

**Intermountain Yearly
Meeting
of the
Religious Society of Friends**

**Record of the Plenary Sessions
And Meetings for Worship for Business**

Annual Gathering

Ghost Ranch

Abiquiu, New Mexico

June 8-12, 2016

Contents

	Page
List of Attachments	
Welcome, Plenary Session #16 Wednesday Evening, June 8, 2016, 7:30 p.m.	
Worship with Keynote Speakers, Plenary Session #29 Thursday Morning, June 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m.	
Meeting for Worship for Business, Plenary Session #3.....14 Thursday, June 9, 2016, 2:30 p.m.	
Meeting for Worship for Business, Plenary Session #416 Friday, 10:00 a.m., June 10, 2016	
Meeting for Worship for Listening, Plenary Session #520 “Sharing our Truth,” hosted by Senior Young Friends, Friday, 2:30 p.m., June 10, 2016	
Meeting for Worship for Business, Plenary Session #623 Friday, 4:15 p.m., June 10, 2016	
Meeting for Worship for Business, Plenary Session #726 Saturday, 10:00 a.m., June 11, 2016	

List of Attachments to the Minutes in Numerical Order:

**[These attachments will be made available in a separate document.
Most are available in the Documents in Advance.]**

1. Clerk's Report on the State of the Society	
2. Traveling minute for Callid Keefe-Perry	
3. Traveling minute for Elaine Emily	
4. Traveling minute for Joan Leveridge	
5. Site Search Committee Report	
6. Epistle from the Children's Meeting from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 2015	
7. Treasurer's Report and the Finance Committee Report	
8. Epistle of Aotearoa, New Zealand, May 11, 2015	
9. Peace and Service Committee Report	
10. Mountain Friends Camp full report	
11. Friends General Conference Representatives Committee Report	

12. Friends Committee on National Legislation Report to Yearly Meetings, Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting Report on FCNL Activities, New Mexico Regional Meeting Report on FCNL Activities, Report from Colorado Regional Meeting FCNL Representatives	
13. Friends World Committee for Consultation Greeting to Intermountain Yearly Meeting, FWCC Report to IMYM on Peru Plenary	
14. American Friends Service Committee Report on Corporate Meeting	
15. Friends Peace Team Report	
16. Report from Western Friend	
17. Nominating Committee Report	
18. Proposed Budget for 2016-2017	
19. Children's Yearly Meeting Epistle	
20. Junior Young Friends Epistle	
21. Senior Young Friends Epistle	
22. Intermountain Yearly Meeting Epistle	

23. Report on Interest Groups	
24. Registrar's Report	
25. Mary Brown, Las Cruces Monthly Meeting	
26. Beverly Cotton, Albuquerque Monthly Meeting	
27. Marjorie Ann Wyman Flagg, Pima Monthly Meeting	
28. Patricia Lou Kutzner, Albuquerque Monthly Meeting	
29. John F. McCamant, Mountain View Monthly Meeting	
30. Shirley (Shirl) Olmstead, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting	
31. Ford Robbins, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting	
32. Elisabeth (Libby) Howe Simon, Gila Monthly Meeting	
33. Steven Sears Spencer, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting	
34. LaDonna Stanley Wallen, Tempe Monthly Meeting	
35. David Zimmerman, Fort Collins Monthly Meeting	

Welcoming Plenary Session, Intermountain Yearly Meeting, Session #1, Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Friend Eric Wright led us in singing as we entered the Lower Pavilion.

Clerk Sara Keeney welcomed all to IMYM 2016.

Introduction of Meetings, Worship Groups, other categories:

Children's Yearly Meeting, Junior Young Friends, Senior Young Friends

List of Meetings and Worship Groups present, June 2015

Meeting List:

Arizona Half Yearly: Tempe, Pima, Phoenix, Flagstaff, Cochise Worship Group, Verde Valley Worship Group

Utah Friends: Moab, Logan, Salt Lake City

Colorado Regional: Boulder, Mountain View, Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, Three Valleys Worship Group

New Mexico Regional: Socorro Worship Group; Clearlight Worship Group; Gallup Worship Group; Santa Fe Meeting; Las Cruces Meeting; Gila/Silver City Meeting; El Paso TX Meeting; Durango CO Meeting; Albuquerque Meeting; South Santa Fe Preparatory Meeting; Las Vegas Worship Group.

Mexico: Mexico City Friends Meeting, Casa de los Amigos

The Clerk asked folks to stand who: have traveled distances of 100 to over 10,000 miles, people have been here 1-40 years; named a gift of someone in their meeting; who identified their own gift; who felt supported in their gift.

Introduction of Guests

Callid Keefe-Perry — Fresh Pond Meeting, Cambridge, MA, Keynote Speaker

Kristina and Nahar Keefe-Perry, both of Fresh Pond Meeting, MA

Elaine Emily — Strawberry Creek, Berkeley, CA, spiritual elder with Callid

Thistle MacKinney — Strawberry Creek Meeting, Berkeley, CA, guest of Senior Young Friends;

Mary Klein — Editor of *Western Friend*, Palo Alto Meeting, CA

Karen McKinnon — Friends General Conference Representative, Philadelphia — Durham Friends Meeting, Durham, NC

Pati Constantino — Heberto Sein visitor from Mexico City, Casa de los Amigos

Jacqueline Stilwell— New England Yearly Meeting, General Secretary of Right Sharing
Mary Beth Webster — now of South Mountain Friends Meeting, Ashland, OR
Patrick Easterling — Hilo, Hawaii, still Logan Meeting and IMYM
James Summers — La Jolla Meeting, CA supporting sailboat, The Golden Rule
Gabriela Flora — American Friends Service Committee, Denver
Sayrah Namaste — American Friends Service Committee, NM
Lon Burnham — Friends Committee on National Legislation, Ft. Worth Meeting, TX
Robert Broz — El Salvador scholarship project
Hanna Evans — Friends Committee on National Legislation
Nancy Duncan — St. Louis Monthly Meeting, sojourning in Mountain View Meeting, CO
Tracy Davis — Earlham School of Religion
Ana Easterling Ebi — Mountain Friends Camp

Introduction of those who serve the Meeting

Clerk— Sara Keeney; rising Clerk - Molly Wingate
Recording Clerk— Nancy Marshall; rising RC to be approved - Gail Hoffman
Representatives Committee Clerk — Bill Hobson
Arrangements Committee Clerk — Pelican Lee
Operations — Kay Bordwell
Program Working Group Clerk — Paula Palmer, Pam Gilchrist
Registrars— Lisa Toko-Ross, Sarah Feitler
Interest Group Coordinator — Todd Hierlmaier
Worship Sharing Groups Coordinator— Ba Wise
Delegates Committee Clerk — Chris Vivant
Finance Committee Clerk — Bob Schroeder
Treasurer — Jerry Peterson
Youth Working Group Clerk — Marc Gacy
Young Adult Friends Clerks — Ana Easterling Ebi, Damon Motz-Storey
Daily Bulletin — Ted Bordwell, Molly Wingate, Marian Bock

At 7:25 Debra Hepler, Director of Ghost Ranch Conference Center, welcomed Friends. She reviewed the extent of damage that had been caused late last summer during a flash flood of the property, and the work of repair done so far. She noted that the entire irrigation system was washed out, including the holding pond, pumps and pipelines.

