

Interest Groups Coordinator Report to Arrangements Committee, January 2016

Todd Hierlmaier: thierlmaier@gmail.com

Thank you to:

- Our presenters who put great attention and care to a diverse and enriching set of offerings in 2015.
- Those who helped spread the word to offer groups at IMYM. Specifically, Sara Keeney and Paula Palmer were helpful with reminding Friends in December 2015 to send in proposals (v.gd/imym2016igform).
- Pam Gilchrist and Paula Palmer for leadership and facilitation to integrate evaluation into processes to coordinate interest groups.
- Bettina Raphael and Jill Powers reaching out for FQA arts offerings.
- Kay Bordwell for a positive attitude and effectiveness handling operations at IMYM to support all the interest group offerings.
- Others who have been on calls to help the process with Interest Groups: Sara Keeney, Pelican Lee, Vickey Finger, Marc Gacy, Bob Schroeder, Pam Gilchrist, and Paula Palmer.
- One more person to serve with me in determining room assignments in May 2016. Could that be you? If so, contact Todd, as the first person truly led to serve in this way will help IMYM 2016!
- Everyone who attended and shared the Light offered through the Interest Groups at IMYM 2015.

Attached documents:

1. 2016 IMYM draft schedule (v.gd/imym2016dschedule)
2. 2016 Ghost Ranch public location information
3. 2015 MEETING SPACE DIAGRAMS (from a 3/27/2015 conference call with Ghost Ranch Hospitality staff.)
4. 2015 Interest Group Titles (an overview of what groups were where)
5. 2016 Interest Group proposal form updates
6. 2015 Report to Representatives Committee (submitted and not read)
7. 2015 selection of IMYM Evaluation comments related to interest groups

Requests:

- Keep three Interest Group time slots on the Adult Schedule; include an early afternoon time on Friday or Saturday.
- Consider a concurrent Interest Group time slot with a Listening Session.
- Let all Friends know: Interest Group **Locations and Descriptions** are posted (1) on bulletin boards at **Ghost House** and in the meal line at the **Dining Hall**; is (2) intended to be included with registration packets; and (3) on imym.org.
- Encourage Friends to propose an interest group: (v.gd/imym2016igform).

My vision is for Interest Groups to be a venue to share the Light with others at the summer gathering. In practice I hope to leverage available resources in support of the Light expressed through offerings. This report will highlight changes for the interest group process this year, review 2015, prepare for 2016 and offer support for preparing the Adult Schedule at Arrangements Committee.

While many presenters shared celebrations about organizational support with their offerings there were some challenges. After a few meetings with Paula Palmer, Pam Gilchrist and other members of the Program Working Group (PWG), many suggestions were implemented.

As noted in the 2015 report to Representatives Committee:

2014	2015
39 groups	61 groups (+6 groups cancelled.)

“2015 Interest Group Titles” (4) offers an overview of when and where those 61 groups took place. In 2015, there were 10 groups on Tuesday morning and 11 groups on Thursday morning.

Locations

The "2016 Ghost Ranch public location information" (2) shows 27 locations where groups can be held. Six of those locations are used by youth programs. All spaces were ordered in three tiers to help with room assignments.

One challenge with group assignments last year stemmed from assigning two groups in the Arts Center, or experimenting with the Cantina/Social Center. In working with Vickey Finger, I (Todd Hierlmaier) made an assumption based on the 2015 MEETING SPACE DIAGRAMS (3) that there was a door between the Arts building gallery (east) and Arts Center main room. Our collective memory missed that the spaces were connected with an open archway. Consequently, several of the groups paired at the Arts Building had noises affect each other. A divider was placed between the rooms yet offered little sound buffering. As noted in the public location (2) document, a second group will not be in the Arts Building unless both groups agree, or it's an arts program that can coexist with the other. The experiment with the Cantina in 2015 also did not work.

In May of 2015, locations were assigned for the 61 groups. Location assignments were sent in an email to all group contacts on May 25, 2015. Several of the multiple day offerings were scheduled in different locations. Two changes were added to the proposal form:

1. "If co-facilitating this group, would you add their contact information in the comments section?"
"Also include co-facilitator contact information here."
2. "IF this is a multiple day offering, add a comment on how the days are related, audience attendance expectations, etc."

These changes may have clarified communication with groups that had co-facilitators. In 2015 one co-led group setup in a location they were not assigned. Fortunately, enough Friends came to help that all ended up in their assigned locations before they began. In another co-led group, I spoke with one convener who was unaware of some questions on the proposal form.

