

IMYM Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting Sessions

Welcome Session, Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Eric Wright, Tom Kowal, Kevin Slick, and Eric Swanson led us in song.

Molly Wingate, Intermountain Yearly Meeting (IMYM) clerk, opened the welcoming session with this message: "I wish to acknowledge the custodians of this land, the Native People and their Elders past and present. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region." The source for this message came from:

<https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/spirituality/welcome-to-country-acknowledgement-of-country#ixzz5I55hQxcd>

She said she was glad we are here to share the abundance of our gifts and joy, and to have the opportunity to share this time and space to enjoy fellowship, education, and to do the work of our Yearly Meeting. And laugh a bit.

She asked attenders to stand as the names of their monthly meetings and worship groups were called:

Meeting list:

- Arizona Half Yearly: Tempe, Pima, Phoenix, Flagstaff, Cochise Worship Group, Cascabel Worship Group
- Colorado Regional: Boulder, Mountain View, Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, Three Valleys Worship Group
- New Mexico Regional: Socorro Worship Group, Santa Fe, Quaker House Worship Group, Las Cruces, Gila, El Paso (TX), Durango (CO), Gallup Worship Group, Clearlight Worship Group (Taos), Albuquerque, Las Vegas.
- Utah Friends Fellowship: Moab, Logan, Salt Lake City

She also asked people to stand if they had traveled more than 1,500 miles, 1000, 500, 250, and 100 miles to get to Ghost Ranch. The clerk also asked people to stand if they had attended IMYM more than 30, 25, 20, 15, 10, 5, or 2-5 years, as well as all first-time attenders.

Visitor's list—gifts from afar

She also asked visitors to stand. They were:

- Eileen Flanagan, from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, our keynote speaker and resource person for the week. Her topic tomorrow morning is Faith into Practice, Practice, Practice.
- Mary Klein, editor of *Western Friends* from Palo Alto Meeting
- Norma Patricia Constantino Casa, Mexico City Friends Meeting of Mexico City, our Heberto Sein visitor
- Two Friends from AFSC
 - Gabriela Flores, Director of the Denver program
 - Mary Brazil, New Mexico, Albuquerque (She'll be arriving Thursday)
- Scott Greenler, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). He's at the annual meeting, but not at the welcoming
- Traci Sullivan from Friends General Conference
- Windy Cooler – Earlham School of Religion
- Damon Motz-Story - Quaker Volunteer Service

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Volunteers: Our Yearly Meeting celebrates the many gifts so generously given by our volunteers — organizing, schlepping, writing, asking hard questions, making up groups, keeping track of money, showing compassion

- Presiding Clerk -Molly Wingate
- Recording Clerk—Gail Hoffman
- Representatives Committee Clerk—Penny Thron-Weber
- Arrangements Clerk—Pelican Lee – outgoing, and Laura Peterson, incoming
- Operations—Eric Wright (outgoing)
- Program Working Group Clerk— DeAnne Butterfield and John Huyler
- Registrars— Marc Gacy and Dido Clark
- Volunteer Coordinator - Susan Dahl
- Interest Group Coordinator - Nancy Dolphin
- Worship Sharing Coordinator - Ba Wise
- Delegates Committee Clerk - Sara Keeney
- Finance Committee Clerk - Vance Marshall
- Treasurer - Jerry Peterson
- Youth Working Group Clerks—Eric Swanson and Cindy Yurth

The clerk then asked those who have accepted a nominated position for IMYM to stand. She noted that it takes around 120 nominated positions to do the work of the yearly meeting.

She also asked people to stand if they are their meeting's representative to IMYM or are volunteering once they arrived at Ghost Ranch. And, she asked those who don't have a volunteer job and want one to contact Susan Dahl, volunteer coordinator

Welcome from Ghost Ranch: Debra Hepler, executive director, welcomed IMYM on behalf of the Ghost Ranch staff. She said 2017 was the first full year that Ghost Ranch operated as an independent entity and not as a program of the Presbyterian Church. She said the new arrangement gives Ghost Ranch staff freedom to make their own decisions without waiting for approvals from others. Before Ghost Ranch became independent, the ranch suffered a catastrophic flood of the arroyo in 2015. The staff has been working to restore the arroyo. The flood wiped out the irrigation system at Ghost Ranch. Under New Mexico law, Ghost Ranch could have lost its water rights because they weren't used within three years. Luckily, Ghost Ranch received an extension of the water rights, and grants from a couple of entities. She said she expects the irrigation system will be restored in September. The field should be watered next summer.

Ghost Ranch also will be launching a campaign to rebuild and to have more guest lodging. Among the special events taking place at Ghost Ranch will be a week-long discussion the week of June 24 about water issues in the United States. More information about that is posted on the Ghost Ranch website.

