

North Pacific Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Steering Committee
Multnomah Meetinghouse, Portland OR
2005, 10th month 15

Minutes

2005-10-01 Gathering

a. Meeting began in silent worship.

Clerk welcomed all. Present were: Clerk Janet Jump (Bridge City), interim Recording Clerk Pablo Stanfield (University), Staff Secretary Turtle Robb (Bellingham), Presiding Clerk Dorsey Green (University), and representatives: Agate Passage: **none**; Bellingham: Lorina Hall, Turtle Robb; Billings: **none**; Boise Valley: Ann Dusseau, JoAnn Zimmermann; Bridge City: Lisa Devaney, Jane Ewert; Corvallis: Jim Flory; Eastside: Debbie Townsend; Eugene: Ethen Perkins, Michael Williams; Heartland: Heather Jackson; Jr. Friends: ..., ..., and an unidentified JrF; Missoula: **none**; Multnomah: Carol Uhte, Rae Lawrence; Olympia: **none**; Port Townsend: Barbara Moore-Lewis (clerk of Nominating Comm.); Pullman-Moscow: **none**; Salem: Jerry Scott, Olin Byerly; Salmon Bay: **none**; Sandpoint: Elizabeth Willey; South Mountain: Cathy & Merlin McDaniel; Tacoma: Chris Willard (clerk of Finance&Legal Comm.); University: Dorene Cornwell; Walla Walla PM: **none**; Young Friends: Trina McDaniel (So. Mountain), Meghann Willard (isolated); and visitor Nancy Yarnall, Brinton Visitor Liaison (Corvallis/Multnomah; FWCC Regional Staff). [Linda Ellsworth (Eastside), role?YF advisor?]

b. Checking in

During opening worship Friends shared news and concerns from their meetings: interest because of war concerns, theft of a MM's records & history, growth of Firstday School, changes to represent new needs. Jane Ewert reported as a member of the AFSC Corporation on her efforts to be informed of the Regional Office in order to represent us.

2005-10-02 NPYM Secretary's report

Turtle Robb turned in a written report (attachedⁱ) and summarized briefly her primary tasks and achievements since starting eight months ago.

a. Directories

The transition from Don's database to a more general format and a new computer took more hours of work than budgeted. She explained the process for distribution of the new directories to meetings and worship groups. CD copies are the standard and extra printed or bound copies are available for cost.

b. Logistics

The new db for keeping track of all the persons involved in each MM, WG and the YM requires constant updating. She asked representatives to correct the info she has and to give her full data. Clerk requested Friends to be sure to update the office as changes occur as the secretary will not be chasing data.

2005-10-03 AS 2005

a. Summary

Presiding Clerk, Dorsey Green gave an oral report based on her conversation with Kristina Sullivan, General Arrangements Clerk. She will provide a written report if requested. Most people reported having a fulfilling experience with good times and good relationship. Much of this is attributed to Friend-in-Residence Mary Lord. She drew large attendance to interest groups. Her focus balanced inward and outward spirituality. Interest groups and service projects interfered with scheduling.

Worship sharing groups were numerous, varied and successful. Logistics were difficult because of changes in the host institution, lack of control of the cart, relocation of housing and sites, and construction. The General Arrangements and Physical Arrangements clerks received high praise and thanks for assertiveness, coping and extra effort.

b. Future AS

In 2006 our shortened session will have no Friend in Residence. In 2007 Arthur Larrabee has agreed to be Friend in Residence and to do clerking workshops before the session.

We outlined some of the details about the upcoming session: starting Thursday evening but ending Saturday lunch, followed by FGC. We are attempting to coordinate bookstore and other shared programs with FGC.

c. Filling needs

Some concerns were highlighted: the extreme difficulty of recruiting children's program teachers, managing the children's curriculum and responding to (attempted) late registrants. It is clarified that we are not offering mere child care but rather a Quaker education, worship and fellowship program that expects full participation and much planning by the coordinators.

Planning Committee proposes that starting with 2007, the ten largest MMs in NPYM will be responsible to name one teacher each for the Children's Program. Discussion followed.

Concerns are raised for costs, the effect and burden on the volunteers and staff, the need for accommodating those who cannot plan far enough ahead and welcoming all. Should Planning Committee make decisions about closing registrations or limiting late registration? **Reps were asked to consult in their groups. Are we willing to accept the responsibility of providing children's program staff?** How do we talk about working with our children – as a fearful challenge or a great opportunity? How do we advertise and invite Friends to participate in AS?

There was not unity to approve this proposal at this time, but there is support for the general concept as a short-term solution and Friends were asked to consult with their meetings and be prepared to decide at next SC meeting. A number of concerns about why it is hard to recruit volunteers and compensated teachers were raised. We ask the Vision & Structure Committee to look into this problem.

