

Bellingham Friends
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
May 7, 2017 minutes Approved

Present: John Hatten (clerk), Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk), Dave Hopkinson, Larry Thompson, Joanne Cowan, Mary Ann Percy, Don Goldstein, Virginia Herrick, Lorina Hall, Lynne Lohr, Laurie Glenn, Wendy Goldstein, Mark Hersh, Susan Richardson, Dusty Andersen,

2017.05.01 Minutes from April were approved with minor revisions

2017.05.02 **Yearly Meeting Coordinating Committee report.** (Attached) Annual session will be held July –26-30 in Tacoma. Alice Robb will be going and has requested a scholarship. Registration forms are available on the website (NPYM.org) The revised Faith and Practice will be finished and registrants will receive a copy. Note that the reference in the report that says our meeting has “given up” on finding a meeting house was a miscommunication and will be corrected.

A Friend asked whether we had responded to the request from Multnomah Meeting for a minute on diversity / inclusivity. Friends were reminded that we have appointed a committee that will be reporting back to us on the proposed minute. Alice shared that an offer has been made to send someone here to help us with the discernment process. Members of the committee who were present including Virginia H took note.

2017.05.03 Outreach and Welcoming Committee. Don G. reported that newly revised guidelines for greeter and care of meeting are completed and ready for use. In addition, a new sign has been prepared for the library door.

2017.05.03 Children’s Program Committee - (Report Attached)

Children’s Committee will host an intergenerational event on June 18.

Lilly Bee will be one of our child care assistants this summer.

Because Aurora Fox is leaving for the summer, we need some extra people to work with the children. Interested Friends should contact Virginia.

2017.05.04 Nominating -

2017.05.04.1 **Meetinghouse Committee - Having seasoned this for a month, the meeting approved the formation of and job description for the Meetinghouse Committee. Subsequently the Meeting revised the description so that in the Composition section, bullet 2 now reads “All Meetinghouse Scouts” rather than “at least one. ...”**

2017.05.04.2 **Meetinghouse Scout job description - Having seasoned this for a month, the Meeting approved this job description with one change - Item #4 in the Responsibilities section was revised to delete “Be willing to” and begin with “Serve”.**

2017.05.04.3 All nominations that have been seasoning for the past month were approved.

2017.05.04.4 The following nominations were accepted for seasoning Virginia Herrick, and Dave Hopkinson were nominated as meeting house scouts and Mimi Freshley was nominated as an “at large” member of the Meetinghouse Committee

2017.05.04.5 A Friend suggested that the nominating committee could clarify all job descriptions to indicate when a job included service on a related committee.

2017.05.04.6 Don G. pointed out that the term “Co-Clerk” was changed to Associate Clerk in the Nominating Report but change had not been discussed. Susan R. shared that the term “Rising Clerk” is used in other settings. John H shared that the term “Co-Clerk” came into usage at the request of Tom Hall who preferred to have someone working with him to share the responsibilities. Historically that has worked well for our meeting. Currently there is no co-clerk. However, the value of having someone else to be aware of all responsibilities is noted. One Friend shared that the important thing is to have someone readily available to serve when the clerk is unavailable - regardless of the term used. **MaryAnn P. asked that the nominating committee examine the job description and make a recommendation regarding the name for this position. The Meeting agreed.**

2017.05.04.7 A long discussion ensued about the term “ex-officio” as a designation for Meetinghouse Committee members who were also scouts. However, since the term was not actually used in the job description under consideration, the discussion was suspended.

2017.05.05 M&C Report (**Attached**)

M&C asked for input regarding the duration and timing for sharing joys and sorrows. One Friend suggested that it might be good to let people know that they could leave if they needed to. One Friend suggested that we might use the last 10 min of meeting for Joys and Sorrows. Another Friend shared that having an entire hour for worship was important. Still another Friend shared that announcements are just too long. A suggestion was made that repeated events might be posted on a board. A Friend shared that the calendar where repeating events are now posted does not really work well for providing information. A suggestion was made that the calendar might be moved to the entry area or otherwise made more useful.

2017.05.06. Meetinghouse Scouts - Reports (In the interest of time only the property on E. Bakerview Road was discussed (**See Attached Summary**))

Dave H explained that these reports are largely offered as learning experiences. At this time, the owner of the firehouse building is considering two offers. Dave will contact him again on Monday to see whether it is appropriate to schedule a meeting for Quakers to view the place.

Virginia H shared that scouts have viewed two other possible locations in the past month. This particular location has a lot of green space, one really big room and another room that could be set up for children. She felt we could conceivably afford it. It is in an accessible location that is easy to find and has high visibility. It would be easy to add windows and make other changes because of the cinderblock construction.

A Friend said that it would be nice to know how much we might be paying / month. Larry T. Responded that a ballpark estimate would be: About \$180,000 that we could put out in cash. We might get \$150,000 in a capital campaign. A loan of \$100,000 might be necessary. That would get us in to a range of about \$1000 / month in loan repayments.

Don G asked - What the building is being used for now and why it is being sold. Dave H reported that the owner bought it several years ago (it was an unmanned firehouse at the time). He used it for his business setting up networking services. Serious health complications have caused him to close his business and begin selling off his assets. It has been on the market (but not listed with real estate agents) for 30 days.