A consultant firm, Run River Consultants, is conducting a thorough review of Ghost Ranch operations. In answer to a question, she said the swimming pool will be closed on some days during IMYM due to a lack of qualified lifeguards. Ghost Ranch has had trouble recruiting local youths as lifeguards when the college staff can't. Very few local youths are qualified lifeguards because they didn't grow up swimming at a local pool. The area doesn't have one.

State of Society: The clerk then read a summary of the monthly meeting annual state of the meeting reports. See **Documents in Advance**.

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Schedule Preview

- The keynote address will be Thursday morning, not afternoon as previously reported.
- Memorial Minutes will be read during business meeting.
- Please refer to the schedule for events and locations. The interest group locations are posted on the bulletin boards at Ghost House and at the dining hall. Those bulletin boards are full of helpful information. We also have a Daily Bulletin available at the dining hall, campground bulletin board, and Ghost House with updated information.
- A knitting project in which people are invited to knit squares that can be sewn into blankets later will be in progress during Meetings for Business. Carl Feitler will be heading it up.
- Large questions before us— please check the agenda posted at Ghost House, dining hall, and the Daily Bulletin.
- Be helpful to newcomers
- Peace & Service Committee Resource Center —Lower Pavilion, chance to learn about many groups. It will be open for browsing throughout IMYM.
- Many of the Contraband members aren't attending this year, so IMYM has hired a band for the dance on Friday at the Lower Pavilion.
- Read Documents in Advance—very helpful and really interesting to learn what our representatives and delegates have been doing on our behalf. Documents in Advance includes the budget, reports of Nominating Committee, Mountain Friends Camp, and other organizations.

Closing worship

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Keynote Address – Faith into Practice: Leading a Full Quaker Life, Eileen Flanagan

Panel: Anatasia Ebi, Logan; Gretchen Reinhardt, Tempe; and Leslie Stephens, Boulder

DeAnne Butterfield introduced Eileen with this sketch from imym.org: Eileen Flanagan explores the connection between faith and practice through her writing, teaching, and activism. A former Pendle Hill teacher, Eileen's first two books are about spirituality in everyday life. (*The Wisdom to Know the Difference* was endorsed by the Dalai Lama.) Her most recent book, *Renewable: One Woman's Journey to Simplicity, Faithfulness, and Hope*, is about her midlife leading toward climate activism with Earth Quaker Action Team, where she has served as clerk for the past five years. Eileen shares what she has learned about effective and spiritually grounded activism through her online courses. She is a member of Chestnut Hill Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia and is married with two college-age children. You can read more at eileenflanagan.com.

After a period of silence, Eileen began speaking.

Keynote: Eileen said she was introduced to the Religious Society of Friends in her early 20s. She liked that one can listen inwardly for guidance and be supported by a community. Four times she felt she had a leading and way opened in some form, such as offers of financial assistance. She said a metaphor for "way opening" is of a grocery store automatic door opening as you approach. When her children were young, she worked part-time for 11 years teaching art students. One of her students asked, "Do you love what you do?" Her almost automatic response was "Yes", but as she said the word, she knew she wasn't being truthful. At about that time, she felt under the weight of a concern about climate change. She also

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felt the need to be a good parent in leading fundraising activities at her children's schools, including one to help finance a school trip to Costa Rica. Hurricane Katrina propelled her to take climate change more seriously, while having her own inner struggle about what it means to live simply. Can keeping an iPhone a long time be considered living simply? She knew keeping a journal and taking walks were good spiritual practices for her, but she often thought she couldn't afford the time. Finally, she took a retreat north of her home in the Philadelphia area. She took some old journals with her, as well as a collection of letters she had written to a friend years before while serving in the Peace Corps in Botswana. Included in the letter collection was an 11-page letter of which 10 pages concerned her questions about whether a certain young man liked her. In her journals, she found a statement in 1992, in which she said she wanted to write about how our materialistic culture was destroying the planet.

She then asked members of the audience to form groups of two to address this question: What practices help you live your faith?

Looking back, the inner preparatory work was important, as well as various dead ends. Then one day she felt a strong urge to attend the Philadelphia Flower Show on a particular Wednesday when no one she knew could accompany her. At the flower show, she ran into a Friend she knew who urged her to join an action the group had planned at a certain time. She learned the Friend was active in Earth Quaker Action Team, and that the group intended to demonstrate against one of the flower show's major sponsors, a Philadelphia bank, because the bank was helping finance a coal company that was blasting off mountaintops to get at the coal. As certain commitments ended, she found more time to devote to Earth Quaker Action Team's non-violent direct actions. Sometimes as people are moved to take part in similar actions, they must fight, as she did, against her desire to please other people. After similar actions, the bank announced publicly that it would no longer fund coal mining operations.