2005-10-04 Nominating Committee

a. New officers

Barbara Moore-Lewis, clerk, gave the report (attachedⁱⁱ). We confirmed several AS officers in continuing, with Leni Skarin as CHildren's Program Coordinator, added Dawn Wicca as YM Treasurer, and Chris Willard as clerk of Finance & Legal COmmittee. Help was asked for finding persons to fill openings, especially on Site Comm. Also recording

and associate clerks of SC, clerk of M&O, etc. Nominating Committee meets again 11/13 and hopes to name clerks for some committees which lack them.

Friends approved the nominees.

Friends thanked Chris Willard, outgoing Treasurer, for his years of outstanding service.

b. Pre-nomination

Clerk described the current process for naming Nominating Committee which is cumbersome and uses certain officers when they are least available. She asks that we [consider alternate ways of selecting this committee.](#)

2005-10-05 Finance & Treasury

a. Consent minute (attached)

Friends approved the official minute designating signatories of our bank accounts as presented, naming Dawn Wicca, Treasurer, Chris Willard, clerk of Finance and Legal Committee, and Janet Jump, Steering Committee Clerk, as official signers, and canceling previously approved signatories. The official document was signed.

b. Reports

Chris Willard presented the final financial report for FY 05 (attached, corrected to 9/30/05), with a surplus of \$8087.28 for our undesignated reserve fund. This is thanks in part to awareness of costs after Firstmonth's meeting, the consolidation of directory and secretary jobs, and other economies, as well as committees that have been inactive and did not their budgeted allotments. He reviewed the Balance Sheet for the year just finished. Question was raised about disbursement of the "Marriage Equality fund" remainder of \$66. [Turtle, make it match the printed report.] Clerk asked F&L to bring us a recommendation of an appropriate use of this money. AS produced an income of >\$3300, thanks in part to refunds from PLU as well as large turnout.

2005-10-06 Brinton Visitor Program

Nancy Yarnall, FWCC Regional Staff and our liaison with this program in cooperation with Pacific YM and Intermountain YM, presented a report (attached). One of the YMs is considering giving up its association and support. She suggested four possible changes in the program in order to revive it.

A: put the program under the oversight of *Friends Bulletin*, which includes all three YMs,

b: lay it down or find a different way of honoring the memory of the Brintons;

c: enlarge the committee and involve all three YMs more equitably, meeting in different locations;

d: an intervisitation committee of visitors rather than only one person — perhaps starting by sending the reps from the WGYF to travel. Questions were raised about purpose and funding. Isolated meetings, WGs and Friends east of the Cascades have appreciated the ministry of visitation the most, they stimulate interest and wider and deeper of knowledge of Quakerism. Friends reaffirmed the importance of both inter- and *intra*-visitation in YMs, which might expediently be combined with the care of planning under Outreach & Visitation Committee.

We then took a recess for lunch, of an enjoyable vegetable soup, etc. provided by our hosts.

We reconvened in worship.

Announcements:

- a. Clerk announced that the discipline is on sale by the secretary.
- b. Next SC Meeting will be at Multnomah on 1/29/06.
- c. Rae Lawrence is offering to do house-sitting anywhere in NPYM.

2005-10-07 World Gathering of Young Friends

Meghann Willard reported for herself and Kathy Hyzy, our representatives to Lancaster, UK. She apologized for not having had time to produce photos. She read the Gathering Epistle (attached) showed us an introductory booklet produced by Irish Friends, passed around some other memorabilia and told us how to get the report from the Web < wgyf.org >.

She read excerpts from her journal which will form the basis of a report to be published in the *Friends Bulletin*. She had many experiences of diversity and opening to the various differences in trust of God. She learned that language is a barrier, even between those who (think they) speak the same language; but acceptance of the Truth is beyond language. Much of her joy was in watching other young Friends learning about alternative Quakerisms. The key to world Friends is communication – the variety of which left Meghan a sense of connexion with the whole family of Friends. She recapped many details of the event, which were appreciated. She also brought greetings from Nancy Irving, who works for FWCC in London.

Meetings are encouraged to invite Meghann, Kathy or other Young Friends (e.g. from NWYM) to visit their meetings to share. The fundraising we did helped the general Third World Friends fund, which is helping to bring together African Friends who were denied entry to the UK, and for making the event expenses balance out.

Other Friends may have an international Quaker experience by attending the FWCC, Section of the Americas Annual Meeting in Chiquimula, Guatemala, in Thirdmonth.