State of the Society Report

Clerk Sara Keeney gave the State of the Society report based on State of Meeting reports and IMYM committee work. **Attachment #1.**

Schedule Preview and Announcements:

- + Callid Keefe-Perry will be speaker on Thursday: “Nurturing Spiritual Gifts in our Meetings;”
- + Memorial Minutes on Friday evening;
- + Saturday: Closing worship, then last set of Interest Groups, including Intergenerational activities, then intergenerational worship; worship on Sunday also. See *Daily Bulletin* and Bulletin Boards for all information
- + Knitting project in back of room — various volunteers
- + Large questions will be before us: site location; two minutes for public circulation; budget
- + Site selection committee reports in books in the bookstore
- + Peace and Service Committee, Jamie Newton. Thursday, 6:30 - 7 p.m. — Poster session for all groups in Lower Pavilion
- + Friday night we will have our third ever “Contra-Band” and dance.
- + Worship sharing: Ba Wise announced groups listed
- + Please read the Documents in Advance (in Bookstore) on the budget, Nominations, Mountain Friends Camp, etc. They are very helpful.
- + Old Hats: Leslie Trich has hats to share
- + Ministry and Counsel offers daily listening sessions.
- + FCNL invites letter writing in the dining room
- + Bring notes to Clerk’s table if you have an announcement: we make announcements from the Clerk’s table
- + Susan Wiley — Kitchen liaison, will also make announcements during meals. Please bring them to her in writing
- + The *IMYM Faith and Practice* is now available on demand from *Western Friend*.
- + SYFs will host Listening Session on Friday afternoon.

Closing Worship

Meeting for Worship with Speaker, Plenary Session #2
Thursday Morning, June 9, 10:00 - 11:45 a.m.

We entered and sat in worship.

Callid Keefe-Perry, New England Yearly Meeting, was the keynote speaker. Attachment #2

The Clerk (Sara Keeney) read the traveling Minute for our Keynote Speaker, Callid Keefe-Perry, currently of Fresh Pond Meeting in Cambridge, MA. Callid's life experience and ministry have provided rich seasoning on the topic of leadings - nurturing his own leadings under the care of his monthly Meeting and caring for the leadings of other Friends in the care of monthly Meetings he attends. He has served on Spiritual Care, Anchor and Support Committees. His current Meeting supports the ministries of eight traveling ministers, Callid being one. Callid is a husband, father, traveling minister and PhD candidate at Boston University's School of Theology. He says his academic work is "at the intersection of imaginative and creative practices and their connection to pedagogy and spiritual formation." Through his work serving as interim General Secretary of New York Yearly Meeting, he has had opportunities to work closely with many different monthly Meetings and learn about successes and challenges of nurturing spiritual gifts and leadings in Meetings.

The Clerk also read the traveling minute for Elaine Emily, who is traveling with Callid in support of his ministry. Attachment #3

Callid spoke with warmth and great energy, using visuals to illustrate and expand his thoughts. The following is a sampling of what he shared. (The full talk is posted at westernfriend.org)

This morning what I walk us through is the ideas I am preparing, living with. The big punch line will never come. I'm a scavenger. We'll find tasty bits and morsels. It's important for you to know that I'll grab whatever is nearby that is of use. This is all under the headline of "Living in the Dash."

You should know that my Committee of Support is in prayer right now in Cambridge, MA, as I share with you this morning.

I have some phrases and words for you:

First is "**Pufarwohl**." This means "presume unintended failure and respond with open-hearted love." I will have unintended failures, I hope you will respond with open-hearted love. I will try to do the best I can, regardless of the unintended failures that may occur.

Then let's think of "Framing": **framing the dance, balancing the teeter-totter, and Catalyzing Dynamic Homeostasis.**

Our theme is "Nurturing spiritual gifts and Ministry in our Meetings". We'll talk about ministry this morning, and spiritual gifts this afternoon in workshop.

Framing the dance: Making use of our gifts is ministry. The word "manifestation" (of our gifts) comes from "phanerosis" (Greek). "Phanerosis—to show, make visible." It shows up as the tensions and joys between Meeting and individual. What are the tensions and joys that happen as a result of Quaker traditional emphasis on the role and legitimacy of an individual's opening and the sense of leading coming from God when these encounter the process of the communal Meeting?

We see a picture of two couples dancing the tango—one couple stiff and wooden, as they are new learners, the other showing a tense and beautiful energy of long practice. In the dance, as it progresses, they are pressing against each other. If one disappears, the other will fall. There's a commitment to the other body, that if it left, you could not continue on your own. The relationship between our meetings and the individuals who come up against the meeting is that challenging. Things are constantly changing as we press against each other. This is our "process."

Balancing the teeter-totter can be stated another way "homeostasis." Homeostasis is the ability of or tendency of an organism to maintain internal equilibrium by adjusting its physiological processes. We use the metaphor of a body warming and cooling, or a teeter-totter, never static, always changing, but maintaining or seeking equilibrium—in homeostasis. It is a mistake to say our body is fighting with itself. It is trying to come to a balance, but it is in constant motion. So it is similar to the process of the dance between the individual and the Meeting.

"Ministry" is to take that thing that we feel we are supposed to do and order our lives so that we spend more time doing it.

Truths emerge. A question among early Friends was: how is Truth prospering here? Early Friends talked about Truth as a growing thing, not static.

The question here: how is Truth prospering and growing? Even within truth prospering, there are two ideas.

There is the metaphor of "**planting**": you get fruit, take it, ask others to plant it and make it grow. An example is the "pay as you go" system for the cost of attending New England Yearly Meeting, which has succeeded so far for us.

The other metaphor is **“grafting”**: New England Yearly Meeting has decided to take some funds to allow some persons who want to do service in the world. We have never done this in the past. The principle of our reserve funds was not touched. We just started, with no plan of “oversight” in place, before fruit is born. This could be bad or good. This is like a plant grown but not yet fruited.