Panel: Gretchen Reinhardt grew up in Boulder Meeting among weighty Quakers. Her first memorable religious awakening came as a child when she attended a non-Quaker church with her mother. Although she had a religious feeling from the experience, she didn't think it was quite for her. But, still, that strand of interfaith seeking stuck with her. Her family was going through troubling times the first time she came to IMYM at Ghost Ranch as a young person. Gretchen said she remembers walking along a road at Ghost Ranch and crying as she did so due to the stress in her life. Her mother had "the gift of tears", which her mother saw as a problem. Yet, something told her as she cried, "This is a gift. This is your gift." She said she sees that experience as an invitation to walk in that challenging place: the gap between what is and where God wants her to stand.

Leslie Stephens said that what seems most important to him is to be where he is. He said we should all learn to let our light shine because Spirit is always there. If certain beliefs, principles, or testimonies are part of us, we will act on them. "Make your life speak, be a moment-to-moment Quaker where you are," he advised.

Anatasia Ebi said she entered Senior Young Friends (SYF) the year IMYM moved from Ft. Lewis College back to Ghost Ranch. At the time, she was having struggles with her sexual orientation and with her family, and she wasn't sure how to be part of Senior Young Friends (SYF). Yet, people in SYF reached out to her, inviting her to take part in various activities, so that eventually she felt at home with the SYF group and with IMYM. Her last year with SYF, she attended a Friend's camp in Maine that gave her a vision of what could be created in the West. This summer, Mountain Friends Camp will have campers who were babies when Mountain Friends Camp began. She will be going through a portal into a new

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world when she becomes a mother this fall. She said we should put our faith into practice. One saying is: “All God has is thee.” But God also has us – people like those in IMYM who might point out the difficulties of a path, but also encourage us along it. “Thanks for being part of my community, “ she said.

Parting words from the panel and audience members (after another stint of sharing in two-person groups) were:

- The journey is a long way, and we’ve just begun.
- Parker Palmer talks about breaking hearts that become more tender and vulnerable. Hearts can break open. Ghost Ranch has taught her to have compassion for herself. Tears can come from anything.
- At Mountain Friends Camp, it’s so easy to get caught up in solving problems and running programs. Often someone has to remind her about when quiet worship is needed.
- Practice in community can lead people both ways, from faith into practice, and from practice into faith.
- Jesus said that he comes to bring not peace but a sword. That’s because doing something out of faith can lead to estranged friends and family members. But, if we do things in faith within a community, we can bear the pain that comes from causing division and conflict.
- Sometimes a calling can feel like a dragging because one is reluctant to go where the calling may take us. “You want me to do what?” is a question some might have of the Spirit.
- Both faith and practice can be group efforts. We can support each other in that faith and practice.
- Quaker practice comes in three types: internal, in the community, and in the world. In the world, we hold our systems accountable.

Thursday afternoon, June 16, 2018

- Settling Worship
- Memorial Minute of Fred Neidhardt – read by John Heid
(See Memorial Minutes in Documents in Advance.)
- Epistle from other Yearly Meeting – German Yearly Meeting – read by Susan Wiley **(See Epistles in Documents in Advance)**
- How things will go: we are going to first attend to the business that assures the YM will continue and then we will consider recommendations from our Representatives Committee. We will then hear reports that require action or are of immediate concern. Finally we will get to hear about all the cool stuff our delegates to various groups are doing.

The agenda for each business meeting will be posted at the front. The overall agenda as devised in advance is posted at Ghost House and in the Bulletin.

If you are moved by God or Spirit to speak, please come to the front row and the clerk will recognize you. When you speak into the microphone, please speak directly into the top of it, not off to the side. Friends with hearing impairments would like to hear what you say. Thank you.

Finally, if you have an announcement you would like to have read from the platform, please write it down and hand it to the recording clerk. The clerk will read them at the end of the session.

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- **Nominating Report** – Allen Winchester

The Nominating Committee since the 2017 IMYM Annual Gathering met nine times by phone and Wednesday in person. Allen gave the IMYM Nominating Committee 2018 Annual Report. (**See Documents in Advance.**) These are the changes from the report posted on the imym.org website before the annual meeting:

- Children’s Yearly Meeting: Joseph Linton, Boulder, and Julie Fair, Fort Collins, will serve 2018-2020.
- FCNL: Bill Hobson, Arizona Half-Yearly Meeting, 10/2018-10/2021.
- FWCC: Barb Stephens, Colorado Regional Meeting, 6/2017-1/3/2021.
- Nominating Committee Clerk: Gale Toko-Ross, Boulder, 2010-2021.
- Vacancies remaining to fill are: Presiding Clerk beginning 2019; web clerk; 4th person for web communications; 3-year term for archivist; volunteer coordinator; Finance Committee member from Utah; and clerk of Delegates Committee.

