

Minutes of Intermountain Yearly Meeting Executive Committee, August 25-26, 2006, Santa Fe, NM

Present: Clerk, Rebecca Henderson; Recording Clerks, Sara Keeney and Jane Robinson; Eric Wright, Fran Boler, Jonathan Cartland, Ted Church, Jim Coates, Joanne Cowan, Bob Gaines, David Henkel, Phyllis Hoge, Tom Kowal, John Kretzmann, Vance Marshall, Jim Mills, Jerry Petersen, Bob Shroeder. Regrets: Mary Riseley. Wyn Lewis participated briefly reporting for Spiritual Formation.

Clerk Rebecca Henderson welcomed Friends. We sat in opening worship. Rebecca read the Responsibilities of the Executive Committee and reminded Friends that we were here not only to present or read a report, but also to participate in worshipful discernment. She reminded us that this is a Meeting for Worship for Business. We settled into silence.

Report from Continuing Committee on IMYM 06 Evaluations. Eric Wright presented a summary table of ratings and compilation of comments from the evaluation of this year's IMYM. Clerk Rebecca Henderson noted that the evaluation comments are confidential and asked friends to not share them outside the committee, with the exception of the summary and table. Eric reported that on the whole it was a very successful yearly meeting.

Issues that will be further discussed by Executive Committee and brought to Continuing Committee are: a) Interest Groups and their locations, when and how setting them up, if registering or showing interest when checking box on registration. b) Newcomers, we need to plan a more systematic orientation for newcomers. Responses showed some confusion about how this takes place. Perhaps Monthly Meeting can help with this function. In the past Continuing Committee has set up task groups to support orientation. c) Is it helpful to have Ghost House as an information point, given that it is centrally located, rather than using the registration site for this year that was more out of the way. The two locations could be kept separate.

A question was raised about suggestions for improving the evaluation for next year. Eric will consider finding out what category people are speaking from i.e. vegetarian, camper, etc. Many comments of support for the process of handling the Joint Service Project concerns appeared and one of concern about the how issue was handled. A Friend asked if we are changing the titles of Early Days events to something more descriptive that clarifies distinctions between interest groups, seminars, etc. Eric also noted that many participants commented on the desire for more open time in the schedule.

Eric had no further recommendations for topics that Executive Committee will need to bring to Continuing Committee based on the evaluations. Rebecca Henderson expressed the thanks of the group to Eric for the large task of compiling all the comments.

IMYM EC 06 01. The Executive Committee accepted the evaluation report. (Attachment #1)

Interest Groups report. Mary Riseley submitted a report in writing with her regrets that, due to illness, she cannot be with the Executive Council for this meeting.

A correction on payment of honoraria to presenters John Fife and Cathy Ansheles: The total payment of \$500.00 came out of the annual gathering surplus, not the general fund.

Discussion: A difficulty is tracking how many people sign up for each early day seminar and interest group indicated the need for advance planning in order to assign good locations and cancel if low participation. We also need a policy for unscheduled presentations. Pressure to find a location and publicize is difficult. One way would be to have seminars set and several open locations and time slots for spontaneous groups around interests. Having people prioritize choices on the registration form would help. The guide calls for the Interest Group coordinator to work with registrars early to provide descriptions early. This is a key position around the time of scheduling and preparing registration.

Early Days are an extra time that Ghost Ranch gives us to use as we see fit with the hope of increasing guest stays. This year's attendance of 200 was a good response to the planned seminars. About a quarter of the participants in the John Fife seminar were Presbyterians who joined in response to listing in the Ghost Ranch website. We wish to be a good partner to Ghost Ranch by increasing registration and at the same time to keep our costs down. We value our relationship with them and intend to make the Early Days successful. Many participants also use this time for unstructured experiences.

IMYM EC 06 02. Executive Committee unites that we wish to continue joint Early Day seminars with Ghost Ranch. (Attachment #2.) We have already missed the catalog deadline, and in order to meet the deadline we would need to plan two years forward for seminars. We can seek to plan some seminars and interest groups in advance of Continuing Committee. Over time the outside participation may increase. We will seek a way to create our own seminars and get all of them posted in advance, along with joint seminars planned with Ghost Ranch. The practice last year was that Ghost Ranch provided housing for joint

contracted presenters and asks IMYM to pay them honoraria of \$250 each. We support continued payment of honoraria of \$250 each to two joint presenters. We would like presenters to know they have the option of passing honoraria on to other causes or to Ghost Ranch if they choose. The interest group coordinator and GR liaison will work among these and other options with Ghost Ranch. If we continue to have high enrollment in Early Days, the Ghost Ranch liaisons may re-evaluate the need for joint planning with Ghost Ranch.