“Traveling in Ministry” is taking fruit and the grafting to others, and taking fruit and grafting from others and bringing it back to our own meetings.

Authority: I’m not so concerned with words as with something on which we can pin our hopes, and that the arc will bend toward justice. Spiritual authority doesn’t come from certificates or degrees. I believe there is such a thing, some holy power that wants us to be greater in love and vulnerability to one another. Ministry is cultivating this power, this authority.

Key phrases: **“S-I,” “P-A,” “G-A.” “Sustained Intention,” “Prayerful Attention,” “Guided Action.”**

“S-I” means that if it continues to call you, you are being called.

“P-A” asks if I am attending to this intention. We need to prayerfully love others to get into and sustain their intentions.

“G-A” means to Do it! Be guided — come from the Holy Power that called us in the first place, and also from the community. The trajectory of the call is bigger than you.

Ministry exists in the — — Dashes, the connection between the adjective and noun.

There is no machine to tell us exactly what the ministry is. But there are people who can discern for us, with us.

Let’s watch this video together, really a video-prayer, of Mandy Harvey who lost her hearing. She had to learn another way to share the gift of her singing, her music, and she had to depend on the folks in the sound studio. We could never say that Mandy Harvey has no talent. She has lost her hearing. She has to sing into a recorder and have people tell her back what it sounds like. She must find another way to be, because she has a gift to sing, but cannot hear herself or others.

Our Meeting is a place to find another way to be to help us find what is our heart. We should see Meeting bathed in business as the heart. We should ask the Meeting how we should proceed.

Let’s think about how we describe our meetings:

Function: Think about YOUR Meeting, what it does. Write on “My Meeting is for...” Then turn to your neighbor(s) and tell them what your meeting is FOR. [This is an exercise for the group.]

There may be a wrong answer (eg. gun running). But would it be so bad to tell newcomers what you are for? Put it on your web site?

Some quotes from Friends at Fresh Pond Meeting in Massachusetts:

- Meeting is for refreshment; it guides and powers and comforts us; it is for friendship,
- Meeting is a place to share what matters most to me in my life.
- Meeting is to provide a spiritual foundation, to listen to others, to listen to God, to hear what others hear when they listen to god.
- Meeting is a tool for God-finding.

Ideally: the community is always forming; it is a gathering of people seeking to enter into always deepening relationships with each other, to meet needs, to develop practices that push us into action beyond the Meeting.

In practice: it's messy. There are new leadings, old practices, tension increasing. There isn't an ideal meeting. We are in states of teeter-totter. We have to look at the traumas we've suffered, let them be aired out, so they don't hold us back from spiritual authority.

Our culture is not our faith. But there are people (eg. Kanye West) who speak with authority, and we need to make spaces for people who are different.

Meetings in Fruitful, Faithful Dancing: there is an inner ecology, habitat, and an outer one, but we can't have one without the other. When friction is going on, there is an increase in exterior information, and a decrease in interior input. Applying this metaphor: those of us in outward ministry are supposed to be there, but there needs to be a home for us to come back to, or we can't go out again.

But if we are only inside nurturers and no one is going out, how long do we stay home? There is a dynamic relationship between folks in Meeting. There are other habitats, and the overlap area is the *ecotone*—the transition area between two biomes or habitats, where the inner and outer mix together. When we send folks *out* of Meeting to serve, they encounter new ideas and perspectives. We can't just send them out, they must also come *back*, or we won't receive the vibrancy from out there.

Take a stand up and stretch.

A mystery: $1/3$ does not equal one. S-I, P-A, G-A. One part is not the whole. One does not equal 168: The hour of worship is not equal to the week in which we live. Mandy Harvey can't do her

life without others, but she is no less for it. I can't do this ministry without folks who will walk me here, and walk me home.

We are the inheritors of a tradition that is intention and motion and pressing up against one another. We must have the harder conversations, to tell some to go out, some to come back home. And we need each other, to find out how far is enough, or how close is enough, and to learn from what is brought back. Thank you.

There were a few announcements

After a brief silence of closing worship, the Clerk reminded us to go up the path to lunch.

Meeting for Worship for Business and Plenary Session #3 Thursday afternoon, June 9, 2:30 - 4:15 p.m., 2016

We opened with silent worship.

The Clerk read a traveling minute for Joan Leveridge of Baltimore Yearly Meeting who is traveling in inter-visitation ministry. **Attachment #4**

She then read a Query: "What do we mean by God's Will?" from the book "Quaker Process," by Mathilda Navias.

The Clerk mentioned a report from the Site Search Committee. This is posted on Documents in Advance and in hardcopy in the Bookstore. Friends are urged to study material prepared by the committee before we discuss it.

There were four matters presented for seasoning and/or approval:

1. Proposed minute in support of Humanitarian Pledge for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Tom Vaughan read a **Minute passed by Gila Meeting on the Humanitarian Pledge for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** and copies were passed out. This minute will be seasoned now and until Saturday when it will be considered for approval.

Friends spoke to the Minute in support of approval. A Friend suggested that the four states (AZ, CO, NM, UT) be mentioned in the first sentence because we have nuclear weapon activity in our communities.

The Clerk noted that several other Meetings had united in support of this minute.

2. Proposed minute in support of Planned Parenthood

Copies of the minute were passed and the clerk noted that the minute had begun in Durango Meeting and was further seasoned in Albuquerque, Durango and Colorado Springs with versions approved. Diana Koster (Albuquerque) read the proposed minute, with Dick Grossman (Durango) and Genie Durland (Colorado Springs) present to address questions.

Several Friends spoke, including a Young Adult Friend witnessing to the relevance of this minute to her own needs and rights.

The Minute will be seasoned this week and considered for approval Saturday.

3. Site Search Committee Report

After a few moments of silent worship, we considered the **Site Search Report from the Affordable Yearly Meeting Task Force**. Handouts were distributed. Tom Vaughan, Clerk of the Site Search Committee gave the report. **Attachment #5**

Certain criteria were considered in looking at all sites: a) centrality; b) altitude; c) camping available; d) cost; e) accessibility for attenders from 1-95 (years old); f) Date: it is clear to the committee that the best week is the one in June that ends with Father's Day.

The committee report reminded us strongly that if we cannot decide the purpose of IMYM, the location will always be problematic. The committee worked from words of Clarissa Cooper from her 1974 history of IMYM: "We envision the annual gathering as a time for worship and fellowship, when younger and older people exchange ideas of the 'durable satisfactions' of life and, under a sense of Divine Presence, explore ways to experience and share them—precious times of living and loving, praying and learning."