We approved these nominations:

- **Nominating Committee Clerk: Gale Toko-Ross, Boulder: Rise 2018-2020**
- **Clerk of Procedures Committee: Cynthia Smith, Moab: 2016-2018, 2018-2021**
- **Seminars and Interest Groups: Nancy Dolphin, Pima: 2017-Rise 2019**
- **Ombudsman for Persons of Differing Abilities: Rosemary Blanchard, Albuquerque: 2018-2020**
- **Worship Sharing Coordinator: Kay Bordwell, Flagstaff: Rise 2018-2021**
- **FCNL: Bill Hobson, Arizona Half Yearly Meeting: 2018-2021**
- **FGC: Deanne Butterfield, Boulder: 10/2017-9/2020**
- **FWCC: Rob Pierson, NMRM: 1/1/2018-1/3/2020**
- **FWCC Alternate: Cheryl Spier-Phillips, NMRM - 1/1/2018-1/3/2020**
- **FWCC: Barb Stephens, CRM: 6/2017-1/3/2021**
- **FWCC: Bill Soder-Eri, AHYM: 6/20/17-1/3/2021**

[Note: The last two FWCC nominations for Barb Stephens and Bill Soder-Eri were brought to Meeting for Business later because of uncertainty that the names had been read aloud.]

- **Treasurer/Finance Committee Report** – Vance Marshall, Phoenix, and Jerry Peterson, Mountain View

Jerry Peterson, IMYM treasurer, distributed packets of multi-colored pages. The white pages were what had appeared in Documents in Advance before the 2018 sessions; the yellow pages were the standard annual report on what IMYM began the year with, what funds were received, and the money disbursed; and the green pages were a summary of income and expenses, and a comparison of the 2017 and 2018 budgets with the 2019 proposed budget.

For the annual gathering in 2018, IMYM will have around a net operating loss of \$5,000 to \$7,000. The losses will be balanced by reserves that were set aside to see how the “pay as led” effort would work. **We approved the final financial statements for 2017 and 2018.**

Regarding the 2019 budget, Vance Marshall, clerk of the IMYM Finance Committee, said the budget has \$3,000 to cover the costs of allowing people to pay their IMYM fees via credit card. A few

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comments were made that IMYM could use credit card processing companies that do not charge for credit card processing, such as Zell or ACH.

Other comments about the budget were:

- The \$15,000 for Mountain Friends Camp includes around \$1,500 in individual contributions.
- A new item is \$5,000 for Faith and Practice Committee's three to four gatherings this coming year to begin to update the *IMYM Faith and Practice*.
- The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage line was zeroed out because the trip to England isn't being done any more. It's possible that money could be used for youth-related travel to areas Israel occupies. Another suggestion was that it could be used to pay for getting up to four IMYM attenders certified as lifeguards so that the Ghost Ranch pool can be open for days other than Saturday.

We approved the 2019 IMYM budget, with these changes: increasing the honorarium for the keynote speaker to \$1,000 for a speaker and reallocating the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage money for travel to territories that Israel occupies.

- **Recommendations from Representatives Committee** – Penny Thron Weber

Due to lack of time, recommendations from the Representatives Committee were mostly just presented for action later. **We approved this minute from Representatives Committee:**

IMYM Minute 20180614(a): Representatives Committee recommends continuing our pay as led experiment through 2019.

Representatives Committee's other minutes that were simply presented were:

- Representatives Committee recommends to IMYM that we move our site from Ghost Ranch to Fort Lewis College with combined care and enthusiasm. We further recommend the creation and funding of a transition working group to facilitate the move.
 - Representatives Committee recommends the formation of a transition working group consisting of a clerk (Charlene Weir), facilities liaison (Janie Cravens), operations person (Leslie Stephens), youth working group clerks (Eric Swanson and Cindy Yurth), and Arrangements Clerk (Laura Peterson) in order to begin the process of researching, planning, and organizing a move to Fort Lewis College, including making a decision about when to make the move. This committee will report back to representatives committee at their telephone meeting on August 29th. This work will lead to the formation of a clear plan of next steps for moving, to be presented in October.
 - Friends recommend a three-year exploration of affiliation with Quaker Earthcare Witness, providing financial support for two observers to help us answer our questions and concerns. We charge these observers (Dick Grossman and John Gallagher were mentioned) to report back annually to the yearly meeting on their experiences. We feel particular concern over QEW's insistence on non-nuclear solutions to climate and energy problems, and the alignment of their decision-making process with Quaker practice.
- We approved this recommendation regarding gun violence from Peace and Social Service Committee that Flagstaff Monthly Meeting brought to the committee:

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IMYM Minute 20180614(b): As Quakers, we believe that every person has worth and dignity. It is essential to respond to the results of gun violence in our society with voices and action. We call on our legislators to stand with the Florida teens and youth throughout the country who are speaking out against the NRA. Listen to them. Hear them when they march on Washington, D.C. Begin by reinstating the ban on assault-style weapons. Continue with thorough background checks and close the gun-sales loopholes. Promote conversations, forums, and discussions to bring about change in every community to combat the sources of violence we see today. Stand with our courageous high-school students who are urgently leading the way toward a safer more peaceful society. Congress must act immediately to protect each sacred life. We will support law-makers who will make the changes to the laws that we need. Too many lives have been destroyed by these terrible mass shootings. Join the many voices speaking out. The tide is turning. It's time to come together and support life-giving change in our communities.