Feedback also revealed attenders who did not know interest group locations. Please help all Friends know interest group location is on **bulletin boards** at Ghost House and Dining Hall or **imym.org!**

In final communications with conveners, I will also try to clarify locations as multiple day offerings may change locations.

Limits to Interest Groups?

The increase in offerings last year offered challenges with assigned locations meeting needs of the groups (as noted with Arts Center and Cantina). Since there are 21 location options, we may not be at capacity, while options become less optimal. More information is now presented for conveners to limit their offerings:

1.) Changes on the proposal form may help with room assignments:

* "Also remember the importance to give and receive: consider limiting your offering to two sessions."

* **"(Optional): Would you like your group to meet outside rain or shine? If so, click "Yes." If no, leave blank.**

Or, add a comment/question in the or "Other" box.

Locations include: Triangle in front of Lower Pavilion, or Ghost House garden."

(If a group agrees to meet outside, that adds four locations on the public location document (2).)

2.) The public location document (2) also offer presenters the chance to choose a location in February, or wait to be assigned a location in May:

"The first 8 proposals for any time slot will be given "early entry" status. With that status, a presenter can choose to be assigned a Tier 1 location in May, or **choose an available Tier 2 location before noon on Friday, February 26.** Locations are listed above and seen on the following map: <http://v.gd/GRmap>"

In the above practice, presenters will learn (before their offering is included in registration materials) if they are eligible for a Tier 1 location (eight options). Or, if they decide that offering their group at one of the other 11+ locations would not work, they can cancel before the group is offered with registration materials. In 2015, there were six cancellations, so it's easily accommodated.

3.) The proposal form also notes:

“Minimum audience size

Registrations will give us a rough idea of interest. If you have a minimum threshold to meet for your participation, let us know.”

At the beginning of May numbers are drawn from registration to determine interest. Conveners will be presented with an option to cancel at that time if it seems there would not be sufficient audience for their offering. This may free up a Tier 1 location for those groups expecting a Tier 2 location.

Consider an earlier afternoon time slot for Interest Groups

Some evaluation comments on this topic:

“I think the late Saturday afternoon interest groups are not effective. I would not attend one again. Others were excellent and the variety seemed to engage so many.”

“I'd like one business meeting on Saturday afternoon, if possible. Epistles and everything else take time!”

“I thought it odd that the interest groups were either very late in the afternoon or in the evening, as though they weren't that important and were just stuck in the last time slot available.”

Overview since June 2015

About two weeks after IMYM: reviewed operations with Kay Bordwell and Ghost Ranch Hospitality.

August: 2016 proposal form went online.

November: First entries received for 2016 interest groups.

Paula noted the call for Interest Groups didn't go out with fall queries and helped draft a call that went out with an update from Sara Keeney.

December: Questions about Interest Groups led to a PWG threshing of logistics for accommodating needs around interest groups.

Conversations about location information led to the attached public location document (2) and covered criteria to consider in assigning locations for interest group proposals:

Registration numbers, Distance from Dining Hall, Accessibility, A/V needs, Indoor/Outdoor space.

These conversations also acknowledged the unanswered question of early days afternoon programming. So a message was sent to Bill Hobson (clerk of Representatives Committee) with a reminder the February 2015 Representatives Meeting noted: “Sara Keeney, Vickey Finger, and Bill Hobson will try to put together some queries for our approval in June [2015].” As a consequence, afternoons on Monday and Tuesday will not include any formal Adult programming in 2016.

Many suggested changes for 2016 to meet needs addressed in evaluations and feedback are implemented or planned.

Finally, our youth programs may offer interest groups as well. Flora Quimby said she would check with SYF's to offer an interest group. Marc Gacy with Children's Yearly Meeting may offer cooperative games, or we may schedule an intergenerational nature hike with CYM. It seems there may be more offerings to go along with previous traditional activities.

Plans for 2016 (Dates with Registrars previously established.)

January 15-17: Attend Arrangements Committee and help Friends prepare another wonderful coming together that is IMYM.

February 23, 2016: Deadline for proposals to be included in registration materials. Apply early to be guaranteed a Tier 1 location!

Communicate with all conveners about location options (Tier 1 or Tier 2). Address needs as they arise.

February 26, 2016: Brief Descriptions (<http://imym.org/2015igsem/listing-by-date/>) and Full Descriptions (<http://imym.org/2015igsem/full-descriptions/>) documents will be live on imym.org and sent to Registrars for including in registration.