Larry T pointed out that with the current market, we may need to get our finances in order so that we can move quickly when we do find a suitable place. Friends agreed. Joanne C offered to take on the responsibility of managing a capital campaign. She asked if we knew about the cost of utilities at this facility. Dave said we do not.

Additional information provided: It is in a high-growth area and it is buffered from the road and encroachment on either side from development. There is an easement immediately to the west of the property for power lines. Behind is property owned by Puget Sound Energy. Next door is a Chiropractor/Massage Therapy office building with a parking lot that is not used on Sundays. There is also room for parking on the site itself.

John H asked if we are ready to seriously considering purchasing. Lynne L. asked to see it right away and to set up a meeting to discuss it.

Mark H asked about the kitchen. Dave said there is a small lunch room. Mark H pointed out that there would be additional expenses that would be encountered to make this a useful hospitality space. Don G. asked whether we could put a pass-through from the kitchen to the main room. Virginia said no, but there would be other configurations that might work.

John H asked whether there should be a larger group of Friends examining this.

Larry T said he thinks there are 2 questions in front of us.

- 1) Do we want to make an offer on this place - (likely it would need to be done this week)
- 2) If we are serious, we need to recognize that there will not be a 6 month vetting period like there was last time. So we need to decide whether we want to be prepared to move quickly on some future place even if we do not proceed with this one.

Virginia H shared that she was in support of Joanne's offer to run a capital campaign - without specifying a single building. She sees this as an act of faith in ourselves and our decision-making as a community: to donate because we want a Meetinghouse and we trust that whatever building is chosen, we will be in unity about. As the owner of the firehouse said: "It is in God's hands."

John H. called for a few moments of worship to reflect on this.

Wendy G. asked about noise between the children's area and the meeting area. Virginia H said that they tested it and it seemed like adjustments could be made - like soundproof doors. The sound did not seem to carry through the walls.

Laurie G suggested that we move quickly.

Joanne Cowan asked if the meeting wants to transfer funds to more liquid assets so that we could put down earnest money right away if needed. After discussion, it was determined that we have \$6,000 in savings and could probably raise another \$4,000 in short-term loans from the Friends within Meeting very quickly to provide \$10,000 in earnest money--so we may not need to transfer funds immediately.

Mary Ann P. asked:

Does the group that saw the property think that it is worth making an offer - would it be accepted? Dave H said we cannot know.

She would like to see us make an offer. But her concern is that those who were not here today would feel that somehow they have been violated. Friends considered this but felt that as Friends, we understand that MfWfB is the place where decisions are made for the Meeting and those present have a responsibility to make wise decisions to the best of their ability. Friends understand this and trust in our Quaker process. Moreover, it was pointed out that we can make allowances for further discernment along with the offer.

Susan R. said that assuming the offer is worded to include a contingency that Friends come to unity, it might work.

Mark H. asked if it were zoned for Churches - Larry T. said that it is.

Dave H quoted Allen S. as saying that once you get clear, you need to be decisive.

Virginia H said she thinks we are in a better place to make this decision than we were before. She thinks it is OK to keep our options open by making an offer.

Lynne L asked for those who have any reservations or hesitations to speak up now.

Judy H expressed concern about trying to hold onto our earnest money if we simply change our mind. She questioned whether this was Quakerly and fair to the owner since he would in effect be forced to keep his property off the market for a period of time with no compensation should we simply decide that we don't want it after all. She also asked about much it might cost to do the renovations.

Don asked about renting the space out - whether any would object. None objected.

Larry T. expressed reservations about the complexity of the process and getting everything done in a very, very short period of time. It would be a very large amount of work that would have to be done quickly

Joanne C said she also had some reservations about the huge amount of work. She is also concerned that we may not be able to afford it since we are running close to the wire on our expenses now and we do not pay utilities.

John H pointed out that the Bell Tower was a very different situation and it might not be as complex this time around.

Mary Ann P had another question: What would be a way, given Quaker process, to move forward.

Larry T. said we need to sit down with a pro-forma and determine what we are able to afford.

Judy H suggested that we send out an immediate special edition of the e-News and simultaneously ask the Finance Committee to meet to determine how much money we can raise for this. We need to decide whether we can use the facility without renovation for a time period.

Susan R. urged that we consider authorizing Allen to negotiate up to \$500,000, if the Finance Committee finds that we can afford that much.

Larry T. said probably the only thing we would need to do immediately is put in sound-proof doors.

Dusty A suggested a called meeting next Sunday.

2017.05.07 The Meeting agreed that if sufficient funds are available as determined by the finance committee, the Meeting would authorize the scouts to offer \$450,000 (up to \$500,000 if market negotiations requires it) for purchase of the building on E. Bakerview.

Depending on how it goes, we may have a called meeting next Sunday.

Larry T felt that Finance could have a figure by Monday, BUT there are lots of other tasks that will need to be done.

Further discussion regarding earnest money and the upper amount ensued.