[Note: This minute was superseded by a revised minute, Minute 20180616(a), approved on Saturday.]

Friday morning, June 15, 2018

- Settling Worship
- Memorial Minute – Bob Eastburn of Flagstaff, read by Pam Garcia (See **Memorial Minutes in Documents in Advance**)
- Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting (pastoral) – (**See Epistles in Documents in Advance**)
- **Consent Agenda**

We accepted reports on the Consent Agenda. On the Consent Agenda were reports from Peace and Social Concerns, Faith and Practice, Arrangements Committee, Procedures Committee, Mountain Friends Camp, and the Web Clerk's report. All the reports can be found in Documents in Advance.

- **Discussions about recommendations from Representatives Committee**

- Moving to Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO

Minute: Representatives Committee recommends to IMYM that we move our site from Ghost Ranch to Fort Lewis College with combined care and enthusiasm. We further recommend the creation and funding of a transition working group to facilitate the move.

These were among the comments made about moving to Fort Lewis College. We did not act on the Representatives Committee minute due to a lack of unity and time.

- The Transition Working Group committee would represent different committees and functions to address different aspects of the move, such as accommodating campers, operating the children's program, and creating a sense of community.
- Moving to Fort Lewis College would be an opportunity to create community where it doesn't exist easily.
- The distance from camping sites (15-20 miles) would be a problem. Would the college be willing to set aside a place on campus where people could camp?

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- It would be good to have the site selection people create a weighted matrix comparing Fort Lewis College with Ghost Ranch so that we have a critical evaluation about whether Fort Lewis College would really be better than Ghost Ranch in terms of costs and other factors. A visual representation of the pros and cons also would be helpful.
 - After Clerk Molly Wingate left to catch a plane to her son's college graduation ceremony, Penny Thron-Weber, clerk of Representatives Committee, became interim clerk. She said Representatives Committee arrived at its decision to recommend a move from Ghost Ranch through a beautiful discernment process, not a weighted matrix.
 - Don't assume that people with disabilities who rely on the golf carts would prefer Fort Lewis College over Ghost Ranch without asking them.
 - Ghost Ranch is a very acceptable place for young and old. Children love the freedom that Ghost Ranch affords. It seems that IMYM is abandoning Ghost Ranch without giving anything back.
 - We need to recognize that others may not be with us for such reasons as weather, allergies, and distance from medical care. Although the Ghost Ranch staff has been wonderfully accommodating to IMYM, moving to a more accessible location is more important.
 - The experience of Senior Young Friends (SYF) will change if we move to Fort Lewis College since downtown is but a 10-minute walk down the mesa. The atmosphere is more spiritual at Ghost Ranch. We should solicit SYF opinions about the move.
 - Some members of SYF are reluctant to move from Ghost Ranch, but we all have the ability to adapt, just as some SYF members made the switch to Ghost Ranch after having spent their earlier years at Fort Lewis College.
 - Fort Lewis College is not that much closer than Ghost Ranch for people traveling from Arizona.
 - Fort Lewis College received funding from the state legislature to make the campus more accessible to those living with disabilities. The uranium tailings pile has been moved further from campus.
 - We might need a threshing session or some similar venue to discuss the move from Ghost Ranch in more depth. Organizations like Friends General Conference manage to change their locations every year; we should try to learn how they do it.
 - We need to take a longer look at the future of IMYM in light of global warming. Yes, Ghost Ranch is lovely and spiritual, but appreciating those factors will not stop global warming. Fort Lewis College (situated in an area of Colorado suffering from drought for years) is not the answer.
 - It's sad to think about leaving Ghost Ranch, but we need to trust the Representatives Committee.
- Quaker Earthcare Witness affiliation:

We approved this minute:

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IMYM Minute 20180615(a): Friends recommend a 3-year exploration of affiliation with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), providing financial support for two observers to help answer our questions and concerns. We charge these observers (Dick Grossman and John Gallagher were mentioned) to report back annually to the yearly meeting on their experiences. Some have expressed particular concern over QEW's insistence on non-nuclear solutions to climate and energy problems, and the alignment of their decision-making process with Quaker process.