April 8, 2016: Registration update with Registrars with title edits, additions, or removals.

Communicate with operations to prepare locations for groups.

Communicate with all conveners about registration numbers. Address needs as they arise.

Early May first meeting with Assignment Committee (one or two other Friends) to determine needs for location assignments. Send registration numbers to all conveners informing them of interest (and offering a chance to cancel).

Mid May second meeting with Assignment Committee to finalize location assignments.

May 23, 2016: Locations Assigned to all Interest Groups.

May 25, 2016: Location requests made with operations for Meeting Space setups.

Print copies of Interest Group information for IMYM. Address needs as they arise.

June 5-12 attend as much of IMYM as possible and arrange for needs to be met.

2016 Adult Schedule draft

Conversations in mid-December with the PWG also included preparations to recommend a schedule. The draft schedule we used to consider elements is linked here:

<v.gd/imym2016dschedule>

The first attachment is a print version of that schedule.

**2016 IMYM Annual Gathering Adult Schedule
June 5 to June 11**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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6:30 am to 7:30 am Early Worship

7:30 am to 8:15 am Breakfast

JYF Parents Meeting at Breakfast: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday						
9:00 am (165m)	9:00 am (165m)	9:00 am (165m)	8:40 am (65m) Worship Sharing			
			10:00 am (105m) Keynote	10:00 am (105m) Business	10:00 am (105m) Business	10:00 pm (105m) Worship

12:00 pm to 12:45 pm Lunch

		12:45p (75) Finance 2p (90) Representatives	1:15 pm (60m) Intergenerational Worship Sharing			
			2:30 pm (90m) Business	2:30 pm (90, 60) IG's Listening	2:30 pm (75m) IG's (exchange colors?)	
		4:30p Worship Sharing Leaders	4:15 pm (60m) Keynote/IG's (during keynote workshop)	4:15 pm (60m) Business	4pm (60) Worship	

5:30 pm to 6:15 pm Dinner

5pm (45) Exchange Colors?

6:30 pm (90m)	6:30 pm (90m)	6:30 pm parent meetin 7:00 pm (60m) Welco	6:30 pm Poster Session (LP) 7p Campfi 730p (45m) IG's	7p to ?? Dancing (LP)	7p to ?? Creativity Night (LP)
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Accounting for non meal-times with Regular Days Schedule					2016 totals:	2015 totals:	2010 totals*:	
	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday				
	500	500	500	155	1655		1655	1695
Worship	65	65	65	65	590	W	590	610
	60	60	60	90		0		
			pm worship					
			60					
Business	90	105	105		360	B	315	330
		60				45		
Keynote	105				165	K	105	120
	60					60		
Interest Groups					120	IG	255	140
			75			-135		
	45							
	(incl. campfire)							
Other	<i>PM transit</i>	Listening Sess.	<i>PM transit</i>		420	O	390	495
	15	90	15			30		
		<i>PM transit</i>	Exchange Colors					
		15	15					
	Poster Session	Dinner	Dinner					
	45	30	30					
	<i>Eve transit</i>	Dance	Creativity					
	15	75	75					
	0	0	0					
	500	500	500					

*Assume evenings end at 8:15 pm.

PM transit because of scheduling two events between 2:30 pm and 5:15 pm.

Eve transit because of scheduling two events between 6:30 pm and 8:15 pm.

8 (+ 2) indoor locations on the lower level

7 indoor locations on the mesa (more strenuous walk because of elevation gain

4 outdoor locations on the lower level [if group agrees to meet outdoors rain or shine.]

Tier (1: high, 3:low)

Shortest distances (m) along walking paths (starting from west entrance of Dining Hall).***

60	1	CL (26' x 17'): Cottonwood Lounge
90	1	AgG (40' x 50'): Agape Gathering
100	1	AgW (47' x 37'): Agape Worship
280	1	<i>Tmb: (27' x 28') Tumbleweed</i>
320	1	CH (30' x 50'): Convocation Hall
430	1	AC1 (45' x 30'): Arts Center
430	1	LP1 (72' x 60'): Lower Pavilio
480	1	MC (20' x 30'): Museum Classroom [Dimensions estimated.]
490	2	LH (52' x 31'): Long House
310	2	<i>Yc (30' x 25'):</i> Yucc
350	2	<i>UP (35'3" x 60'8"):</i> Upper Pavilion
360	2	<i>RR (30' x 25'):</i> Road Runner
380	2	<i>Cyt (27' x 28'):</i> Coyote
280	2	<i>SB:</i> Sagebrush lounge
280	2	<i>Chy:</i> Cholla lounge
80	2	Pop: Poplar Lawn
90	2	AgP: Agape Patio (courtyard)
170	2	GHg: Ghost House garden
380	2	Tri: Triangle in front of Lower Pavilion
430	3	AC2 (12' x 26'): Arts Gallery [not to be used unless arts or both groups agree.]
430	3	LP2 (72' x 60'): [apportioned if two groups agree to share space?]