2005-10-08 Youth Opportunity Fund

Clerk reported that the *ad hoc* committee to develop and implement policies for the Fund has not been able to meet because too many positions are open. She has asked Lynn Travis (Bridge City) of F&L & Cynthia Black (MM) to join with those members who have been named to be acting members so that action can begin. Jr. Friends present believe they will be ready to name another member.

Meeting approved the Clerk's formation of the acting committee as reported.

2005-10-09 SC Process/Introductions

a. Recording clerk read a summary of narrative minutes and the action minutes thus far.

With minor corrections, the minutes were approved.

b. We went around the circle introducing ourselves, our home meetings and role in the YM.

2005-10-10 Clerking Workshop

Dorsey Green reported for the planning committee for our second annual Clerking Workshop, 12/2-3/05 at North Seattle Friends Church, where it was held last year. Art Larrabee will again lead the 50 persons who will participate. Future workshops will be led by NPYM members. All clerks and representatives should have received information and registration forms by now. [One place is held for a named representative from each MM and WG, plus 2 Jr. Fs, 1 YF and some of those who were wait-listed last year. Five spots are reserved for members of NWYM. Deadline for reserved places is 10/29, after which remaining places will be allotted to at-large applicants. Questions were answered and Friends were encouraged to participate and report.](#)

Clerk announced the the secretary will post a full [YM calendar on the Website IF we provide her with all the dates and information](#) she needs.

2005-10-10 Relationship to NWYM

- a. Should we name a representative to NWYM?

Rae Lawrence attended Northwest Yearly Meeting's annual session this year. She asked us to consider whether SC should name an official representative to NWYM AS. Friends commented on such events as the AFSC Swords into Plowshares Conference at Gonzaga in Fifthmonth, the NW Quaker Women's Theological Conference. We have held two fee waivers for representatives from NWYM since our founding and we used to name reps. Relations with the evangelical Friends in the NW have changed and improved a lot in recent years. Friends seemed generally favorable to the concept. Questions were raised about how this would work, how much it would cost and how we would get reports.

Sense of the Meeting was supportive of sending two members of SC or weighty Friend as official representative of NPYM to NWYM. It was suggested that we re-establish official relationship with NWYM, exchanging representatives, and otherwise develop relationship.

Friends approved asking the SC Clerk, Presiding Clerk and executive committee to investigate and return with a detailed proposal in Firstmonth.

2005-10-11 Committee on the Discipline

- a. Update

Debbie Townsend reported for the Committee. She updated us on what has been done: they have met twice. They plan to visit and meet at each of the Quarters and join Jr. Friends at AS. They are putting out known concerns and asking for other ideas. Response has been good so far with lots of ideas. They have reviewed the SC minutes for changes have been made that need to be included. They are categorizing a master list of possible changes and areas of concern.

- b. Queries

They bring us several questions: when will the Committee be complete (no one has been nominated from MGoF)? They don't wish to move forward until there is full representation. How can they best cast a wide net to get full review of all drafts so that no surprises arrive at the time of final approval?

Friends shared a number of ideas in response. It appears that there will be no official MGoF representatives but people will engage once there are "straw dogs" of revisions.

They made many suggestions on how the Committee might proceed effectively, which were duly noted.

c. Planning

Debbie read the Committee's charge; there are inconsistencies. What are the standards of approval or acceptance? We discussed and clarified the process that the Committee should follow. We noted that it is an organic process that needs only clear end points, that we are most concerned with principles – not wordsmithing – and always have our current practice in place while discerning change.

Friends approved the following process:

- 1 Discipline Committee will review the entire current *Faith and Practice* and consult widely in the YM for changes and confirmation of normative practices.**
- 2 As they find prospective unity they will submit draft chapters to the MMs and WGs and consult, seeking unity and seasoning what is new and what we retain.**
- 3 As acceptance of proposal drafts is found, final drafts will be brought to MM to accept each version. The representatives will bring the sense of their MMs to SC for approval of the text.**
- 4 Each section that is approved by SC will be brought to AS for final approval, until the whole Discipline has been approved and the new edition of F&P can be published whole.**

2005-10-12 Friends Peace Teams

Andy Cross, the YM rep to FPT, brought a report (attached). FPT is changing its structure to be able to fund a staffed office and move volunteers into action. This transition requires vision beyond the African Great Lakes Initiative, which brought Adrien Niyongabo of Rwanda YM to visit this year, as well as solid funding. Andy is working on funding and asks for [leads to Friends who would support the effort to gather \\$150,000](#). They are developing a Board of Trustees besides the Council on which Andy serves.

They ask affiliated YMs to re-nominate their representatives or more to the Council in acceptance of this new structure. Friends were asked whether we would like to name one or two representatives to the FPT Advisory Council.