Mary Ann P - asked that we have clarity on the purpose of any called meeting. Friends agreed that if no decisions are required, a report could be given at rise of meeting during announcements. But if a decision needed to be made, M&C would announce a called meeting for business

2015.05.07 Member Concerns:

2017.05.07.1 Dusty A - reminded friends that there will be a food drive for the post office next Saturday and they can use volunteers. Friends should contact Dusty A if they would like to help.

2017.05.07.2 Lynne L asked if we could store the candles for Jean Brechan. Dave H said yes, they could be stored next to the sandwich board in the Commons.

2017.05.07.3 Lynne L asked if the E-News could announce a film from "Whatcom 9/11 for Truth" on June 29. There was discussion regarding what should go into the E-News. Judy H noted that the film is worth seeing.

The meeting decided to ask M&C to create guidelines for E-News content and make a decision on this particular issue as well. Guidelines might include listing the name of the contributor for each item.

The meeting ended at 2:53 PM

Report NPYM Coordinating Committee meeting, 3/18/17

Summary provided by Ann Stever, NPYM CC Recording Clerk acstever@aol.com

1. Annual Session will be Wednesday, July 26 – Sunday, July 30 at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. This is a week later than usual. Keep an eye out for the opening of registration. There is usually a discount for registering early!
2. Coordinating Committee always starts with reports from Meetings about what is going on. Quite a few Meetings have had an increased number of visitors, some of whom have stayed! Lopez Island Meeting is celebrating becoming our newest monthly meeting and invites Friends to celebrate with them Saturday, May 20. Contact them for more information if you would like to go.
3. Our new Faith & Practice will be offered for acceptance at Annual Session. Because it will be published on demand by Western Friend, revisions and updates will be much easier to make. The Faith & Practice Committee has become a standing committee with a small membership which can be augmented if/when major revisions are to be considered/needed.
4. We annually send a visitor, selected by Ministry and Oversight Committee, to Northwest Yearly Meeting's annual session. This year they meet July 23 – 27 (partly overlapping our sessions). M&O is looking for a Friend with significant experience with NWYM, as they are in a tender time, having agreed to split their YM as amicably as possible. Contact Nancy McLauchlan, Clerk of M&O, to get an application form, nancymaemc@gmail.com.
5. This year State of Society reports from the various Meetings will be posted on the NPYM website. They are fascinating, but people usually don't take time to read them when posted at Annual Session, although that will still be done. Check out how other Meetings are doing (npym.org).
6. New Yearly Meeting staff: Mim Lilly is the new Youth Program Coordinator and John Gotts is the new webkeeper.
7. MGOF, at its winter gathering, changed its schedule in order to address a concern that arose. Following the leading of the Spirit as they discerned it, they approved a minute and asked that it be shared with all the NPYM Meetings, as information and perhaps to inspire similar responses. They sent their minute to the Islamic community in Bozeman, to the Montana Association of Christians to Interfaith groups and some secular groups. The minute is at the end of this report.
8. BIG DEAL: NPYM is exploring a pay-as-you can fees for Annual Session 2018 (next year). CC became very excited, hearing about the experiment in New England Yearly Meeting. You can read about it at <https://friendsjournal.org/an-experiment-with-abundance>. We have known for years that many people are not easy asking for scholarship. As one person put this, this is a move from “needy scholarship to generous gift”. CC recommended to the Annual Session Planning Committee and Finance Committee that a funding process similar to that of New England Yearly Meeting be instituted for Annual Session 2018. An Ad Hoc Committee was set up to work on this.

9. The other BIG DEAL was the report on responses to the proposed minute on Gender Inclusivity. Kepper Petzing from Multnomah provided an amazing report about responses so far. Out of 23 Meetings, only 3 had made no response. Some have approved it, some have suggested changes, some, like UFM, reported what they will be doing! The list of concerns was particularly helpful and showed that Multnomah is really listening as well as offering support. Examples of concerns and responses included: This is unfamiliar. (That's OK!) It is really important that Meetings commit to action, not just approve words. Already a Meeting that approved a statement is realizing that it is not so easy to take action and is struggling over the use of preferred pronouns. However, 2 Meetings have already set up subcommittees to explore recommendations for action. We are urged to be sensitive to what people wish to be called. A concern that has been recognized is that some folks feel unsafe in gender inclusive restrooms and showers, e.g. for a rape survivor. The subcommittee emphasized it want to hear concerns and to honor them. We were reminded about the difference between gender and sexuality: gender is who you are and sexuality is who sexually excites you. We were reminded that this was a deep spiritual process for Multnomah and it is not easy stuff. Be tender with one another. We were reminded that no gender non-conforming person should ever be asked to speak for all.