6 indoor locations for youth programs

120	3	Cta: Cantina
130	3	SC: Social Center (west of cantina)
130	3	P1: Pinon 1
140	3	Staff: Staffhouse lounge
150	3	P2: Pinon 2
180	3	FC: Family Center

Presenters: The first 8 proposals for any time slot will be given "early entry" status. With that status, a presenter can choose to be assigned a Tier 1 location in May, or **choose an available Tier 2 location before noon on Friday, February 26**. Locations are listed above and seen on the following map: <http://v.gd/GRmap>

*** distances calculated using: <http://www.usatf.org/routes/map/>, zip:87510

Assumptions

2015 flood washed out Short House.

Long house, Arts Center, and Staff house will be usable

Museum Classroom will be available again.

IMYM Early Days Seminars

Monday, June 8th

9:00 am to 11:45 am (2h45m)

1. CW-L: Discerning our gender journey (Vickie Aldrich and Christina Dragon)
2. AgC: Economic Activism for a Moral Economy (David Henkel)
3. TW: Happy Hands - Textile Arts (Becky Schroeder)
4. AB-B: If I Had More Time, a Writing Workshop (Mary Klein)
5. AB-F: Kabarak Call II - Where Does Spirit Lead Us in Active Witness? (Jan-Willem Jansens)
6. LP: Leadings and Holy Obedience (Diego Navarro)
7. SH: The Quaker Cycle (Martha Roberts)

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (1h30m)

1. CH: Ask for the Life You've Imagined (Todd Hierlmaier)
 2. AB-B: Documentary Film: "The Overnighters"
 3. AB-F: Good News and Airy Notions (Mary Klein)
 4. CW-L: Moving Beyond Capitalism [film] (Ross Worley)
 5. AgC: Options for Palestinians: submission, departure, death or resistance (Bob and Carrol Pearson)
 6. LP: The Quaker Cycle (Martha Roberts)
-

Tuesday, June 9th

9:00 am to 11:45 am (2h45m)

1. AgP: Chanting from the Silence (Guthrie Miller)
2. CH: Discerning our gender journey (Vickie Aldrich and Christina Dragon)
3. TW: Happy Hands - Textile Arts (Becky Schroeder)
4. AB-F: Japanese Arts - Following the Leadings of Nature (Mary Ray Cate)
5. CTA: Kabarak Call II - Where Does Spirit Lead Us in Active Witness? (Jan-Willem Jansens)
6. LP: Leadings and Holy Obedience (Diego Navarro)
7. CW-L: Moving Beyond Capitalism (Ross Worley)
8. AgC: Discovering the Spirit and Following the Light Then and Now (Bill Durland)
9. AB-B: SoulCollage(R) (MaryBeth Webster and Marty Carroll)
10. SH: The Quaker Cycle (Martha Roberts)

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (1h30m)

1. AgC: Contra Dance Tunes Jam (Deb Comly and Jamie & Marion Newton)
 2. CH: Kabarak Call II - Where Does Spirit Lead Us in Active Witness? [film] (Jan-Willem Jansens)
 3. CW-L: Moving Beyond Capitalism [film] (Ross Worley)
 4. AB-F: Options for Palestinians: submission, departure, death or resistance (Bob and Carrol Pearson)
 5. LP: University Halls not Prison Walls: a Leading in Action (Diego Navarro)
-

Wednesday, June 10th

9:00 am to 11:45 am (2h45m)

1. AgC: Beyond (Photo) Realism: Seeing Your Small Part of the Whole (Rob Pierson)
2. TW: Happy Hands - Textile Arts (Becky Schroeder)
3. CW-L: Immigrants and other Friends [Wednesday Seminar] (Gabriela Flora and Tom Kowal)
4. LP: Leadings and Holy Obedience (Diego Navarro)
5. CTA: Moving Beyond Capitalism (Ross Worley)
6. CH: Moving Beyond Stillness (Guthrie Miller)
7. AB: SoulCollage(R) (MaryBeth Webster and Marty Carroll)
8. SH: The Quaker Cycle (Martha Roberts)
- 9.

