camp this year, friends with a little “f”. We spent our time socializing, swimming, hanging out around the campfire, and in worship sharing. We also had two brief business meetings in preparation for annual session. Despite the intrusions of animals into our programs, such as the yellow jackets, squirrels, and a ground squirrel named digger. It was a fun time for all. We closed with a worship campfire and closing circle.</i></p> <p><i>At yearly we were troubled by the breakdown of one of the Junior Friend’s vehicles. Fortunately, they were able to get to Missoula no less than 5 hours late.</i></p> <p><i>Continuing in our theme we played games of Frisbee folf, cards, and hung out a lot more. Due to the excellent job of our clerks, we finished a large amount of business quickly. Our most notable accomplishment was the finished minute of an honor board, the result of several years work. To help pay for a rented van and to help our friends get back home, we raised money by selling t-shirts and shaving people’s heads for cash. We managed to raise about \$1,000 from our t-shirts and \$125 from haircuts to send Junior Friends home. We were very appreciative of the greater meeting’s support monetarily. On Saturday afternoon we scattered in groups and in spirit for intergenerational service projects in the Missoula area. After the service projects some of us hosted an interest group on conscientious objection. We finished off Saturday night with a skit for community night and a costume party.</i></p> <p><i>We will conclude our gathering with a closing circle on Sunday morning.</i></p> <p><i>With lo ♥e,</i></p> <p><i>NPYM Junior Friends</i></p>
04 - 44	<p>Mari Ruth Petzing read the Epistle from Young Adult Friends:</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dear Friends,</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We experienced a rewarding weekend that saw the continuation of the birth of the Young Friends group that we all seek. WE undertook a visioning process to help define what we would like the Young Friends to be, and felt a new sense of legitimacy while sitting through hours and hours of business meetings aimed at creating a framework for Young Friends in the future. We mixed in the fun of course, taking a trip to the Blackfoot River, and hiking up the M Saturday night en route to a mountainside worship sharing. We still have a lot of work to do towards our ideal group, but one focus we have agreed that the group needs is to develop a stronger relationship with the adult meeting. We are excited for the future of Young Friends and the possibility of gatherings outside of yearly meeting.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you,</i> <i>The NPYM Young Friends</i></p>
04 -45	<p>Original copies of the children’s and Junior Friends Epistles are attached to the file copy of the minutes.</p> <p>A Friend rose to appreciate the participation of Junior Friends and adult friends with the haircutting- we had so much fun together. Thank-you Junior Friends for elevating us to some real fun in this gathering!</p>
04 -46	<p>The Clerk introduced Nina Laboy, The Associate Director of AFSC and Jonas Davis, the AFSC Fundraiser for Pacific Northwest Region and Central region.</p>
04 - 47	<p>Stepping aside as Recording clerk, Bonnie Tinker spoke as the convener of the newly appointed Ad Hoc Committee for Marriage Equality. The committee has had one meeting and is still open to new members. They currently have 4 members from Oregon, three from Montana, and one from Washington. Their first priorities are to publish the minute passed at the Annual Session, and to identify a contact person from each meeting and worship group. Isolated Friends are also invited to identify themselves as contact people for their geographic area. Young Adult Friends are encouraged to join, and – given their understanding of financial reality and the mechanics of fundraising, Junior Friends are heartily encouraged to join this ministry!</p> <p>The NPYM Minute will first be released publicly at a press conference to be held in Portland by Multnomah Monthly Meeting tomorrow at 1:00. Any Friends who plan to be in Portland are invited to attend.</p>

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04 - 48	The minutes were read and accepted
04 - 49	<p>Clerk Jon Prescott read the closing minute:</p> <p><i>Our theme this year posed a central Query: “How are we being called to deepen our spiritual path during times of turmoil?”</i></p> <p><i>One way we’ve deepened our path during this Annual Session is simply by being together. This community of Friends is part of a foundation that provides solidity and continuity, and enables us to live our Testimonies more fully.</i></p> <p><i>We’ve also deepened by being in the presence of Friends who possess remarkable depth and clarity. Eden Grace, our Friend in Residence, enriched us with her story of physical and mental challenges brought on by anti-malaria medication. After much suffering, she leaned to relinquish her willfulness and embrace a new willingness to do God’s work in the world.</i></p> <p><i>We learned of the work and mission of Friends World Committee for Consultation and were renewed by the realization that we are part of a larger community of Friends spanning place, time and disparate practices. This worldwide community of Friends brings us peace because we realize that we are not alone during difficult times. We can share with and learn from one another as we face the stream of challenges brought by trying to live with intention in this amazing world.</i></p> <p><i>I’ve observed a change in Friends over the past 4 days. Many of us look more settled and relaxed, more centered and content. If, on this last day of our Annual Session, I were to ask, “How doth the Spirit fare with thee?” I imagine most of you would respond “Better, Friend. Thank you for asking.”</i></p> <p><i>Please join us next year as we gather July 14-17, 2005 on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. The 32nd Annual Session of North Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends is now closed.</i></p>

Plenary Session VIII
First day, Eighth month, 2004
10:45 – 11:45 PM

	The Annual Session closed with a meeting for worship; the children and youth joined that gathered meeting toward the end of the appointed time.
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