The committee considered a total of 13 sites, and Tom Vaughan and Sandy Feitz visited the most promising of them. Following discussion and reporting, the options were narrowed to four in addition to Ghost Ranch: Colorado Mesa College (Grand Junction); Ft. Lewis College (Durango); Colorado College (Colorado Springs); New Mexico Highlands University (Las Vegas, NM).

Binders have been prepared for each of final four on the college, the community, and other resources available in each area. The binders are available in the Bookstore for all to review.

After some moments of silence, we transitioned to the next topic.

4. Nominating Committee Initial Report

Allen Winchester gave the **Nominating Committee Initial Report**.

Minute #2016.1. IMYM approves the appointment of Gail Hoffman as Recording Clerk, as of the rise of IMYM 2016-2019; and of Genie Durland, Clerk of Watching Committee for 2016.

5. Mountain Friends Camp

Several Friends from **Mountain Friends Camp** gave a report, sharing the community skills and the growth as Quakers they have found through camp. Ana Ebi, Director of Camp, said the financial documents are filed with the Documents in Advance.

Molly Wingate gave some **announcements**: 1) there is an FCNL table in the dining room; 2) There is an opportunity for presence to oppose the College of the Americas on the October 7 weekend in Tucson/Nogales; 3) There is a poster session this evening in the Lower Pavilion; 4) There is singing tonight.

The meeting closed on time with worship.

Meeting for Worship for Business and Plenary Session #4, Friday Morning, 10:00 - 11:45 a.m., June 10, 2016

The meeting opened with silent worship.

The Clerk recognized several elders present at the Meeting: Marian Hoge, Phyllis Hoge; Meredith Little; Elizabeth Bailey were all present at the founding of IMYM, or in the very early years.

Susan Wiley read the **Epistle from the Children's Meeting from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 2015**. "We all have a chance to help when something unfair is happening...Try to increase the fair and decrease the unfair, to Quakers and everyone." **Attachment #6**

1. Consent Agenda.

The Clerk read the list of **Reports that are on the Consent Agenda**. Friends are asked to review these documents which are in the **Documents in Advance**. We will ask for acceptance tomorrow, Saturday.

+ Peace and Service Committee Report;

+ Mountain Friends Camp Full Report;

+ Friends General Conference Representatives Committee Report;

- + **Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation Activities, New Mexico Regional Meeting Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation Activities, Report from Colorado Regional Meeting, FCNL Representatives, Friends Committee on National Legislation Report to Yearly Meetings;**
- + **Friends World Committee for Consultaion Greeting to Intermountain Yearly Meeting, FWCC Report to Intermountain Yearly Meeting on Peru Plenary;**
- + **American Friends Service Committee Report on Corporate Meeting;**
- + **Friends Peace Team Report.**

2. The Treasurer's Report and the Finance Committee Report

The report was given by Bob Schroeder (Finance Clerk) and Jerry Peterson (Treasurer). Copies were passed out among those present. **Attachment #7**

There were several questions and comments:

- Encouragement for IMYM support to Quaker Organizations. Our Yearly Meeting is being part of governing them and ensuring that they are Quaker Organizations.
- A request to know what preliminary questions had been asked of Ghost Ranch with regard to our continually running a deficit at the Annual Gathering—due to increased charges. Bob Schroeder mentioned that GR was cut off from Presbyterian USA so GR has to be self-sustaining and will charge more to do so.
- The question of staying fewer days at Ghost Ranch to lower the cost. Bob Schroeder responded that the IMYM rates wouldn't be lower but those who stay less time would have less cost. Ghost Ranch may not give us some rate advantages if we shorten the over-all stay. A Friend reminded us that in our meeting with GR staff they said that if we eliminated early days, they would appreciate us eliminating weekend days which they can rent more easily than week days.
- Appreciation for the financial support of IMYM for FCNL and AFSC, especially on border, migration and immigration issues.
- A question about considering personal travel costs when we consider the over-all expense of IMYM. Do we consider our own personal travel costs?
- A reminder that planners did include projections for the cost of renting golf carts for various sites—a service that we pay for, but is easily available at GR.
- A question about other payment methods that the Finance Committee has considered, such as pay as led by New England Yearly Meeting. Since IMYM deficit for gathering is covered by assessments, can we think about what it would take to meet it through donations.
- The statement that financial pressure is coming from increase activities by the Yearly, such as increased support for FCNL reps and costs associated with FGC, as well as increased costs for Ghost Ranch.

- A reminder that NM Highlands is accessible by train as well as interstate.

Minute #2016.2: The Meeting accepted the Finance Committee Report.

3. Representatives Committee Report

Representatives Committee Clerk Bill Hobson gave an oral report. The committee approved the proposed budget. The committee heard the Site Search Committee Report and approved a proposed Minute to empower Representatives Committee to enter into negotiations with a new venue and make decisions about the gathering location as needed.

Minute #2016.3: The Meeting accepted the Report from the Representatives Committee.

4. Further consideration of the Site Selection Report.

Tom Vaughan provided more comments on the **Site Selection Committee Report**. One method of making a decision is to consider: “Five Years from now, where would we be, where would you want to be, in the venues other than Ghost Ranch?” He urged Friends to consider the annual gathering experience, the vision, that we want to create, and what is the most affordable future that we can create?

Threshing Session on Issues of Venue and Budget

The clerk guided us into a threshing session on the issues of venue and budget by reading from the “IMYM Faith and Practice” and “Quaker Practice.” Several Friends spoke:

- a) I commend those who have made finance and site selection reports. The most important thing has been left out: the spiritual healing here at GR, feeling the spirit of God in the winds and the sun and the rain. I think the kernel of what we need is right here at GR. That feeds my soul. There is a saying: “put your money where your mouth is.” This is where we are. I suggest we take care of our spiritual growth here. And after that, we support all the wonderful causes that we support.
- b) This place is beautiful and isolated. The reasons we came here were to save the world. We need to consider that we can’t be distracted from the other elements of the world when we are here.
- c) I have a different voice here. I’ve gone many years to Friends General Conference gatherings, which have always been held on college campuses. I haven’t been in any gatherings as deeply spiritual as FGC gatherings. I love it here at GR but I am very concerned that we spend so much resource on our own nurturance. When we look at a world with great need, I find that spending such large amount of our resources on ourselves disturbing. I believe that

we can create the spiritual resources ourselves, elsewhere. WE are the yearly meeting. GR is not the yearly meeting.