IMYM Regular Days Interest Groups

Thursday, June 11th

10:00 am to 11:45 pm (1h45m)

1. TW: Immigrants and other Friends [Thursday Interest Group] (Gabriela Flora and Tom Kowal)
2. SH: Kabarak Call II - Where Does Spirit Lead Us in Active Witness? (Jan-Willem Jansens)
3. AgC: Moving Beyond Capitalism (Ross Worley)
4. CW-L: Quakers Doing Social Justice Work in Mexico (Irene Webb and Doug Smith)
5. Mus: Right Sharing of World Resources (Jackie Stillwell)
6. AgP: Sustaining the Peacebuilder Within (Ruth Flower)
7. AB-F: The Journey of a Leading (Paula Palmer)
8. CTA: The Quaker Cycle (Martha Roberts)
9. CH: Todos Juntos: Planting the Seed to Meet the Need with AFSC New Mexico (Sayrah Namaste)
10. AB-B: Where does Spirit lead IMYM re DouglPrieta Works, Mexico? (Marybeth Webster)
11. LP: Wholehearted Authentic Self: What is the Upside of your Dark Side? (Dido Clark)

[poster session] 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm (10m)

1. Quakers Doing Social Justice Work in Mexico (Irene Webb and Doug Smith)
2. Supporting Gifts, Leadings and Ministry in Your Meeting (Eric Evans)
3. Others coordinated by IMYM Peace & Social Concerns

7:15 pm to 8:15 pm (1h)

1. CW-L: Budrus, a movie about Palestinian nonviolent resistance (Bob and Carrol Pearson)
2. AgC: Governing Under the Influence [film] (Laurie Roberts)
3. Fire|AB: Intergenerational Campfire Sing-Along (Eric Wright)
4. Mus: Right Sharing of World Resources (Jackie Stillwell)
5. CH: Sustaining the Peacebuilder Within (Ruth Flower)
6. LP: The Quaker Trail (Brenda Stokes)

Saturday, June 13th

3:45 pm to 5:15 pm (1h30m)

1. Mus: Ask for the Life You've Imagined (Todd Hierlmaier)
2. LP: Further Exploration of Leadings with Diego Navarro (Diego Navarro)
3. CH: Governing Under the Influence [film] (Laurie Roberts)
4. Intergenerational Exchange of Colors (Youth Programs)
5. AB-F: Practicing Honest, Open Questions to Hear from True Self (Dido Clark)
6. AgW: Songs and Service: Friendly Projects in Latin America (Nancy Marshall)
7. Long: Supporting Gifts, Leadings and Ministry in Your Meeting (Eric Evans)
8. AgC: The Body, the Vine, and the Fruits (Rob Pierson)

AB-F: Arts Center (Front)

AB-B: Arts Center (Back)

AgC: Agape Center

AgP: Agape Patio

TW: Tumbleweed

CW-L: Cottonwood Library

LP: Lower Pavilion

CH: Convocation Hall

SH: Short House

Staff: Staff House

SB: Sagebrush

CTA: Cantina

Tri: Triangle (under tree)

Mus: Museum

IMYM 2016 interest group or seminar form

2016 theme: "Nurturing Spiritual Gifts and Ministry in our Meetings"

For dialogue on your proposal please include a draft by February 10th, 2016. Your entry is recorded when you click the "SUBMIT" button at the bottom of this form. After you submit a proposal, the following page provides these links:

1. Edit your proposal (THIS LINK CAN BE SAVED)
2. Submit a new proposal.

Proposals received by February 23, 2016 will go out with the Registration Materials, for advance indication of interest by registrants. Proposals received after the deadline will be reviewed, and if possible added to the schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact thierlmaier at gmail dot com.

**Only five questions below are required to start the process.

* Required

Interest Group Title *

Please limit your title to 10 words or less

Brief Description *

In a phrase, or a few sentences, what is the gist of this Interest Group? (Be brief. Up to 20 words would be great, 400 characters max). Consider relating your group to the 2016 theme: "Nurturing Spiritual Gifts and Ministry in our Meetings."

IF this is a multiple day offering, add a comment on how the days are related, audience attendance expectations, etc.