Approval of the minute was preceded by a discussion that included these points:

- Nuclear power might be a temporary solution to our energy needs while forms of renewable energy become more efficient and effective.
- Meetings that responded to a query were generally neutral to positive about QEW.
- Implicit in the minute is the assumption that IMYM will provide financial support for three years so that the observers can attend QEW meetings to answer questions and concerns.
- We might want to develop a similar process for other groups to which IMYM belongs.

o North Korea Diplomacy:

We reviewed a minute from a group representing Representatives Committee, Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Advocacy Team, but did not approve it due to concerns about language. The minute was brought to the floor of IMYM without having gone first to the Monthly Meetings due to the urgency and timing of the issue.

- Report on Evaluating the New Structure - Charlene Weir, Salt Lake City

Discussion of this item was left for later when we would have more time.

Friday afternoon, June 15, 2018

- Settling Worship
- Memorial Minute – Paul Wehr of Boulder, read by Ann Marie Pois (See **Memorial Minutes in Documents in Advance**)
- Epistle from another Yearly Meeting – Annual General Conference of Japan (See **Epistles in Documents in Advance**)
- Continued Discernment about moving to Ft. Lewis College

History of the decision to move to Fort Lewis College – Penny Thron-Weber, interim clerk

This round of consideration began 2-plus years ago regarding concerns about cost. A committee considered five locations and gave detailed reports. We agreed to explore Pay as Led first but we approved a minute that if we moved, Fort Lewis College would be our first choice. Last year evaluations expressed much unhappiness regarding bugs, heat, dust, poor condition of buildings, and distances to walk. Also, last year we heard SYF say that they preferred to stay at Ghost Ranch, but if we moved, they prepared a list of things they would want to have at the new site. Over the last several years working with Ghost Ranch has become more challenging.

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- Will Reddig of Flagstaff, clerk of SYF, and Nicola Gacy of Boulder

To them, Ghost Ranch and IMYM are synonymous, and they would love to remain at Ghost Ranch. But, they recognize that the people at IMYM are the most important and are therefore willing to consider a move to Fort Lewis College. They believe SYF will create a community at Fort Lewis College also.

- Proposed move to Fort Lewis College

Comments on the proposed move included:

- The son of one IMYM attender attended IMYM at Fort Lewis College and loved Fort Lewis College so much he graduated from college there. Although he no longer attends Meeting, he identifies as Quaker. He is a mortgage broker and is known for his integrity.
- We probably need to move, but he loves Ghost Ranch because it is where he first experienced the IMYM community after coming to the United States.
- We probably should move, but will our move bring more time and energy to spend on problems of the world, such as the children separated from their parents at the border or an explosion in one of the gas pipelines that goes through Kansas? If our move doesn't create any more light and bring any more grace into the world, we're just moving chess pieces.
- One father said he would prefer IMYM not move from Ghost Ranch until 2020 to give their teen-aged daughter more time to enjoy the relatively safe freedom of Ghost Ranch.
- A former SYFer who loved Fort Lewis College, and didn't want to make the move to Ghost Ranch, said her SYF group was much less gracious about the move than is the current SYF group.

We approved this minute of Representatives Committee to move to Fort Lewis College:

IMYM Minute 20180615(b): Representatives Committee recommends to IMYM that we move our site from Ghost Ranch to Fort Lewis College with combined care and enthusiasm. We further recommend the creation and funding of a transition working group to facilitate the move.

We approved this minute about formation of a transition working group to guide the move from Ghost Ranch:

IMYM Minute 20180615(c): Representatives Committee recommends the formation of a transition working group consisting of a clerk (Charlene Weir), facilities liaison (Janie Cravens), operations person (Leslie Stephens), youth working group clerks (Eric Swanson and Cindy Yurth), and Arrangements Clerk (Laura Peterson) in order to begin the process of researching, planning, and organizing a move to Fort Lewis College, including making a decision about when to make the move. This committee will report back to representatives committee at their telephone meeting on August 29th. This work will lead to the formation of a clear plan of next steps for moving, to be presented in October.

The interim clerk explained later that the transition working group will decide if it's best to move to Fort Lewis College in 2019 or 2020.

- **First reading of Watching Committee Epistle** – Peter Anderson

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Peter Anderson read the first draft of the Watching Committee Epistle, which mentioned that IMYM has about 290 attenders this year, and witnessed a 10 percent increase in new attenders. It's hard to say if the Pay as Led concept encouraged more first-time attenders.

- Diplomacy with North Korea

We approved this revised minute about diplomacy with North Korea:

IMYM Minute 20180615(d): War with North Korea would impose disastrous costs in lives and treasure on the people of the Korean Peninsula, the United States and the world. We urge the Trump administration and our members of Congress to fully support a path of diplomacy with North Korea based on negotiation and dialogue. This process will require patience, give and take, and a commitment to preventing war.