- d) I moved to Santa Fe last year and came to yearly because I love GR. I've been to another yearly in Waco, TX for 20 years, which is not as beautiful as GR, but I am also troubled by the expense. It prices yearly out of the reach of some Friends. I don't like change but I'm willing.
- e) As a Young Adult Friend, I'm pretty squarely moving elsewhere and have been for several years. The reason I come here is because I love all of you. If we move elsewhere, as long as you guys come too and love me and let me love you, that is where IMYM will be. On the border in Turkey and Greece there are people who don't know where or when they will next eat, and those people are creating worship services. We could give more scholarships to others to come. We will be able to create the community that we are.
- f) I want to suggest a different thing about the budget and options that we considered. In the past when we left GR for Ft. Lewis we had a loss of people in attendance. We should consider the different risks. I suggest that we charge those who attend GR the full cost of attending. There is a risk. There might be fewer people attending. But many Meetings could help meet those costs, at the grass roots. I'm suggesting that is the risk we should take.
- g) I fully feel that the people are what make IMYM. I don't think that means that we should leave IMYM at GR. In the canyon, our son said, "I am a Quaker." I am focused on the youth. My vision is for the children to have the pilgrimage of coming here to IMYM. I'm visualizing that GR will be healed after the flood. Will there be a GR without us? I wouldn't be willing to see FCNL and others lose. MY heart is in GR. I feel that being on a college campus is different than being here. I am willing to make a personal sacrifice.
- h) Many of us are suffering from Nature Deficit Disorder. Ghost Ranch offers all ages a retreat in a natural setting.
- i) I grew up in this yearly meeting. I have many fond memories. The fondest is YOU. Because a thing can be done, doesn't mean it should. The notion of simplicity raises questions of being able to spend on so many other needs. I need to ask for help. But I want to be able to pay my way and then spend the rest on service. I'm willing to sacrifice the accessibility aspect and I am willing to overcome the difficulties that will come in moving.
- j) I have two perspectives. One is on accessibility, the other is on children. Ft. Lewis was theoretically more accessibility, but IMYM was not willing to invest energy in using the facility. There are people who don't come because they can't get around, but I've found that people are more helpful here. We need to realize that the facility will not automatically help everyone get around easily. Distance can be a factor. The other matter is children. This place has helped the children to gather into a "pack," the connection that goes on beyond the time we are together. I am not saying we can't create that in another place. I'm saying we have spiritual work to do, whether we stay or leave, and no place will do that for us. In moving to Ft. Lewis, we didn't do enough spiritual work. I hope we grow spiritually whether we stay here

or not, for people of physical disability or financial disability, and to help further another generation.

- k) Whatever you are doing is very special. The other concern is for children and their parents. In a college town, the young people could go to town. The parents were having a different experience as well.
- l) Thoughts about children. I have brought three children several times. IMYM asked me to supervise Children's Yearly Meeting. But one year we left in 23 hours, because the cedar gnats here bit our children so badly. Another question: if we go elsewhere, would the children's yearly meeting be obligated for a half day program and college students cover the other half? Or whole day?
- m) Our relationship with GR seems to be on the mend. The other issue of "pay as led" has been discussed from NEYM. But we haven't brought it into the mix. But if we can, it might address the issues of financial aid and that some people don't come to IMYM because they don't feel they deserve financial aid.
- n) I want to add that the sacredness of the earth and the sacredness of the children with the earth is hard to find, and it is leading us. For children to find lizards, play with mud. I know that we will grow if we go elsewhere, let it have lizards and mud. I hope we stay.
- o) I need to hear the voices of the youth in this discussion.

There was some silence followed by announcements.

The meeting adjourned.

Meeting for Business for Listening: Plenary Session #5, Friday, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., June 10, 2016, "Sharing Our Truths."

The Senior Young Friends and Young Adult Friends convened this listening session on LGBTQ+ concerns, called "**Sharing Our Truths.**"

Structure: Keynote presentation, including a video, followed by a time to open the conversation on gender, evolving language and personal experience.

We saw a video providing information:

"The Sexuality Spectrum." It included a brief discussion of basic vocabulary: straight/heterosexual; gay (men attracted to men); lesbian (women attracted to women); bisexual (attracted to their own gender and another gender, "bi."); pansexual (attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions, gender may not be the deciding factor); queer (people who deviate from the

norms, has been a negative term and is being claimed by community); asexual (not sexually attracted to others, not interested in sex, but may still be romantically attracted).

“The Gender Spectrum.” Cisgender (identify with gender assigned at birth); transgender (identity different from sex/gender they were assigned at birth). Transgender people may or may not choose to alter their bodies hormonally and/or surgically. Gender dysphoria (body description doesn’t match what they think). If someone thinks they are other than birth-defined gender, try using the pronoun they prefer. Non-binary (do not identify within binary of male or female; gender queer, gender fluid, a-gender, and third gender. Pronouns: they, them, their as singular pronoun. Intersex (a person whose sexual anatomy or chromosomes do not fit with the traditional markers of “female” or “male.” Two Spirit (Native American concept, a person who embodies attributes of both masculine and feminine genders, they have distinct gender and social roles in their tribes, and are often involved with rituals. They are seen as a separate or third gender.)

Colors of the Rainbow: aim for gradients with blending and recognizing individuals as they are, not as a category.

Rules for listening/participation/ministry: Not a debate or discussion; step forward/step back (especially to let marginalized folks step forward); speak about personal experience and identity; discussion is not about sex; be concise in short time; feel free to leave and take some time; speak from place of “I”; give time to resettle.

- a) (Prepared) I have been a lesbian and radical feminist. Radical = “root,” we don’t want a piece of the corrupt pie, we want a whole new pie. Violence against women and girls is increasing worldwide. 1950’s = limited roles for men and women. Late 1960’s = women could be masculine, men wear dresses. 1980’s to now = backlash against freedom for women and outside gender “norms.” Why the feeling now that people feel need to transition? Only a small fraction of babies don’t have a clear gender at birth. Today it seems that some want to transition because of the restriction against their gender norms. The trans lobby has been strong to make therapists support transitions. Radical feminists think there needs to be more critical thinking. Some have been unhappy once transitioned and gone back. Many do trans because of homophobia and disrespect for women’s bodies as not perfect instead of accepting self as we are. I feel we are under the threat of patriarchal society, fear of rape shapes us. I am concerned about fog of white privilege, male privilege. Lesbian goals are opposite of transgender. We want to end male patriarchy and oppression.
- b) Grateful to those who put this together. I have a heterosexual and monogamous partner and I am identified as such, but I identify as bi, and think that polyamory should be added to the spectrum. In looking for other sites for Annual Gathering, housing and bathroom choices need to be inclusive.