Also remember the importance to give and receive: consider limiting your offering to two sessions.

Detailed Description

This longer description will be available on imym.org, and as a supplementary sheet with registration at our summer gathering.



Which time slots (TENTATIVE) would you prefer? *

The 2016 schedule will be decided at Arrangements Committee in January 2016. This question gives us an idea on when you are at the summer gathering and when you'd like to offer your seminar/group. The 2015 schedule <http://goo.gl/EVqfOf> has these slots in green.

- Mon. AM: (2h45m)
- Mon. Eve: (1h30m)
- Tues. AM: (2h45m)
- Tues. Eve: (1h30m)
- Wed. AM: (2h45m)
- Thurs. Day: (1h45m) [Concurrent w/ Keynote Interest Group]
- [poster session] Thurs.: 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm (10m)
- Thurs. Eve: (1h)
- Fri. Day: (1h45m) [may not happen w/ a Listening session.]
- Sat. Day: (1h30m) [likely concurrent w/ Exchange of Colors]

How long will your offering be? (h: hours, m: minutes)

Equipment Needs

Ghost Ranch group locations have varied equipment available. WiFi is not reliable at Ghost Ranch-- assume it would be unavailable. What other materials would help your group experience?

- TV/DVD/VCR
- Projector Screen
- Chalkboard
- LCD Projector (may include rental fee)
- Other:

How sensitive would your group be to outside noises?

Sometimes two groups might be close to each other.

1 2 3 4 5

Space needed for silent worship We're open to be next to a playground

(Optional): Would you like your group to meet outside rain or shine? If so, click "Yes." If no,

leave blank. Or, add a comment/question in the or "Other" box.

Locations include: Triangle in front of Lower Pavilion, or Ghost House garden.

Yes. This group can meet outdoors rain or shine.

Other:

Minimum audience size

Registrations will give us a rough idea of interest. If you have a minimum threshold to meet for your participation, let us know.

Contact Name: *

If co-facilitating this group, would you add their contact information in the comments section?

Contact Email: *

Contact Phone:

Monthly Meeting

We'd like to share which monthly meeting you hail from.

- Flagstaff
- Phoenix
- Pima
- Tempe
- Tucson
- Boulder
- Colorado Springs
- Durango
- Fort Collins
- Mountain View
- Albuquerque
- El Paso
- Gila
- Las Cruces
- Santa Fe
- Logan
- Moab
- Salt Lake City
- Wyoming

Other:

Comments / additional requests for your offering:

Also include co-facilitator contact information here.

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

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Interest Groups Coordinator Report to Representatives Committee, June 2015

Todd Hierlmaier: thierlmaier@gmail.com

Thank-you to:

- Our registrars, Sarah Feitler and Lisa Toko-Ross, for promptly responding to requests throughout the year.
- Kay Bordwell for handling many on the ground group needs at Ghost Ranch.
- Bettina Raphael for helping gather the Arts Presenters before we sent out registration materials.
- Vickey Finger for serving with me on the assignment committee and creatively finding spaces at Ghost Ranch.
- Paula Palmer and Paula Van Dusen for exploring formal afternoon programming for Monday and Tuesday.
- Ghost Ranch staff who have responded to helping prepare spaces for the presenters.
- The 40+ conveners for their diverse and Spirit Led offerings.

1. Overview of interest groups at IMYM this year.
2. Review of 2014-2015. Some information on afternoon programming.
3. Since Representatives Committee prevented formal afternoon programming this year: would we include the Interest Group Coordinator (or an interest group agent) as a direct link to the representatives committee until this question is resolved?

1. Overview of interest groups at IMYM this year.

Many presenters have shared celebrations about the organizational support I offered through the process of creating their group.

Of the 67 groups that were proposed, six were canceled. The assignment committee fit in 61 groups across the ranch during the Interest group time-slots. There are about 22 suitable locations at Ghost Ranch to utilize at any one time for Interest Group programming. The most we have used at one time is eleven (on Thursday morning, June 11, 2015).

2014	2015
39 groups	61 groups
	(+ 6 groups cancelled.)