Definition of terms:

Ghost Ranch Short Courses—three half days. Commitment in advance is required, in registration

Seminars—three half days. Commitment in advance is required, in registration

Regularly scheduled Interest Groups—during afternoon, 2:30-3:35, show two prioritized intention on registration **form**—for Thurs, Friday, Saturday.

Flexible or Ad hoc Interest Groups—happen at a separate time from pre-planned ones if possible.

It helps to specify if a seminar is continuous over sessions or if each session is repeat.

We note that the second position for Interest Group Coordinator needs to be filled. Rebecca Henderson will notify the Nominating Committee.

Worship Sharing Group report. Jerry Peterson submitted a written report. Discussion. There has been an on-going request for a Spanish language group, but few people sign up, and a leader is needed. More locations were needed than initially anticipated this year. Is it appropriate to assign everyone, or do we need a way to determine how many actually attend. We raised the issue that SYF are concerned that other activities were scheduled during the Intergenerational Worship Sharing. We ask Continuing Committee to examine the number of time slots and if we can continue the commitment of a time slot for Intergenerational Worship Sharing, and that we honor any commitment made.

IMYM EC 06 03. The Executive Council accepted the report of the Worship Sharing Group Convenor. (Attachment #3.)

Book Store Report from Marilyn Hayes. Rebecca Henderson read a written report from Marilyn. The registrar will include information on craft projects provided by the Book Store Coordinator.

IMYM EC 06 04. The Executive Committee accepted the report. (Attachment #4.)

Operations. Vance Marshall presented a written report on IMYM 06 activities with recommendations. He cautioned against overly high expectations for where golf carts are available to pick people up at any given time. The location in Staff House worked well for Operations.

IMYM EC 06 05. The Executive Committee expresses our appreciation to the SYF and for their generous and capable assumption of transportation needs for their own group, in place of golf carts.

IMYM EC 06. The Executive Committee accepts the report with thanks.
(Attachment #5.)

Ministry and Counsel Report. 8:30- 8:45 we opened with a period of silence. Rebecca read from the new IMYM Faith and Practice on Meeting for Worship for Business.

We continued our consideration of the Ministry and Counsel Committee report given by David Henkel during last evening's session of the Executive Committee.

IMYM EC 06 07. We accept the Ministry and Counsel Committee report.

Ministry and Counsel has reported to the Joint Service Project Oversight Committee as instructed by Yearly Meeting. We considered many aspects of this concern in our meeting last evening. We appreciate and support the work of the Joint Service Project Oversight Committee and the work of the coordinator of the Joint Service Project. We ask that the Joint Service Project Oversight Committee take what is useful from the Ministry and Counsel report. The issue raised has been deliberated at all levels of IMYM. We ask Ministry and Counsel to consider developing guidelines for its work when sensitive issues are considered.

Treasurer's report

IMYM EC 06 08. We accept John Kretzmann's report with gratitude. (Attachment #6.)

IMYM EC 06 09. We concur with John's recommendation to put CDs into 12 month certificates instead of 6 month certificates.

We examined John's suggestion that we have a separate accounting page for the designated contributions.

IMYM EC 06 10. We ask the finance committee to consider the line item known as Designated Contributions and to define this line item further for consideration at Continuing Committee.

IMYM EC 06 11. The treasurer has recommended a change from Quicken to QuickBooks that entails expenditure of \$250.00. QuickBooks is an accounting system as opposed to Quicken, which is more of a check book system. They are both from the same company, so there should be no problems integrating them. We approve the purchase of QuickBooks.

Finance Committee Report. Bob Shroeder presented a written report, including a proposed budget for 2008. Faith and Practice Committee offered to provide an estimate of cost and proposed cost recovery and distribution when we print Faith and Practice.

IMYM EC 06 12. The Executive Committee accepted the report with gratitude to the clerk and committee. (Attachment #7.)

Registrar's Report. Rebecca Henderson noted that there have been many questions this year on the logistics of the registration process. In the past there has been a task force of advisors for the registrars. A challenge is that new registrars this year didn't have full access to past history.

Phyllis Hoge, co-registrar, presented a written report, expressing that the registrars had met their overall goal of providing a Friendly process.

Jonathan Cartland, co-registrar presented a written report focusing on issues around on-line registration and providing recommendations in several areas. He noted that the daily bulletin, newsletter at Ghost Ranch needs a clearer procedure and set of expectations.

Executive Committee considered ways of dividing the very complex registrar's job and delegating tasks among more people. There are a many inputs and outputs required of the registrars before, during and after IMYM.

IMYM EC 06 13. Executive Committee accepted the reports, with the deletion of the expectation that Jonathan will present the program to his students this fall from Phyllis' report. We note our appreciation for the help of Johanna from Gary Salazar's office at Ghost Ranch. (Attachment #8)

Web Team Report. Ted Church and Jim Mills presented a written report. The team cannot promise a working on-line registration for 2007, but are willing to continue to work on it, as directed by the EC.