- c) I wish I had learned this information 30 years ago. I wondered if lesbian women should have babies. I was in the hospital with a woman giving birth and felt the love in that room. Someone persuaded me with a great deal of information.
- d) When I was an English major and we tried to get she and he re-aligned, there were many tasteless comments and jokes. I wonder if at IMYM we could ask folks (if they would like) to put their preferred gender on their name tags.
- e) I identify as a queer woman. As a kid in high school, I wasn't out. It meant a lot to me that the adults in our Meeting affirmed same-sex marriages. A couple founded a gay-straight alliance on the college campus. Even if we haven't been close to a transition situation, let's try to believe them and to honor their integrity.
- f) On my wedding day a friend said, now you are married to a straight man, you can get over this queer thing. Later she asked me "Explain this, I don't understand what you mean." I want to speak to making mistakes, and going back and trying again when that happens.
- g) I'm a lesbian. This whole thing makes me uncomfortable, and it's a good thing. I appreciate that our SY Friends are educating us about this because it will matter in the future and we will be ahead of the game.
- h) If we are comfortable for a long period of time, we are doing something wrong. We could be in our fog of privilege.
- i) I am non-binary. I was never on a sports team because they were split by gender and I didn't know why, but I knew it wasn't OK with me. It seems that people struggle a lot to find what it means to be a man or a woman. A poem: "I am a piece of the divine breathed into flesh, and if you want to know something, know this."
- j) I'm a cisgender male, but I've always felt female. My family has always been against male superiority, that there should be a new pie. We're all equal, and we should respect that.
- k) This last year I came out as pan-sexual. I've only really found my identity this year. In my school there are many non-binary, and the school is very accepting. Please make an effort to not make assumptions about and not mis-gender people.
- l) I am a cis-gender female and I identify along several spots of the gender spectrum. Within the community there is a lot of division. To IMYM, please make this a place of understanding and acceptance, that the Meeting as a whole can become a safe space for people who don't have a safe space.
- m) My experience when I was 15 was my need to question my sexuality all of these years. What I struggle with here is that I see so many faces here every day, that I love them, the eyes, the voices, the hands, what they have to say. I struggle with managing that in that what we talk about as expressions of love are really expressions of sexuality. It was too complicated to include anyone else, and I was probably asexual for a while. I admire the bravery of so many.
- n) I'm a cisgender female, and maybe between bi and trans. It's really complicated to figure this out in this world. You really need someone to help you out. You can have a really hard time trying to come out, some will stand by your side, and some won't. You never know. If you are proud of who you are, don't let anyone tell you that you are what seen as by society.

- o) Thank you to all the people who spoke and the people who listened. I encourage folks to think of this with an open mind.

We closed with a few moments of silence.

Meeting for Worship for Business and Plenary Session #6, Friday Afternoon, June 10, 4:15 - 5:15 p.m., 2016

The meeting opened with silent worship.

The Meeting began with reports from several delegates connected to other Quaker groups.

- 1. Andrew Banks, Friends General Conference:** FGC is essentially a service to Friends. It is a collaborative of yearly meetings, and some directly affiliated monthly meetings as well. It tries to listen to the yearly meetings to provide broader service or programs. In that way, FGC needs to hear from IMYM. The report is in the Consent Agenda. Andrew read some of the queries from FGC, which focus on how FGC can serve IMYM and what are our leadings that we bring to FGC. **Attachment #11**
- 2. Rob Pierson, from Friends World Committee for Consultation and FWCC World Plenary Gathering in Peru** (formerly known as Triennial Gathering): FWCC connects Friends of all types all around the world. Rob reminded us that on average, we Quakers are African. A Section of the Americas Meeting takes place every two years, and the World Plenary will be every four years or more. Cheryl Spier-Phillips and Rob are willing to come talk to any meeting about the work and resources of FWCC. Rob talked with Junior Young Friends about how Friends are different, the same, and where Friends are in the world. **Attachment #13**
- 3. Friends Committee on National Legislation** report by Tom Vaughan: A Youth Advocacy Workshop was put on in Santa Fe by Pam Gilchrist and other Friends, teaching young adults how to lobby our representatives on mass incarceration. AFSC and FCNL are complementary in their work on this topic. After the workshop the young adults went out to the district offices of the two New Mexico senators. Sen. Heinrich asked them to prove what they were saying. There were several people there with a connection to incarceration and they were able to give powerful personal stories. Damon Motz-Storey reported on his attendance at **FCNL's** youth lobby Spring Weekend. He is hoping to get a larger group together to go to D.C. in 2017. Colorado and Arizona also hosted Youth Advocacy workshops this year. **Attachment #12**
- 4. Anna Darrah** spoke about **American Friends Service Committee:** AFSC is here to support your efforts in the area of ending mass incarceration. AFSC NM participated in a local Guns into Gardens event in which guns were melted and forged into garden tools. At the Corporation meeting this year Rev. Jane Barbour spoke eloquently about Moral Mondays in North

Carolina. Anna recommends that all read “The New Jim Crow” if not done yet. **Attachment #14**

5. **Friends Peace Teams**, Vickie Aldrich: FPT is the youngest of these organizations, 22 years old, working in Central America, Africa, and Asia. Their main work is peace building. Efforts in Las Americas are looking for more folks to serve. (This program was started by Elise Boulding, of Boulder Meeting.) **Attachment #15**
6. Mary Klein reported for *Western Friend*. She noted that Friends have been publishers of the Truth since our beginnings. WF is an expression of our voice. The Internet Archives (a web group in San Francisco) has a complete archive from the beginning of *Friends Bulletin*, which now is *Western Friend*. **Attachment #16**
7. Jamie Newton reported on the **IMYM Peace and Service Committee**. The committee’s role is to help coordinate actions among Meetings. They are currently not established to oversee local peace projects but to encourage local Friends in their endeavors. **Attachment #9**
8. **Continued Threshing Session on Issues of Venue and Budget.**
 - a) Two issues: camping and ambiance, have not been addressed. We camp primarily for financial reasons. Camping needs to be adjacent to the facilities. Ambiance: problem of other groups on college campuses, we tend to lose our identity.
 - b) I recently moved from New York City 15th Street. IMYM is a spiritual organization. We need a place to develop spirituality. Place matters. 15th Street has never coalesced.
 - c) 1) coming to Ghost Ranch necessitates private transportation. 2) GR is not a perfectly safe location. 3) As an SYF, I come to IMYM for the people, not GR.
 - d) I’ve been at Ghost Ranch and Ft. Lewis as a parent, and as a child. We raise wonderful children, and we do it no matter where we meet.
 - e) I’ve been in Ft. Lewis. I favor moving for financial reasons. I favor rotating. We can’t do it in one location.
 - f) If this is a two-sided issue, it is only teeter-totter. We are all in this together. It will be in the valley of delight, wherever it is.
 - g) I was from Lake Erie Meeting. They have two sites that they have rotated. One is a college, the other Olney Friends School. It might be a thought to commit to a real two- or more- rotation so we know what we are getting into.
 - h) I feel led to remind us that we are a Meeting. We have Monthly Meetings, but IMYM is also a validated Meeting. The most important work we do is what we do in our meeting for worship for business.