Here's a general overview of the IMYM 2015 schedule (8:30 am to 8:30 pm) day by day:

	Interest groups	Business	Worship Worship Sharing	Misc.
Monday	4h15m		2h	
Tuesday	4h15m		2h	
Wednesday	2h45m	3h45m		1h30m
Thursday	2h45m	45m	2h05m	2h15m
Friday		2h45m	2h05m	3h
Saturday	1h30m	1h45m	1h	1h30m
Sunday			1h30m	
Thurs-Sun:	5h15m	5h15m	6h40m	6h45m
Totals:	15h30m	9h	10h40m	8h15m

Six different meeting spaces on the mesa (with a total of over 5000 square feet) were not formally utilized during the interest group times. The golf cart trip between the stop near the Dining Hall to the Upper Pavilion is 1.0 km. Since each of these spaces are all a little farther than that, the assignment committee did not use these spaces in consideration of Mobility issues with Friends. There are 7 total golf carts available for cart drivers.

Conversations about sharing buildings earmarked for Youth Programs with Interest Groups began. The Senior Young Friends said no to the Assignment Committee (AC) request to use the Staff House lounge this year. There will be a Young Friend representative on the AC in 2016. The JYF leaders agreed to offer the Cantina for morning Interest Groups on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Further conversations may lead to different location options for groups in future years.

An additional feature this year included registration documents which reported the groups participants signed up for at registration.

2. Review of 2014-2015:

Fall of 2014: At least two Friends questioned the successful childcare solutions that worked with one interest group in 2014 which offered afternoon programming on Monday and Tuesday. The Program Working Group considered allowing formal Monday and Tuesday afternoon programming. They did not reach Unity and sent the question to Arrangements Committee. Arrangements Committee sent the question to Representatives Committee. An October 2014 Representatives Committee call (without the attendance of Todd Hierlmaier) minuted no formal programming can be scheduled for Monday and Tuesday afternoon in 2015.

January 2015: The annual Interest Groups report to Arrangements Committee included a brief history since summer gatherings began in 1970. It includes information on the success of afternoon programming in 2014, 2011, and others in the 2000's.

At Arrangements committee, we worked out the Adult and Youth schedules reminding each other about the intention of fellowship our Yearly Meeting was created for. A third interest groups time slot was put back in the schedule (skipped in 2014) to coexist with the campfire sing-a-long on Thursday night. The question of allowing formal afternoon programming on Monday and Tuesday was sent to the Representatives committee.

February 2015: Representatives committee was unable to reach Unity on wrestling with the question of formalizing afternoon programming on Monday and Tuesday.

3. Since Representatives Committee prevented formal afternoon programming this year: would we include the Interest Group Coordinator (or an interest group agent) as a direct link to the representatives committee until this question is resolved?

As the spirit moves in you or others, would you send ideas for future interest groups to Todd Hierlmaier (or watch for the link on imym.org to submit group offerings)?

Selected IMYM 2015 Evaluation comments:

43 comments (Schedule):

More time.

I enjoyed the many workshops and interests groups. There is enough space in schedule for downtime.

The schedule seems to get fuller every year, which is not something I'm in favor of. I know Friends love to have lots of choices of things to do, but I prefer having more time with nothing scheduled so that I can enjoy spontaneous happenings. When I and others are fretting about not wanting to miss out on some scheduled offering (usually more than one at a time!) it makes spontaneity less appealing.

I appreciated the having the third interest group time...and there were a lot of interesting groups one could attend. On the other hand, I find the time for making our own sack lunches after breakfast on Sunday is really cramped. Almost everyone in my worship sharing group was late getting there. Sara had some extra time for meeting for worship that day. I don't know if there just wasn't as much as business as she expected, but perhaps worship sharing could be pushed back 15 minutes on Sunday. Also, those newer chairs in Lower Pavilion are better, not so noisy, but I'll continue to bring my cushion.

I think we have too much "choice". I feel sorry for Friends who spend great efforts in preparing workshops which are attended by only a handful of people. The changing of rooms at the last minute was a bit problematic.

Too many interest groups, not enough time for important YM business. Not enough time for unstructured retreat time. We are supposed to be gathering to retreat from the busyness of the secular world and into fellowship with each other, not from the busyness of the secular world and into the busyness of too many structured interest groups/workshops/etc? What if we took a sabbath year and focused on our YM business, worship, and developing community through worship sharing?

Isn't the annual gathering for carrying out the business of the yearly meeting? Nice to have so many workshops, but not at the cost of time for business. Is too much being delegated that should happen at business meeting? I felt that the budget discussion could have had more time, although the threshing session was a good idea and got a lot on the table. What did we miss because we had fewer business meetings? Is it time to lay down the Listening Session unless there is an SYF crisis?

Too many offerings? Don't have an answer to that...