IMYM EC 06 14. We unite in support of the Web Team goals for the coming year to continue developing an on-line registration tool, with the goal of easing technical and time requirements for registrars. This on-line tool would reflect the previous work done in developing the Access system of tables, forms, and information to be gathered. It will not include on-line payment, due to cost. The registrars will make the decision of which process to use for 2007 in consultation with the clerks of CC and IMYM. (Attachment #9.)

IMYM EC 06 15. We approve forming a new registration support team to work in two areas: one being to assist the current registrars with 2007 registration, including assuring formation of effective teams for the daily bulletin and volunteer coordination. We also ask the team to carry out on-going redesign of the registrar's responsibilities for the long-term, with work-flow study, time line study and clarified financial and personnel requirements. This support team group will consider how much time and money to invest in both the Access method and the on-line method along with investigating costs and usefulness of contracting with an outside company or with Ghost Ranch to conduct our registration. This team will be designated by IMYM clerk, CC clerk and the registrars and will report back to the EC.

IMYM EC 06 16. We unite in recommending the registrar keep the two functions of room registration (hotel function), and scheduling activities (program function), while keeping in close communication with separate teams responsible for the daily bulletin and volunteer coordination. The registrars will ask for training on the current Access program from those who developed it.

IMYM EC 06 17. We approve Bob Gaines as new web co-clerk until August 2008 and extend the terms of Ted Church and Jim Mills until August, 2007.

IMYM 06 18. FWCC triennial will be held in Dublin, Ireland this year. The appointment of representatives to the Triennial did not happen during the sessions at IMYM in June. Our representatives to FWCC are Chris Viavant, Jerry Peterson, Sherry Spear-Phillips Cheryl Speir-Phillips. They have been nominated to be the representatives to the Triennial. We forward their nomination to Continuing Committee for approval.

Guest Speaker for IMYM 2007. There is no current speaker identified. There is no current theme.

Faith and Practice Committee. Their report is attached to these minutes and is available on line at <http://imym.org/2006executivecmte/>

Jim Coates highlighted the following points:

1. The Faith and Practice Committee recommends we have a threshing session at the IMYM 2007 gathering to publicly process the IMYM Faith and Practice.
2. Meetings and Worship groups are encouraged to spend the months ahead using and seasoning the new Faith and Practice.

IMYM EC 06 19. The Faith & Practice committee recommends having a threshing session to consider Faith and Practice, early during the business sessions of the 2007 gathering. We encourage Continuing Committee to consider this possibility in their scheduling of the sessions.

Spiritual Formation Program. Wyn Lewis read the report from the Spiritual Formation Program, Ad Hoc Committee of IMYM. It outlines the plans for the following year. They request support from Executive Committee in disseminating this statement.

IMYM EC 06 20. We accept the Spiritual Formation Program Ad Hoc Committee report. (Attachment #10.)

Committee to Revise the Guide. Jim Mills summarized the report from the co-clerks of the Committee to Revise the Guide available on line at:
<http://IMYM.org/2006executivecmte/>

IMYM EC 06 21. We accept the Committee for Revising the Guide report with much thanks for all the hard work they have put into the guide. (Attachment #11.)

Fall Queries in preparation for IMYM 2007.

a) Friends General Conference affiliation. Eric Wright shared that **he will include** information relative to the advantages of affiliation to Friends General Conference, it's history and the particulars (cost, commitment, etc) **with the Fall Queries.**

A friend expressed interest in learning more of the history of why the western friends have resisted affiliation with Friends General Conference. This is included in the history materials that Eric will send out.

IMYM EC 06 22. We ask the Fall query on Friends General Conference to ask Monthly Meetings to consider affiliation with Friends General Conference.

b) Quaker Earthcare Earth Care Witness (formerly known as Friends Committee on Unity with Nature)

They are having their annual meeting this fall at Ghost Ranch. Contact Ghost Ranch for information. A better reference is to QEW's web site rather than Ghost Ranch's.

IMYM EC 06 23. Because the consideration of whether or not to affiliate with Quaker Earthcare Earth Care Witness last year was incomplete, we ask that the Fall letter Queries include a second query on affiliation with Quaker Earthcare Earth Care Witness.

c) Border Concerns.

IMYM EC 06 24. We ask that the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) minute on Immigration be included in the Fall letter Queries as follows:

There once was a frame of reference in this country that said, "Slavery is a reality. The best we can do is hope to regulate it and work for the just treatment of slaves." John Woolman stepped out of that frame of reference and said, "Slavery is wrong."

Today there is a frame of reference in this country that says, "illegal immigration is a reality. The best we can do is regulate immigration." We step out of that frame of reference to say, "All are worthy of a decent life." Our vision is the recognition of migration as a human right. Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) urges other Yearly Meetings to join us in this vision.