We ended the Threshing comments with a few minutes of worship.

9. First Reading of the IMYM Epistle (from the Watching Committee).

Genie Durland read the proposed Epistle. We took a few minutes for responses. Friends were asked to please see members of Watching Committee with further comments.

10. SYF Minute on Site Selection.

Flora Quimby read a **Minute from SYF**. Regarding the **Site Selection Committee Report**, we discussed a lot about moving locations. We came up with this minute:

We feel that Ghost Ranch is the perfect location for us (SYFs), and we acknowledge that it is not the perfect location for everyone. In light of that, while some SYFs are very resistant to the idea of leaving, many of us are willing to move given that we are involved in the process of selecting a new location. Given the chance to move we feel that there are some things that are extremely important factors. Firstly, we feel that having connectivity with nature and a certain amount of isolation from large cities is vital. Secondly, having little light pollution is important as well as having a private space for SYFs, freedom to explore the campus, and no limitations on what hours SYFs can have programming. As gender equality is important to the SYFs we request a location with options for gender-neutral bathrooms. We would also request a local common space with our group housing, as well as a kitchen-like area with at least a microwave and a fridge. We also second the importance of cost and distance so that more members are able to attend.

Minute #2016.4: Friends Accept the Report from Senior Young Friends on Site Selection concerns.

There was a reminder that we will consider the Consent Agenda for approval tomorrow, followed by some announcements.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Meeting for Worship for Business and Plenary Session #7, Saturday Morning, June 11, 10:00 - 11:45 a.m., 2016

Meeting opened with silent worship.

Susan Wiley of the Watching Committee read The Epistle of Aotearoa, New Zealand, May 11, 2015. **Attachment #8.**

The Clerk recognized a number of volunteers and elders.

The Clerk read from *Listening Spirituality* by Patricia Loring on “The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.”

1. Consent Agenda

Minute #2016.5: The Intermountain Yearly Meeting accepted the Consent Agenda for 2016 as follows:

- + Peace and Service Committee Report;**
- + Mountain Friends Camp Full Report;**
- + Friends General Conference Representatives Committee Report;**
- + Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation Activities, New Mexico Regional Meeting Report on Friends Committee on National Legislation Activities, Report from Colorado Regional Meeting, FCNL Representatives, Friends Committee on National Legislation Report to Yearly Meetings;**
- + Friends World Committee for Consultaion Greeting to Intermountain Yearly Meeting, FWCC Report to Intermountain Yearly Meeting on Peru Plenary;**
- + American Friends Service Committee Report on Corporate Meeting;**
- + Friends Peace Team Report.**

Attachments #9-15

2. Nominating Committee Report

Allen Winchester gave the **Nominating Committee Report**, including a few new nominations since the beginning of gathering. **Attachment #17**

Minute #2016.6: Intermountain Yearly Meeting approved the Nominating Committee Report.

3. Reading of Memorial Minutes

Clerk Sara Keeney reported that there was a lovely commemorative gathering last night to read Memorial Minutes, which was completed with Meredith Little playing the piano and Friends singing some favorite hymns. The Clerk named the persons whose lives had been remembered and celebrated at the memorial gathering last night.

- Mary Brown, Las Cruces Monthly Meeting
- Beverly Cotton, Albuquerque Monthly Meeting
- Marjorie Ann Wyman Flagg, Pima Monthly Meeting
- Patricia Lou Kutzner, Albuquerque Monthly Meeting
- John F. McCamant, Mountain View Monthly Meeting
- Shirley (Shirl) Olmstead, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting
- Ford Robbins, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting
- Elisabeth (Libby) Howe Simon, Gila Monthly Meeting
- Steven Sears Spencer, Santa Fe Monthly Meeting
- LaDonna Stanley Wallen, Tempe Monthly Meeting
- David Zimmerman, Fort Collins Monthly Meeting

Attachments # 25-35

4. Budget for 2017

Bob Schroeder provided the proposed Budget for 2017 (Oct, 2016-Sept, 2017). There were some questions and comments on the budget.

Minute #2016. 7: The Intermountain Yearly Meeting Approved the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2017. Attachment #18

5. Site Selection.

The Clerk read a proposed Minute on Site Change. There were several questions and comments.

- a) There is a survey on survey monkey about site selection. There will be both the regular survey about Gathering and another survey about site on the web site. My concern is that this information will be coming in over several months. We want to be sure that people who do not come to the Annual Gathering, especially those in outlying areas (Phoenix, Tucson, Utah) fill out the site survey. Please ask your meetings. Also there is the idea of rotating sites. This is a compressed time line.

- b) Would the Minute include the notion of shortening the 2017 Gathering to reduce costs
- c) I am wondering if the NEYM idea of “Pay as Led” could be included in the Minute.
- d) Our Clerk reminded us that the “Pay as Led” is complicated. New England Yearly Meeting has financial depth.
- e) There has been ministry about putting your money into what you love. I want us to be aware that we have a place that works. How much of our energy do we want to put toward our gathering?
- f) I would ask Site Selection how long it would get to an ER from each proposed site. Weighting and scoring for each site.
- g) I served as Operations head here and at Ft. Lewis. I am aware of the challenges. The community is closer here because of isolation. Durango is more central for all members. Our costs, even as they rise, are low compared to other Annual Gatherings. We are not immune from rising costs and we are not a Third World community. Here is a proposal: 1) we step up and make a goal of making our gathering affordable for everyone and financially sound; and 2) think of a Foundation to support IMYM and its works and use the interest off that Foundation to sustain its efforts; and 3) we ask those who can afford it to pay full cost and subsidize those who cannot afford the Gathering.
- h) One Truth is that Ghost Ranch does not meet the needs of those who are not with us now. Another Truth is that we are an experiential people. We don’t take the words of others into our own hearts deeply. I sense we are ready for something new. My suggestion is that we not change the place but the frequency; that we try a new place and see how it works, then come back here in 2019 and talk about our experience.
- i) I agree we are trying to come to a decision too quickly. We haven’t asked our youngest Friends their experience, as if we know what’s OK for them. We should spend time going deep into their experience and let it guide us a bit more.
- j) I request that site selection be expanded to include a broader purpose for our gathering. The criteria don’t currently include anything qualitative and I believe that is important.
- k) Sharing of Light, finances, accessibility, and membership. I worry that moving from Durango withered Utah Meetings. Finances: any surplus will add time to our care. Accessibility is a spiritual practice, not a place. Membership: the cottonwoods are a member of this meeting, Box Canyon, Chimney Rock are all members of this Meeting. I support returning in 2017. Alternating locations has merit and could benefit from seasoning.