The Montana Gathering of Friends, a Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minute on Fear and Healing

As Quakers, we believe that there is that of God in everyone. We find ourselves in a time of increasing fear for many who feel threatened and marginalized because of their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status or political beliefs. We witness this same fear in communities across our country and around the world. We cannot ignore this conflict without violating our belief in the just, equitable and democratic principles of our country and our faith. We acknowledge that labeling people as the "other" emphasizes differences between people and violates the testimony of equality we have shared around the world for the past 365 years. We therefore speak truth to power. When anyone's safety and security are violated with labels, hate and violence, we must reach out in love, offer protection and build connections between communities. We are committed to the hard work of building bridges and without judgement, opening our hearts to one another to address the fear of those delivering anger rather than love. We step forward to protect all people who feel endangered by their differences. We seek to magnify our presence by working in alliance with individuals and organizations also offering loving protection. We are committed to healing, love and growth of understanding that there is that of God in everyone. Action Steps: 1. Meet again over Easter Weekend 2017 to continue to develop this leading and work to which Montana Friends are called. 2. As soon as possible share this Minute and an invitation to the called Easter Weekend Gathering with our entire mailing list. 3. Develop and address steps to address situations where

“anyone’s safety and security are violated with labels, hate and violence.” 4. Share this Minute widely with other faith groups and allied social justice groups in Montana. 5. Send this Minute to local Montana papers. Adopted on February 26, 2017

North Pacific Yearly Meeting Coordinating Committee
Olympia Meetinghouse, Olympia, WA
March 18, 2017
Draft minutes #2

Present: Kenny, Otis, Coordinating Committee Clerk, Boise; Stever, Ann, Recording Clerk, University; Arcidiacono, Laura, Bridge City; Ashworth, Melody, Worship & Ministry, South Mountain; Bennett, Lee, Finance & Legal Clerk, University; Brown, Jonathan, Treasurer, South Seattle; Coahran, Margaret, Pullman-Moscow; Eck, Dave, General Arrangements Clerk, Multnomah; Foster, Georgia, MGOF; Garnett, Lucy, Salmon Bay; Hadley, ELee, Outreach & Visitation Clerk, Umpqua Valley Worship Group; Humphrey, Lucretia, Rising Clerk, NPYM, Faith & Practice Committee, Great Falls WG; joy, eric maya, Olympia; Kenworthy, Betsey, Worship & Ministry, Tacoma; McLauchlan, Nancy, Ministry & Oversight Committee Clerk, Bridge City; Ostrom, Warren, NPYM Presiding Clerk, University; Percival, Nora J., NPYM Secretary, University; Petzing*, Kepper, Multnomah Ad Hoc Committee for Gender Concerns; Rawson, Tom, Lopez Island; Robb, Alice, Bellingham; Snyder, Jane, Associate Clerk Coordinating Committee, Multnomah; Spinner, Katherine, Youth Committee, University; Townsend, Debbie, Faith & Practice Committee Co-Clerk, Eastside; Weimeister, Clint, Port Townsend; Willard, Kathryn, Nominating Committee Clerk, Tacoma

* Present for part of meeting

Meetings unrepresented: Agate Passage, Billings, Corvallis, Missoula, Salem, Sandpoint, Whidbey Island.

CC 03.17.1 The Meeting opened with worship.

CC 03.17.2 Reports from Meetings and Committees

Agate Passage Meeting: We heard that attendance increased after the election. Their rent was increased by 40% so they are looking for a new venue with space for children, as they now have some attending.

Bellingham Meeting: The Meeting has given up the idea of buying a building and are now feeling comfortable and settled.

Boise Meeting: The Meeting has been growing with a long-time attender applying for membership, a young man transferring from Rochester, NY and an

active young couple, one of whom will become their member of Coordinating Committee in October.

Bridge City Meeting: They are growing. They laid down their Peace & Social Concerns Committee a few years ago and while they are taking action now, they have not been called to set up the committee again. Worship is deep. They still have no children. They remain active in Convergent Friends and Quaker Voluntary Service.

Eastside Meeting: Eastside held an emergency mid-week meeting for healing after the election. Every 6 weeks or so, they have a 2nd hour on Sundays with a “mystery Friend” speaking for about 40 minutes on their spiritual journey, followed by questions and answers. This idea was commended to others.

Eugene Meeting: A letter from Eugene was read, because no one from there could attend the meeting. They had a threshing session in Dec., discussed the gender inclusivity minute in Jan. and are in the process of editing a minute.

Great Falls WG: The Worship Group meets in a church, which feels more inviting than private homes. They have 12 – 14 at worship. They are starting an FCNL Advocacy Committee with 4 Quakers, a Mormon and a non-church person, the latter two are a retired military couple. Six people went to Standing Rock around Thanksgiving and the WG has written a minute on that, which has been sent to their legislators.

Lopez Island Meeting: They are experiencing the joys and challenge of being a new monthly meeting. The Spiritual Life Committee is exploring how to do membership. They will celebrate becoming a Meeting on Saturday, May 20 and invite Friends. They meet at Sunnyfield Farm and have 15 – 20 at worship.

MGOF: Winter MGOF took place at Camp Make-a-Dream with the theme: From Contemplation to Action. Ruth Flower, recently retired from FCNL, was their Friend in Residence and an inspiring speaker. She still works with FCNL on Native American issues and was a resource on those issues. The Business Meeting was deeply worshipful and the agenda was changed to allow time to follow their leading to develop a minute. MGOF looks forward to hosting the Hendrixes as part of the Outreach and Visitation Committee’s “Knitting Us Together” program of visitation. MGOF will meet again in April to attend to the business that had been deferred. Summer MGOF will take place July 18 – 20 just before the eclipse with a theme of “Living our Faith Courageously”.

