

## **Registrars' Report**

### **Intermountain Yearly Meeting 2016**

Through light skies and dark, with rainbows but no true unicorns, the IMYM annual gathering at Ghost Ranch in June 2016 was as exciting, blessed, and full as always. The registrars found our second year much easier than our first, with fewer hiccups overall.

The Meeting shrank just a bit this year, with approximately 300 total attendees. This is a decrease of 20 over 2015's attendance. The 300 attendees can be broken down as:

- 39 first timers, (about 13%--last year was 15%)
- 29 CYM (4 more than last year)
- 12 JYF (11 fewer than last year)
- 25 SYF (6 fewer than last year)
- 9 YAF (2 fewer than last year)
- 225 Adult (5 fewer than last year)

We had approximately 198 people registered to arrive during early days—including just over 137 registered to arrive on Sunday. Almost all stayed for the entire Meeting.

With 20 fewer people, we were able to meet all requests for preferred housing except for 9 individuals who received upgrades, which cost the Meeting a total of \$216. Once all housing had been assigned, we found that we had 6 Old Mesa rooms, 1 Lower Level Private room, and 7 New Mesa Private rooms left over from what Ghost Ranch specified for our use. All who had mobility challenges were able to be housed on the Lower Level! There were a few misunderstandings which resulted in some room switching, but all-in-all, a very successful year.

Interactions with most Ghost Ranch staff was more than satisfactory this year, particularly during the later days (once the kinks identified during early days were resolved). We found them welcoming, inviting, and concerned with our well-being, satisfaction, and happiness.

Monthly meetings provided about \$8600 (9% of the total fees) in aid. Note this is significantly less than last year, where about \$12000 was provided in aid. Yearly meeting provided \$2359 in financial assistance to 6 families, and \$6897 in waivers to 15 people in positions that serve the yearly meeting. Both of these are lower than last year. Families and individuals paid approximately \$120,000, which is significantly higher than last year—about \$17,000 more. With the change in fee structure, allowing people to choose to pay the Complete Cost rather than the Traditional or Subsidized Fee, 99 people opted to pay Complete Cost for their lodging which saved the Meeting from subsidizing nearly \$1000.

Accessibility continues to be an issue. With reduced attendance this year, we did not have the housing shortages we faced last year, and were able to accommodate everyone in suitably accessible housing; but it did require last-minute juggling, as it often does.

Online registration continues to be a worthwhile tool, with the majority of people able to use it. We did have some trouble with re-using prior years' data; there are glitches in the software that sometime make it hard to register a previously known group using a shared email address. Registrars are considering whether we can turn off the "remember prior years" feature, which would require folks to re-enter slightly more information each year, but we believe would be an overall simplification. From the registration side, the ability to extract all kinds of information quickly, and to provide automatically updated reports to the interest group coordinator, youth coordinators, worship sharing, and other concerned parties really saves us time and allows those folks to see their current data any time they need it. The use of online registration also allowed us to introduce a required field into the registration form for all those less than 18 years of age. This new field requests the name of an adult who will be on-site and responsible for the child during their entire stay at IMYM. We added this field because in past years, minors have arrived with no parent and no permission forms designating a sponsor, leaving the adults in a difficult position.

Although the new field may have been a minor nuisance for most parents, it was a resounding success from our point of view; it gave us a way to identify minors coming with someone other than their parent, and contact them ahead of time. We are happy to report that this year we had complete permission forms for all the unaccompanied minors before they arrived.

We enjoyed our second year as registrars far more than the first, because we were more comfortable in our roles and more familiar with the work and the challenges. We look forward to having Marc Gacy shadow us next year, and hope that by shadowing for the entire year he will have an easier first year as registrar than we did. In that vein, we again remind the Meeting that we strongly suggest a return to a *rotating* registrar replacement schedule. We ask all committee members, especially Nominating, to consider ways to make this happen.

In Peace and Service,

Sarah Feitler and Lisa Toko-Ross, Registrars

June 2016