The Clerk proposed a revised Minute. Friends asked for further additions:

- Finance is such an important part that experimenting with financial matters should be included.
- A more spiritual focus should be included in the minute.
- Refer to a list of criteria that will include the SYF Minute.

The Clerk of the Site Search Committee reminded us that he and his wife have no personal investment in the charge to move. We [IMYM] need to be clear about what we want to create and how to do it in a place we can afford.

The following minute was revised and approved. ;

Minute 2016.8: Intermountain Yearly Meeting will continue the process of seasoning site change decisions through February 2017. We delegate responsibility to the Representatives Committee to determine the need for a move for the 2018 Gathering and, if necessary, to enter into contract negotiations for that purpose. We ask Representatives Committee to take into account the site criteria provided by the Senior Young Friends in their minute to the larger body.

We ask Representatives Committee to consider the possibility of alternating locations and of shortening sessions as a cost saving measure.

We ask that the Representatives Committee to look at a variety ways to finance our annual gathering in the short and long term with a goal of making it accessible and sustainable.

We recognize that we are entering into a period of seasoning through experimentation to determine the “place just right” for us to gather, and we ask all Friends to consider the purpose of the yearly meeting.

As incoming Clerk of Representatives Committee, Penny Thron-Weber told us that she takes very seriously the charge you have given the Committee. We will work better if every Meeting has a representative who will bring information to them and hear what the decision making process is.

6. Children’s Yearly Meeting Epistle

Sophia Dickerson, Rose Feitler, John Gallagher, Emily Box Read the **Children’s Yearly Meeting Epistle. Attachment #19.**

Minute 2016.9: IMYM Accepted the CYM Epistle with gratitude.

7. Junior Young Friends Epistle

Thomas Pierson and Dario Puente-Reinhart, read the Epistle from Junior Young Friends. **Attachment #20**

Minute #2016.10: IMYM Accepted the Junior Young Friends Epistle with gratitude.

8. Intermountain Yearly Meeting Epistle

Genie Durland read the Epistle from IMYM for 2016. **Attachment #22.**

Minute 2016.11: IMYM Accepted the Intermountain Yearly Meeting Epistle from Watching Committee with gratitude.

9. Minute on Nuclear Weapons

We again considered the Proposed Minute on Nuclear Weapons.

Minute 2016.12: IMYM approved the Minute on Nuclear Weapons:

Intermountain Yearly Meeting, including the states of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico and the southwestern part of Texas, (Quakers), Calls upon our elected representatives in the Congress of the United States to endorse United Nations Resolution 70/48, “Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons,” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 7, 2105.

(<http://www.icanw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/N1541140.pdf>).

In addition to documenting the unacceptability of nuclear weapons today, the Humanitarian Pledge, endorsed by 123 nations (none of them nuclear), calls for these actions by endorsers:

“4. Requests all States possessing nuclear weapons, pending the total elimination of their nuclear weapon arsenals, to take concrete interim measures to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons detonations, including by reducing the operational status of nuclear weapons and moving nuclear weapons away from deployment and into storage, diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines and rapidly reducing all types of nuclear weapons.”

For the United States, compliance with the Humanitarian Pledge would at least include:

- * Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**
- * Termination of U.S. plutonium pit production**
- * Acceleration of U.S. nuclear warhead dismantling**
- * Cessation of the B61 tactical nuclear bomb refurbishing and upgrading**
- * Cessation of the new nuclear cruise missile (Long-range Standoff Weapon — LRSO)**
- * Reinvigorated negotiations with other nations to further the goals of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**

10. Minute in support of Planned Parenthood

We considered again the proposed Minute of support for Planned Parenthood.

Minute 2016.13: IMYM Approves the Minute in Support of Planned Parenthood:

Planned Parenthood has recently come under extreme criticism from politicians because of allegations that have now been proven false. The current political move to defund Planned Parenthood would be disastrous. It would make it impossible for millions of Americans to obtain preventive services such as cancer screening and family planning.

Reproductive health care is a lawful human right that allows individuals to choose how to control their fertility and improve their health. Family planning is the most effective way to avoid unplanned pregnancies.

Intermountain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognizes the importance of Planned Parenthood clinics to millions of men and women in the country. We support these clinics throughout the U.S. and recognize the staff members for the important services they provide.

In addition to voicing our support of Planned Parenthood, we ask ourselves as members and attenders to consider taking the following actions:

- * Write Letters to the Editor and OpEds supporting reproductive health in general and specifically supporting Planned Parenthood.**
- * Write to your legislators supporting reproductive health in general and specifically supporting Planned Parenthood**
- * Volunteer to escort patients or to help in other needed ways at a Planned Parenthood clinic**
- * Donate financial support to local Planned Parenthood clinics.**

11. Gratitude

Minute 2016.14: Intermountain Yearly Meeting thanks Jim Mills and Bob Gaines with love and deep gratitude for their many years of work as web clerks. We joyfully acknowledge their competent and caring gift of service. We are confident that the benefits of their work will endure long into the future.

Minute 2016.15: IMYM expresses our gratitude and appreciation for the loving and thorough work provided by Tom Vaughan as Clerk of the Site Search Committee. We thank the committee members for providing us with in-depth information. Intermountain Yearly Meeting requests that Representative Committee determine the future of the Site Search Committee.

Minute 2016.15: IMYM expresses our gratitude to Sara Keeney for her devoted service as Clerk of Intermountain Yearly Meeting for the past four years, both during and between the Annual Gatherings.

12. Interest Groups Report

Todd Hierlmaier, Coordinator, reported on **Interest Groups**. He expressed the unbelievable light and depth and joy of interest groups. Todd expressed gratitude to many others for all their assistance. The report was cut short due to time constraints. **Attachment #23**

13. Registrar's Report

There was no **Registrar's Report** due to time constraints. **The Registrar's Report is included as Attachment 24.**

A Minute of silence concluded the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Keeney, Clerk

Nancy Hicks Marshall, Recording Clerk

Senior Young Friends Epistle, Attachment #21