Multnomah Meeting: Worship is deepening as they work to deal with the new reality in our country and the world, working to be gentle with one another. They have a “listener” in worship and are using the new Faith & Practice on speaking and silence and are working on how to spiritually nurture and elder one another. One of their young adult Friends will lead an eldering workshop at annual session. They are experimenting for a year with membership in Ben Lomond.

Olympia Meeting: They have recently sold their old meetinghouse. They are still active, supporting Clean Water for the World as well as the project getting LGBT people out of Uganda. Olympia has a vibrant Adult Education Program on 3rd Wednesdays around a topic or spiritual journey.

Port Townsend Meeting: The Meeting is doing well. Ministry and Council keeps their spiritual life going. They have a number of members who have participated in or are participating in Way of the Spirit. They have an active Peace & Social Concerns Committee. They have 20 – 25 at worship and are doing well in their new meetinghouse. They enjoy visitors!

Pullman-Moscow Meeting: They have a new regular couple and 2 more semi-regular attenders, all of whom are under retirement age! They cannot offer hospitality but there are good motels in the area. They plan a Saturday workshop on gender issues with 4 Friends coming from Multnomah Meeting.

Salmon Bay Meeting: They have 2 new members and more people are coming and staying. They have 2 committees: Worship & Ministry and Care & Counsel. They have 13 children attending regularly and the Meeting is wondering how to keep them involved as teens. Members are active in Aurora Commons (“a welcoming space for our unhoused neighbors to rest, prepare a meal, connect to resources and collectively create a healthy and vibrant community”). They sponsored a young person to attend the FCNL Young Adult Spring Lobby weekend. They also supported Standing Rock.

South Mountain Meeting: They have had more transfers and new attenders bringing new life. They are seeking what they are called to do, while holding onto some organization. They are going through a generational transition with Friends under 50 or even 45 becoming active. They do not have children. The Grants Pass Worship Group, 45 minutes away, is under their care and meets weekly. South Mountain is challenged to provide active support.

South Seattle Meeting: Spiritual Gifts is their theme for the year and for their retreat. There is much individual and group activism. They now have “table talks”. At the close of worship anyone can announce a topic they would like to discuss and people can gather around a table. Their children’s program is shifting as the kids grow older. They are working with University Meeting on a “Coming of Age” process. They are interested in hearing the experience of other meetings.

Tacoma Meeting: Attendance grew after the election and many have stayed and new people are engaging with the Meeting. They have 15 – 20 at worship now. A Friend who came from Salmon Bay is now their Recording Clerk.

Umpqua Valley Worship Group: The Worship Group is in its 41st year, but is shrinking due to the death of older members. There are 5 or 6 when all are present. They wish they were bigger. They go out for brunch on 5th Sundays and are experimenting with meeting 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons at a local church. They are using the new Faith & Practice.

University Meeting: The Meeting had a retreat in January, hearing about actions taken in the past in difficult times (e.g. the Vietnam War and time of Sanctuary for Central American refugees) and current resources, e.g. FCNL. Small groups considered queries. The children presented a play about the Reading Meeting children who held worship when all adult Quakers were in prison in 1662. It was a day of building community and hope. UFM is working on educating the community about gender issues in preparation for seasoning the proposed YM minute.

Nora J. Percival, NPYM Secretary finds pleasure in her job. She is keeping the directory up to date and urges Friends to send changes to her anytime. She needs meeting census information by May 3.

ELee Hadley reported that the Junior Friends winter gathering was outside Eugene with Jr. Friends mostly from University, Multnomah and Eugene Meetings. She suggested that other meetings to urge their Jr. Friends to attend such events. Jr. Friends are looking for advisors. Jane Snyder added that she and Joe took some Jr. Friends to Guatemala last summer and they a were great group.

CC 03.17.3 Minutes

Minutes of the October 31, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected, adding a J. between Nora and Percival and removing the “W” when referring to PNQM.

CC 03.17.4 Faith & Practice Committee: Debbie Townsend, Co-Clerk of the Committee, reported that the committee had received a note from a Friend who felt the Yearly Meeting was not ready to approve the new Faith & Practice because there had not been enough seasoning. She asked for comments from Coordinating Committee. Coordinating committee did not agree with that concern. She noted that updating will be easy because it the book will be printed on demand. The committee had heard last year that there were questions about the balance of quotations, and the committee has responded. They have had two people read the book – one Quaker and one from outside. Questions were raised about the change from “isolated” to “remote” Friends. Friends thought “isolated” was the traditional term, and some preferred that. A number of Meetings were using the new F&P and were very pleased. The section on Silence was especially appreciated.

CC 03.17.5 Ministry and Oversight Committee: Nancy McLauchlan, Clerk provided a written report (attached to file copy of minutes). They will host another consultation May 7, no topic chosen yet. They will continue the program of exchanging visitors with Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM). NWYM is struggling and a seasoned visitor from NPYM is needed. She reminded us that this year the end of NWYM and beginning of NPYM overlap. State of Society reports are needed and will be posted on the website. CC members are asked to let their Meetings know.