I think folks may need to pay a separate use or event (as in "registration") fee for the early days. I feel that having all the "fun"enriching stuff prior to the official start of IMYM drains off positive karma. The fact that the youth love to come and that it's an important bonding experience for them does not mean that others should automatically subsidize any of the early days. Especially those of us who come to the regular IMYM and cannot afford the whole week.

1. Early days and Wed PM: free time was wonderful. I hiked and caught up. 2. Keynote: For those who left at end of early days or came just for IMYM, I wonder about keynote Wed AM, not PM -- to set the tone and to afford keynote to those who leave? 3. If next IMYM has more substantive business than this one, likely need more time for business meeting. 4. Schedule too full but can't see a solution. 5. I was concerned about packing everything out of room on Sunday by 7AM, but did it.

Hard to please everyone, 65 interest groups, still didn't get to visit all of them!

Schedule was a bit too packed for me, so I didn't go to everything.

I thought the schedule worked well but I only had myself to worry about so I would defer to families for this evaluation.

hard to get a good amount of folks at a seminar or interest group when there are so many at a time.... don't know the solution

I often neglect scheduled activities for fellowship and trekking.

As a presenter for early days it was confusing for attenders to keep changing locations. I wonder if having so many offerings was necessary. I would like more discernment next year on who is and isn't included.

Didn't do early days. Interest group meeting times were too short. Would have preferred multiple sessions or longer times for one or more interest groups.

I thought it odd that the interest groups were either very late in the afternoon or in the evening, as though they weren't that important and were just stuck in the last time slot available.

After years of going to Early Days, I was amazed this year to learn that no activities could be planned for the afternoons. Reason given: There were no children's programs offered by Ghost Ranch in the afternoons; therefore, parents of young children would be ENVIIOUS if other folks got to do things in the afternoon. Please, give folks a little credit for maturity here. I attended IMYM many years when my daughter was little. Things were happening in the afternoon. Was I envious, upset, angry? Of course not. I had freely chosen to adopt a child, and was happy to spend my time with my daughter. I knew the days would come when I would again be free in the afternoons. (My daughter is now an adult). If there was some program I really wanted to attend, I traded off childcare with another parent. It all flowed. Now, if the Representatives had decided not to offer programs in the afternoon because Ghost Ranch would charge more, or it was too confusing for Todd H., or etc., I would have been more at peace with this decision. Nevertheless, I had a great film on DVD that I would have loved to show sometime in the afternoon. In the past, that would have been a non-issue. Early Days was more informal and self-created. I liked it that way.

I thought the schedule worked well but I only had myself to worry about so I would defer to families for this evaluation.

I'd like one business meeting on Saturday afternoon, if possible. Epistles and everything else take time!

37 comments (Interest Groups):

Wow ! so many choices, and such quality. Thanks much.

Incredibly well-organized. Todd is a calming giant among organizers! And he answers emails the same day, texts often the same HOUR!

IDEA: Could Soul Collage have the room Todd gave us "ing" 16 in FOR THE WHOLE IMYM? (Museum classroom)

See above re Kabarak Call. Rob's session on bible metaphors also very meaningful.

I think the late Saturday afternoon interest groups are not effective. I would not attend one again. Others were excellent and the variety seemed to engage so many.

The variety and selection were impressive this year.

Interest group coordinator did a fabulous job of trying to keep everyone happy and busy.

nice range of topics! for those of us with mobility issues, going to the top of the mesa is a deterrent.

amazing array of offerings by so many talented Friends -- wow!

Ross Worley's Presentation on Tuesday Morning was a little loose, not very prepared.

Diago & Karla presentation on the Community college & Prison education work was great and needed more exposure to the Annual Gathering. Maybe instead of the Listening Session?

[comment about "Memorial"... instead of Listening Session...]

it was hard because there were so many concurrent sessions to decide among. I would suggest either minimizing or not having concurrent sessions when the parade of colors is taking place on Saturday. that is not to be missed and I did because I was assisting with a session down in the art building.

Total failure. There were 60 interest groups. The location and times of meetings were a secret, kept from most attenders

Interesting subjects, difficult to attend all the ones I wanted to. Location of some were awful and not suitable to the topic. Better discussion with leaders would be useful --

Schedules and session descriptions need to be posted more widely. Didn't attend any sessions. [there was Ghost House and Meal line.]

Didn't make it to any. Others seemed to find they fit their needs.

Too short. Would have preferred multiple sessions or longer times for one or more.