Friday, June 15, 2018 – Listening Session with SYF

Adults were asked to write queries for the SYF group rather than SYF choosing the theme. The SYF group, joined later by the Junior Young Friends (JYF), sat inside a large circle and took turns asking written questions. Questions from adults are in italics; responses from the SYF and JYF follow.

What purpose does IMYM serve? Get together once a year to conduct business and enjoy each other's company.

How do you feel about inheriting a world with all of its problems – climate change, etc. Not great. Need to do something. Live more simply and contribute money to organizations working on reversing or stopping climate change.

What is essential about our annual gathering? Love coming here cause so much diversity of opinions. Lives in a place with Mormons extremely dominant. Brings everyone together for a week.

Yesterday Ana spoke about how SYF helped her with her sense of belonging about sexual orientation. Any thoughts? SYF can be completely vulnerable, which makes the group so valuable. For example, SYF has all-gender restrooms. It's so amazing to have this gathering every year. It's the best place to explore yourself and not worry about confidentiality or any other issue.

How can Quakerism be more attractive to young people? At her Meeting, she works with the First Day School for younger children. That's her SYF. She would like to see salons where people discuss important issues of the day.

What is present for you at IMYM? IMYM is not just going to business meeting or listening sessions, or throwing around a Frisbee. It's all the same but is different. I found it much more enjoyable this year than past years.

What do you find odd or strange about adults (those over 30)? Cell phone use – some adults only use their cell phones once every 3 days or so. Some adults become much more curious about young people as they get older. Not sure why. Maybe with age comes wisdom, and with wisdom comes curiosity. Older adults seem to be more curious about young people than young people are about older adults.

Is it hard to include everyone in SYF? We try to include everyone.

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How do you make decisions with seven generations in mind? We make a decision for a generation, and we have to wait for six generations to find out what we did wrong. Quakers learn how to speak up for ourselves. If we disagree with you, we'll speak up!

Why are you a Quaker? I mean, like, are you? If so, why? Mom is a Quaker and took me. An important consideration, why are we still Quaker? Like Meetings for Business, realization we're walking the same path.

How could Quakers be more attractive to young people? I think it's pretty attractive to the people involved in it.

Why are you a Quaker? I mean, like, are you? If so, why? Worship sharing under the stars as a JYF with a SYF. That's when Quakerism clicked for me. The feeling from that night was why I identify with Quakerism now.

What could we do to make things better? Address gun violence.

What would SYF like support on? Knowing that we're supported by others is extremely helpful.

How can we address racism and white privilege and not tear ourselves apart? Questioners must answer this for themselves regarding racism and white privilege. It is not the duty of the oppressors to save the oppressed. Strive to educate yourself.

Meeting closed at 5:10.

Saturday, June 16, 2018 Session

- Settling Worship
- Memorial Minute – Ruth Meyer of Albuquerque, read by Sara Keeney

(See **Memorial Minutes in Documents in Advance**)

- **Reports from Affiliated Quaker Organizations** – Sara Keeney

- *Western Friend* – Mary Klein

Some have questioned the need for *Western Friend*. Several new features have been introduced in the magazine, such as resources for First Day School (a center page). Mary invited all to contribute writing and drawing to the magazine. *Western Friend* also has a website that sells *Western Friend*-published books and the magazine online. Flora Quimby of Boulder and John Kretzmann of Santa Fe represent IMYM on the board.

- Friends General Conference (FGC) – Deanne Butterfield, Boulder; David Nachman, Tempe; and David Wampler, Pima (now living in Seattle)

FGC offers programs like Spiritual Deepening (mostly online) and the FGC bookstore, which made the IMYM bookstore possible; materials for First Day School and on racism; retreats for Friends of Color; co-sponsorship of an annual conference on white privilege; and Quaker Cloud, an Internet service that connects Meetings to each other. FGC is undergoing a reorganization.

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- Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) - Cheryl Speir-Phillips, Gila, and Barb Stephens, Boulder

FWCC is made up of pastoral and non-pastoral Quaker yearly meetings, including eight Spanish-speaking meetings in South America, and meetings in Asia, and Africa. Learn more on fwcc.org.

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) – Gabriela Flora, Mountain View in Denver, and David Henkel, Santa Fe

AFSC is trying to strengthen its relationship with Quakers. Its Sanctuary Everywhere initiative is focused on sheltering residents of this country in churches who would otherwise be deported. The initiative includes instructions on how to create spaces for those in sanctuary and workshops to assist churches that step forward as sanctuaries. The organization also offers materials on internalized racism and social change. Gabriela and David both participate in monthly calls with AFSC. The organization also is working on a strategic plan. The IMYM representatives also serve on various AFSC committees.

- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) – Bill Hobson, Pima; Martha Larson, Boulder; DeAnne Butterfield, Boulder; and Scott Greenler, FCNL Fellow

FCNL is the oldest faith-based lobby in Washington, D.C. The policy committee chooses legislative priorities. The Policy Committee issued its priorities a few days before IMYM annual meeting. FCNL also has an advocacy team that works at the local level. Eric Wright and Judy Danielson of Mountain View and DeAnne Butterfield of Boulder serve on that team. The issue this year is diplomacy with North Korea.

- Friends Peace Team - Ana Ebi, Logan

Ana said Friends Peace Team needs another representative from IMYM. The team has a newsletter and offers training on resolving conflicts peacefully.

- Mountain Friends Camp – Ana Ebi, Logan

A group of campers described the fun that they have at the camp and the sense of community they develop. Ana urged continued support for Mountain Friends Camp, which is now in its ninth year. She said Mountain Friends Camp needs \$7,000 more in donations. Mountain Friends Camp has a board, and adults to help supervise the campers, in addition to the senior counselors. Some of the campers are Quakers and some are not.

- Epistles from other Yearly Meetings (See **Epistles in Documents in Advance**)

- **IMYM Epistle**

We approved this epistle. (See Epistles in Documents in Advance)

- **JYF Epistle**

We accepted this JYF Epistle:

Junior Young Friends had a fabulous time together this year. We hiked Box Canyon and nearly stepped on a rattlesnake!

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On Tuesday and Wednesday we made bluebird houses as part of our Earth Care Action. It was fun using power tools and working with wood. We did a role playing game (a scavenger hunt), based on SPICES! [The Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship.]

Thursday, we swam at Abiquiu Lake. On Friday we went back to the lake to kayak and canoe.

Saturday we hung bird houses and rock climbed.

We deepened our Friendship through anchor groups and free time!

- Epistles – Vermont CYM– Susan Wiley (See the Epistles in Documents in Advance)
- **Nominating Committee** – Allen Winchester, Santa Fe

We approved these additional nominations to three-year terms on FWCC: Barb Stephens, Colorado Regional Meeting, and Bill Soder-Eri, Arizona Half Yearly Meeting.

- **Revision to Gun Violence Minute**

Believing that the previously approved minute on gun violence was too hastily approved, a group revised the minute.

We approved the following revised minute:

IMYM Minute 20180616(a) - As Quakers, we believe that every person has worth and dignity. It is essential to respond to the results of gun violence in our society with voices and action.

We call on our legislators to stand with the Florida teens and youth throughout the country who are speaking out against certain policies of the National Rifle Association, specifically the NRA's refusal to support a ban on the purchase and ownership by civilians of assault rifles.

Begin by reinstating the ban on assault-style weapons. Continue with thorough background checks and close the gun-sales loopholes. Promote conversations, forums and discussions to bring about change in every community to combat the sources of violence we see today.

Stand with our courageous high-school students who are urgently leading the way toward a safer more peaceful society. Congress must act immediately to protect each sacred life. We will support lawmakers who will make the changes to the laws that we need. Too many lives have been destroyed by these terrible mass shootings.

Join the many voices speaking out. The tide is turning. It's time to come together and support life-giving change in our communities.

- **Evaluation of New IMYM Structure** – Charlene Weir, Salt Lake City

Results of the evaluation are posted at Ghost House and at the dining room. They also will be posted on imym.org. Overall, thoughts about the new IMYM structure were generally positive. Among the strengths of the new structure is that the clerk feels supported in weekly meetings. One of the drawbacks is that the new structure requires Nominating Committee to fill more positions. However, the relationship of IMYM with the monthly meetings doesn't seem to have been strengthened. This was one of the purposes of the new structure. The strongest recommendation

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from the evaluation is that everyone needs to take on new roles created by the new structure. Representatives Committee will need to decide how to go forward with the evaluation.

- **Minute on separation of children from their parents on the border**

We approved this minute:

IMYM Minute 20180616(b): IMYM of Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) declares to our country, our government, and the world that we, as a Yearly Meeting and as Friends, stand on the side of equality, community, humanity and peace through justice. We condemn our government's abuse of human rights on the border and in our communities. We call for an end to the policy of zero tolerance which denies migrants the right to apply for asylum at the border, as is required by U.S. and international law, which forcibly separates children and infants from their parents, which detains immigrants and asylum seekers in prisons or internment camps, and which forces more and more migrants to choose dangerous routes into our country, causing many deaths and much suffering.

- **CYM Epistle**

The children painted a mural illustrating what they did at IMYM. They discussed the mural, which depicted such activities as hiking halfway up to Chimney Rock, spending some time with the keynote speaker, making treasure boxes, and decorating hats. [

Note: This mural should be included in the epistles, but attempts to locate it have been unsuccessful.]