We open ourselves to discuss God's way of achieving that goal. We hope members will use this statement to help change the discussion currently happening throughout our country. As Quakers, this speaks not only to our Testimony of Equality, but to our deeper call to "love one another."

The Migrant and Border Concerns Committee report from the IMYM 2006 annual gathering (available on the web at: <http://imym.org/2006annualgathering/2006minutesfolder/> Attachment #22 on page #58 of the Record of the 2006 Plenary Session will also be included in the query for background information. The following query will be addressed to the Monthly Meetings:

In light of the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)'s minute on immigration, what is your Monthly Meeting's response to the spiritual issues concerning Immigration, Migrant and Border Concerns, and what unity do you have in your meeting regarding these concerns.

Nominating Committee Report. Rebecca Henderson presented the written report submitted by Annette Kowal and Charlene Weir. Of particular note is the need for a co-presiding clerk. Send corrections to Jim Mills. They are posted in a limited access part of the website. Another area of great need is Junior Young Friends Co-convenor.

IMYM EC 06 25. The EC accepted the Nominating Committee report as corrected, with gratitude. (Attachment #12.)

Liaison Report. Tom Kowal reports that the dates for IMYM 2007 are June 10 – 17. Continuing Committee will be in January 26-27 in Denver, CO. There will be an overall 5% increase in costs next year—due to general cost increases, not for the purpose of new buildings which are funded by capital fund donations. The new housing rates will be determined by Continuing Committee and Finance Committee. Ghost Ranch gives us a universal charge for the entire facility. A Friend pointed out that new housing consists of family suites, available for an unlimited number of people. The Finance Committee typically makes a contribution to GR for the use of the golf carts for a week.

Children’s Yearly Meeting. No report at this time.

Junior Young Friends. No report at this time.

Senior Young Friends. Rebecca Henderson read a written report submitted by David Wampler and Risa Thron-Weber. We note that Senior Young Friends have verbally raised a concern that conflicting activities are scheduled during Intergenerational Worship Sharing.

IMYM EC 06 26. We accept the report of Senior Young Friends with gratitude and convey their scheduling concern to Continuing Committee. (Attachment #13.)

Young Adult Friends. This newly formed group will be sending a representative to Continuing Committee.

Laying Down IMYM/AFSC Committee. Discussion: Tom Kowal explained that this committee’s functions are currently carried out by other groups within IMYM. The committee has not been active for some time. The members (AFSC representatives from Monthly Meetings) have not been aware of their role on this committee. Rebecca Henderson read the description of the committee structure and function from the current IMYM Guide. Jim Mills said that each of four national or regional Quaker organizations (AFSC, FCNL, FWCC and Friends’ Bulletin) have an identified committee at the IMYM level. The Friends Bulletin

Board is functioning but the other three committees are not currently functioning. The committee to revise the Guide is attempting to define the reasons, the needs for such committees and make suggestions for the yearly meeting level. A Friend reminded us that an original need this committee fulfilled was to build connections between AFSC Regional office activities, IMYM activities and local Monthly Meeting activities. This need still exists. The need for these committees to meet at IMYM adds additional pressure on the IMYM schedule. Having more committees to serve on makes a job more demanding among Friends with many responsibilities already—i.e. the current representatives. These committees at the IMYM level are the only group that can provide an overview of all the varied activities of each organization. The loss of a close relationship between AFSC and IMYM has far-reaching negative consequences for maintaining mutual understanding and ownership. For AFSC one possible plan is for the four regional Joint Service Project representatives of IMYM to reframe their role to report more broadly on AFSC corporate and state activities.

IMYM EC 06 27. At this time Executive Committee feels that the question of laying down the Committee on AFSC needs further seasoning and research and we are not ready to forward a suggestion to Continuing Committee. We look forward to further information gathering on all four committees by the Committee to Revise the Guide.

IMYM EC 06 28. Executive Committee expressed thanks to the clerks for a well-run meeting. The Committee expressed deep thanks to Santa Fe Meeting for warm hospitality and great food.

Future dates to keep in mind

10th-17th in June 2007 IMYM at Ghost Ranch

26th –27th of January 2007 Continuing Committee in Denver

Respectfully submitted, Sara Keeney and Jane Robinson, October 27, 2006

Contents of Attachments (These attachments are contained in a separate document.)

- #1 IMYM Evaluations Report
- #2 Report on Early Days
- #3 Worship Sharing Group Report
- #4 Book Store Report
- #5 Operations Report
- #6 Treasurer's Report
- #7 Finance Committee Report
- #8a,b Registrars' Reports
- #9 Web Team Report
- #10 Spiritual Formation Report
- #11 Report from the Committee for Revising the Guide
- #12 Nominating Committee Report
- #13 Senior Young Friends Report