CC 03.17.6 Financing Annual Session: Lucretia Humphrey, Rising Clerk of NPYM had shared the way New England Yearly Meeting funds their annual sessions. Friends had been asked to read an article on this at <https://friendsjournal.org/an-experiment-with-abundance>. The article talks about how NEYM changed from scholarships to pay what feel is right for you and relying on gifts. Pacific Northwest Quarter has been doing this successfully for a number of year, with 165 – 185 attenders. Friends who had read the article felt inspired. It was noted that NPYM currently has reserves and could experiment. The seasoning process for this idea needs to be spiritual and grounded in the details! A hope was expressed that we not study this for a number of years before acting. A Friend articulated the change from “needy scholarship to generous gift”. Can we be “courageously faithful”? Friends felt it was good that NEYM included

what it costs to run their Annual Session; some attenders could pay more than that, some pay their share, and some pay what they can. It takes a leap of faith. The title of the article: “Experiment with Abundance” was particularly appreciated. While committee members recognized we could not work out details in time for this year’s annual session, the committee was excited about recognizing abundance, making ALL feel welcome and being spiritually led.

Coordinating Committee recommends to the Annual Session Planning Committee and Finance Committee that a funding process similar to that of New England Yearly Meeting be instituted for Annual Session 2018. CC approved an Ad Hoc Committee of Laura Arcidiacano, Margaret Coahran, Lucretia Humphrey, Clint Weimeister and Dave Ek (General Arrangements Clerk), ex officio. Lucretia Humphrey will convene. The committee is charged with formulating how such a plan would work and report to the Annual Session Planning Committee about how to advertise our faith-based experimental plans for Annual Session 2018.

Coordinating Committee members are asked to take back the excitement felt in this meeting, sharing the call to be bold.

CC 03.17.7 Youth Committee: Katherine Spinner, Clerk of the committee reported that Mim Lilly Coleman has been hired as the Youth Program Coordinator. There are 3 new members of the Youth Committee. A grant was made from the Youth Opportunities to help Gabriel Burns, co-clerk of Jr. Friends, to attend the FCNL Spring Lobby weekend.

CC 03.17.8: Information Technology: Concern was expressed about the importance of accessibility for those who have vision challenges.

Coordinating Committee approved the job description (attached to file copy of minutes) for the web keeper, with the addition of “accessibility for persons with physical limitations”.

CC 03.17.9: Update on Gender Inclusivity Minute: Kepper Petzing from Multnomah Meeting identified they/them/their as their preferred pronouns. (These preferred pronouns have been used in the rest of this section when referring to Kepper.) They had provided an extensive report in advance. Multnomah Meeting is in the process of seasoning responses. MGOF and Missoula had not understood the process, thinking the minute would just come as is to Annual Session, rather than be seasoned in each Meeting, which would

then respond to Multnomah, which will discern possible changes. Of the remaining 20 NPYM Monthly Meetings, only 3 have not responded at all. Kepper emphasized Multnomah wants to hear about the process used for consideration of the minute, as well as decisions. They especially want to hear concerns. They provided the list of concerns they have already heard (attached to file copy of minutes). We were reminded about the difference between gender (who you are) and sexuality (who sexually excites you). Consideration of this minute about transgender people is not easy and should be a deep spiritual process in which we are tender with one another. This is about more than words. We were reminded we need to decide on actions. We heard a report from a Meeting that had easily approved the Multnomah minute for themselves last year with little discussion. They are now finding serious challenges as they discuss the use of preferred pronouns. Pronouns and bathrooms are both difficult issues. We were reminded to avoid asking gender non-conforming people to speak for all. Jed Walsh will be asked for permission to post on the NPYM website the Zine he created with personal stories of being gender non-conforming.

We were that reminded the Yearly Meeting is a service and resource to it Meetings. We do not say “you have to . . .” We have previously ignored gender non-conforming people and now want to be welcoming. However, this is not something we can guarantee. We are asked to discuss and educate ourselves.

03.17.10 Nominating Committee: Kathryn Willard, Clerk of the committee reported that their top priorities were finding members for the Information Technology Committee. Other needs: 2 more for the Outreach Committee, 2 for the Epistle Committee, Central Friends Camp Coordinator (probably best if 2 or 3 people working together). Alan Stockbridge informed Katherine that he is not on the IT Committee, nor is he still the CC member from Bellingham. Peter Husby is proposed for AFSC, not FCNL. We await a response from AFSC about whether members of the AFSC Corporation appointed by Yearly Meetings must be members of the Religious Society of Friends, since Peter is not currently a member. (Slate attached to file copy of minutes.)

CC members are asked to take these needs to their Meetings.