Friends approved re-naming Andy Cross as our representative to the FPT Advisory Council for the duration of his current term.

Friends approved permitting Nominating Committee to bring the name of a second representative to the FPT Council, only if someone volunteers; the budget support for these positions will remain at the quota for one representative (currently \$900).

2005-10-13 Closing

a. Minutes

The remaining minutes were summarized, read and approved.

b. Final worship

Friends returned to open worship. Thanks were offered for those who work and share it here. Two recently departed Friends were remembered with thanksgiving and recognition of their enduring spirits. Recognition was made to those who accept the daunting task of the revision of our F&P, which can influence many beyond our own YM as we act as a conduit for our truth. New meetings in the Portland area show growth

among Quakers. In silent worship we felt gathered, to conclude at 3:55, hoping to **gather again, God willing, on 28th Firstmonth, 2006**, at Multnomah Meetinghouse in Portland.

D. Pablo Stanfield, recording clerk

Janet Jump, Steering Committee clerk

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2005-10-03 AS 2005

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Planning Committee proposes that starting with 2007, the ten largest MMs in NPYM will be responsible to name one teacher each for the Children's Program.

There was not unity to approve this proposal at this time, but there is support for the general concept as a short-term solution and Friends were asked to consult with their meetings and be prepared to decide at next SC meeting. A number of concerns about why it is hard to recruit volunteers and compensated teachers were raised. We ask the Vision & Structure Committee to look into this problem.

2005-10-04 Nominating Committee

- a. New officers

Friends approved the nominees.

Friends thanked Chris Willard, outgoing Treasurer, for his years of outstanding service.

- b. Pre-nomination

Clerk asked SC to consider better methods of naming the Nom. Comm.

2005-10-05 Finance & Treasury

- a. Consent minute (financial signatories)

Friends approved the official minute designating signatories of our bank accounts as presented, naming Dawn Wicca, Treasurer, Chris Willard, clerk of Finance and Legal Committee, and

Janet Jump, Steering Committee Clerk, as official signers, and canceling previously approved signatories. The official document was signed.

- b. Reports

2005-10-06 Brinton Visitor Program

Proposal from IMYM to lay down, or change program

2005-10-07 World Gathering of Young Friends (report from reps.)

2005-10-08 Youth Opportunity Fund Meeting approved the Clerk's formation of the acting oversight committee as reported.

2005-10-09 SC Process/Introductions

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2005-10-11 Relationship to NWYM

- a. Should we name a representative to NWYM?

Friends approved asking the SC Clerk, Presiding Clerk and executive committee to investigate and return with a detailed proposal in Firstmonth.

2005-10-12 Committee on the Discipline

- a. Update
- b. Queries
- c. Planning

SC approved four steps of consultation for approval of the F&P.

2005-10-13 Friends Peace Teams

Friends approved re-naming Andy Cross as our representative to the FPT Advisory Council for the duration of his current term.

Friends approved permitting Nominating Committee to bring the name of a second representative to the FPT Council, only if someone volunteers; the budget support for these positions will remain at the quota for one representative (currently \$900).

2005-10-14 Closing

a. Minutes (approved)

b. Final worship

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**North Pacific Yearly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends
Nominating Committee Report
October 15, 2005**

The following nominees (in **CAPITALS, BOLD TYPE**) are recommended for approval by the Steering Committee.

1. Registrar: **MARGARET COAHRAN** (Pullman- Moscow)(10/05 - 9/07)
2. Annual Session Program Coordinator: Confirm that **GINGER BOYLE** will serve for 2006 annual session
3. Annual Session Children's Program Coordinator: **LENI SKARIN** (Yakima Valley WG) (10/05 — 9/06).
4. Annual Session Physical Arrangements Clerk: Confirm that **CAROLYN LASKOWSKI** will serve for 2006 annual session.
5. Annual Session Assistant Physical Arrangements Clerk: **DERIC YOUNG** (Olympia) for the 2006 annual session.
6. Site Committee: **STEVE WILSON** (University) (10/05 - 9/09)
7. Treasurer: **DAWN WICCA** (Bridge City) (10/05 - 9/08)
8. Archivist: **LEE BENNETT** (University) (10/05 - 9/06)
9. Finance and Legal Committee, Clerk: **CHRIS WILLARD** (Tacoma) (10/05 - 9/08)
10. Outreach and Visitation Committee: **RAE LAWRENCE** (Multnomah) (10/05 — 9/08)
11. FCNL Representative:
 - a. **JOYCE VICTOR** (Vashon WG) (10/05 – 9/07)
 - b. **BILL HAINES** (Pocatello WG) (10/05 – 9/07) to replace **SHARON SCOTT** (Salem), who has resigned.