03.17.11 Finance Committee: Jonathan Brown, Treasurer, presented the draft Financial Report. The General Fund currently has a surplus of over \$8K. The general operating reserves are 46% of the FY17 budgeted expenses. In the

current year, we have debit cards for the NPYM Secretary and for Jr. Friends. These separate accounts make it easier to track expenses. The annual informal audit was performed this year by Donal Sullivan and Louis Webster. They were able to answer Jonathan's questions. In the draft budget (FY18) the YM Secretary is a contractor, not an employee. We have not used the Extraordinary Opportunities Fund for a number of years and it has therefore been moved to "Board Designated Funds" on the balance sheet. Money is there to be spent. Jonathan works with committee clerks to estimate expenses and to use their money. The annual assessment is \$60 per member to cover staff. We have more than required in our operating reserves. Jonathan is recommending reducing the annual assessment. (Documents attached to file copy of minutes.)

03.17.12 Outreach and Visitation Committee: ELee Hadley, Clerk of the committee reported that the Travel Program is underway. Sherry and Al Hendrix will be traveling to MGOF, Sheridan, Pullman-Moscow and Walla Walla. Candida Quinn and Georgia Foster will travel with them as elders. The committee wants to send many travelers and hear about Meetings interested in being visited. It was suggested that topics visitors might address be limited to maybe 5. Sherry and Al were described as passionate convergent Friends.

03.17.13 Executive Committee actions: Otis Kenny, Clerk, reported that Executive Committee had approved a slate proposed by Nominating Committee, but acknowledged he had not informed those who had been approved.

03.17.14 Annual Session Planning: Dave Ek, General Arrangements Clerk, presented a slide show on the University of Puget Sound, where we will be for Annual Sessions in 2017 and 2018. There are 2 places where you can eat and have a meeting. Remodeling of the patio may be noisy – or may be finished. There will be some construction. Rooms are in suites with 4 rooms around a bathroom and kitchenette.

03.17.15 Personnel Committee: Jane Snyder, Clerk of Personnel, reported the following appointments: John Gotts of Pullman-Moscow Meeting as Web Keeper; Mim Lilly Coleman as Youth Program Coordinator. Nora J. Percival's status has been changed to contract employee.

03.17.16 MGOF Minute: Lucretia Humphrey reported that MGOF wanted all Meetings to see their minute (attached to file copy of minutes). Their winter gathering had a wonderful sense of being Spirit-led. They will have a spring

meeting to see where they are led to go. She urged Friends to take the minute to their Meeting and act as led.

03.17.17 Addition to Coordinating Committee Clerk's job description:

Coordinating Committee approved the following addition to the Coordinating Clerk's job description:

"When Executive Committee approves a nomination, the Coordinating Committee clerk is responsible for notifying the person approved and the clerk of the committee to which the person is appointed."

03.17.18 Pre-Nominating Committee: Jerry Graville, Kathryn Willard and Kathy Hyzy are completing their terms on Nominating Committee (and are eligible to serve another 2-year term).

Coordinating Committee appointed Betsey Kenworthy and Tom Rawson to serve on Pre-Nominating Committee and bring recommendations for Nominating Committee to Annual Session.

The meeting closed with a period of worship.

Otis Kenny, Clerk
Ann Stever, Recording Clerk

Children's Program Committee Report
To BFM, May 7, 2017

1. Children's Program would like to host an intergenerational second hour this summer. We know we could have good attendance by kids on June 18 or 25; if neither is available, we'd like a couple of options later in the summer for us to choose from , so as to maximize the chance of having the younger generation in attendance.

2. New Childcare worker: Lily Bee! Dora will be gone this summer but back in the fall (mid-September). Lily Bee will turn 14 on June 23, and can begin working for us after that. She will share the job with Anna Row over the summer, and when Dora returns, we hope Lily will continue to be a substitute childcare person for us for the indefinite future!

3. Aurora Fox will be away for the summer, and since she normally does children's program once a month, we could use extra volunteers this quarter to be with the children during the worship hour. Please contact Virginia if you are interested. We have curriculum, art supplies, and plenty of assistance available if you are not sure how to get started.

4. Our next meeting is May 29 (Memorial Day) 5:30 p.m. at Virginia's house.

Ministry and Counsel Report

May 4, 2017

1. May query-- Borrowed liberally from Australia Advices and Queries, #44 “In order to secure the survival of all, including ourselves, are you prepared to change your ideas and your actions about who you are in relation to the creation?”
2. We discussed the importance of allowing adequate time between messages to allow time for the ministry to sink in. Friends are reminded to allow substantial space following each vocal ministry referencing our Guidelines for Vocal Ministry.
3. Second Hours dates and topics:

May 7 -- Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

May 14 -- Potluck

May 21-- Allen Stockbridge on the work of national and international Quaker organizations

May 28-- no second hour (Memorial Day Weekend)

June 4 -- Potluck and “Web of Connections/Needs of Newcomers”, an exercise from FGC by OW

June 11 -- MfWfB

June 18 -- Children’s Program Committee Intergenerational Activity

June 25 - OWC play reading

July 2 -- Potluck

July 9 -- MfWfB

July 16 - TBA

July 23 - Quaker Ways, “Unprogrammed Worship” presented by John Hatten
Other Second Hour

4. We discussed the increasing length of time between the rise of Meeting until it adjourns (following Joys and Sorrows, holding friends in the Light, introductions, report of what the children did, announcements, and any other number or other things that occur). There was some concern about whether this might be difficult for families and children and for individuals who have other plans for after Meeting and may discourage people from also attending second hour because of the amount of time involved. We ask for feedback from Friends to get a sense of how people feel about the current length and whether Friends might want to consider a different way to organize the time following the rise of silent worship. What parts are you content with? What changes, if any might you suggest. Please feel free to comment now or by speaking with someone on M&C if thoughts arise later.
5. We as a Meeting sometimes get requests for hospitality from visiting Friends, often well in advance, sometimes on shorter notice. We would like to develop a better way to handle such requests. We want to put together a list of interested hosts, who can all be emailed when there is a request. John will set up the email address hosts@bellinghamfriends.org. Please email him if you have space and inclination to sometimes host a visiting Friend. It can be a rich experience.
7. We will next meet at Larry's on Monday, June 2 at 7 p.m.

1295 East Bakerview at James "The Firehouse"

- Y 1. Space available Sundays 9AM-2PM *Anytime, if we purchase.*
- Y 2. Seating for 50+ *Could seat over 60*
- Y 3. Kitchen, refrigerator, storage and seating area for 30+. *Perhaps seating 50. Need big fridge. Room for additional kitchen counter space and appliances*
- Y 4. On or close to centrally located bus stop, runs Sunday *#131 bus <10 min. walk from Telegraph/James*
- N 5. Maximum outlay of Meeting funds for rent and utilities: \$1,000/month **Rent high. Rent: asking \$2,200/month*
Purchase price: asking \$470,000.
- Y 6. Accessible "for people with mobility-related issues." *One story, no steps or stairs anywhere.*
- Y 7. Children's Program Activity Rooms: ___ Younger ___ Older *Currently one large room, framed to divide*
- Y 8. Children's Program Storage, closet or other
- Y 9. Storage space for administrative materials: two large cabinets
- Y 10. Library space and book shelves
- Y 11. Parking *Twelve cars on site without adding any spaces; neighboring lot, 22***
- Y 12. Extras:
- a. The building was once an unmanned firehouse and is set back from the road.
 - b. The lot is large and is bounded by a chiropractor and massage therapist on one side, wetland on the other, and behind by property owned by Puget Sound Energy. There is lawn surrounding, good sun on the roof, and trees across the street and in the back. Room for garden/play area, flower boxes, etc.
 - c. Solid, newer construction: building has low fire risk and low insurance cost.
 - d. The firehouse doors were removed by current owner and replaced by large windows.
 - e. The large front windows are double pane in order to insulate noise and temperature.
 - f. Traffic on E. Bakerview is heavy during week, probably not on Sunday mornings.
 - g. Property is a good investment for the Meeting as it is in a high growth area; easy to find, easy to access.
 - h. Heated by large gas heater on ceiling. Noise level of device not determined.
 - i. Cinderblock construction makes for good insulation, ease of adding windows; or expanding building
 - j. Open sky above building except in the back; solar panels possible.
 - k. LED lighting installed by last owner.

* Subletting may be possible, if only for public meetings during the week or in evenings

** Chiropractor adjacent has large lot not used Sundays. Might allow us to use parking (22 spaces).
There's also room in back for more parking if need be.

First inspection report: Allen Stockbridge, Dave Hopkinson, Larry Thompson, Virginia Herrick

Meetinghouse Criteria Checklist: **The Majestic** 1023 N. Forest at Maple

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| N | 1. Space available Sundays 9AM-2PM | <i>Sundays 12:30-4:00</i> |
| Y | 2. Seating for 50+ | <i>Downstairs: 50+ Upstairs: 75+</i> |
| Y | 3. Kitchen, refrigerator, storage and seating area for 30+. | <i>Chairs and Tables available</i> |
| Y | 4. Close to centrally located bus stop | |
| Y | 5. Maximum outlay of funds for rent: \$1,000/month * | <i>(NOT YET negotiated)</i> |
| Y | 6. ADA Compliant | |
| Y | 7. Children's Program Rooms: Younger ___ Older___ | <i>Two rooms available, one divided.</i> |
| N | 8. Children's Outdoor safe play space or nearby park | <i>CP could have <u>entire</u> downstairs)</i> |
| Y | 9. Children's Program Storage, closet or other | |
| Y | 10. Storage space for administrative materials: two large cabinets | |
| Y | 11. Library space and book shelves | |
| Y | 12. Parking | <i>Ample adjacent, extra across street</i> |
| N/A | 13. Allow for subletting, if only for public meetings during week or in evenings. | |
| | 14. Extras: (e.g. space for garden?) | |
- Would allow a small, permanent sign in front of building announcing "Quaker Meeting"
- Downstairs has a beautiful dance floor, several multipurpose rooms.
- Neighborhood is neither industrial nor commercial
- Chairs, tables, 2 equipped kitchens
- Audio equipment available both upstairs and downstairs

Observations, Opinions and Evaluations:

Beautiful building is easy to find and well known locally.

Alborz the "caretaker" is friendly and easygoing. He is on the board of the Peace and Justice Center.

He is accommodating and has made it quite clear that he would like to have BFM as a tenant.

Space feels warm and welcoming. Upstairs is elegant.

Pictures at http://bellinghammajestic.com/wordpress/?page_id=2