

**Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting Representatives Committee Meeting
on the second month, 9th day, 2019
Gathering at Mountain View Friends Meeting at 9:00 AM MST**

Welcome

In attendance: Penny Thron-Weber (Clerk, Mountain View MM), Sarah Tie (Recording Clerk, Mountain View MM), Jerry Peterson (Mountain View MM), Laura Peterson (Mountain View MM), Barb Stephens (Boulder MM), Leslie Stephens (Boulder MM), Vance Marshall (Phoenix MM), Tom Vaughan (Gila MM), Sandy Feutz (Gila MM), Lisa Listen (Colorado Springs MM), Gretchen Reinhardt (Tempe MM), Carlos Valentin III (Pima MM), Julie Fair (Fort Collins MM), Katherine Youngmeister (Santa Fe MM), Janet Mallory (Moab MM), Molly Wingate (Colorado Springs MM), Bill Yett (Montrose), Sara Keeney (Albuquerque MM), Claire Cafaro (Ft. Collins MM), Becky Schroeder (Tempe MM), Nancy Rice (Albuquerque MM), Eric Wright (Mountain View MM), Jan-Willem Jansens (Santa Fe MM), Nan Uhl (Durango MM), Lisa Motz-Storey (Mountain View MM)

Worship Sharing notes on Universal Design.

Universal Design is about creating physical space in a way that every person feels competent, valuable and able to participate fully. We held worship sharing around this proposed minute:

Friends seek to guide their activities and their organizations by principles that respect equality of every person and foster community for all through broad participation in the life of our Meetings. In the 2019 and future gatherings of Intermountain Yearly Meeting of Friends, we will seek to create an inclusive environment that encourages full participation of all in the life of our Yearly Meeting. We seek guidance and recommendations from those who have experience with various accessibility needs and experience with creating universally accessible built environments and programs.

We were asked to reflect based on our own experience and to inquire on who we are including and how we include them.

Being in a new place invites us to look at all we do together and to move beyond re-creating the past, seeking new ways in a joyful, lively manner.

On campus saw more trails and ways to enjoy the beauty.

I hope we will find ways to keep children and youth gathered with us, not separate. Can we seek ways to bring groups together in our programming and informally?

Time is a factor. I'm wondering why we are often in a hurry. It helps me to slow down and be with someone who may move or speak more slowly.

May each of us let our needs show, may we be open to anger, to listening, to facing challenges together.

Universal Design is not about including "them," but about creating opportunities for all to learn and grow. Colors brighten the world for all, ramps are useful for strollers and suitcases, tactile stations on a nature trail add richness for all.

Having good equipment is key. Is there enough sound, light, space, comfortable seating?

Secure quiet corners are important for all.

What tells children right away, "This is a wonderful place!" Swimming pool, swing set, community places to play. A family orientation tour would help me.

Slowing down to hike with a 90 year old brings more person to person contact—a gift to be separate from the external goal of destination. We look out for each other and connect.

The place of "not knowing" is a good place to be—where learning starts.

One year at Ft. Lewis when we were here before each child got a bag to carry for little items that people put in to remember the time together. This provided a sense that the community loves and values them.

I remember when SYF's made the challenging decision to de-gender the bathroom. It provided a sense of safety for everyone in the community.

Children need to hear five positives about themselves for every correction they are given. We can be aware of how boys and girls may unintentionally be treated differently. We can examine our biases toward quiet and order.

We have different levels of need for quiet and for activity.

How can we create our own communal spaces that will build a sense of our community? Can some areas be set aside?

Access is one piece. Another question is, how do we include? Are we sensitive to when people may be feeling uncomfortable? Pay as Led is an example of inclusive practice.

May we be tender and compassionate, and also honest about our limitations, our feelings of hurt. May we all be willing to speak up. We often are on a tender growing edge ourselves.

In what ways will we welcome and include those who can't come for whatever reason? Can we have a visiting ministry?

- **Arrangements Committee Report (Laura Peterson reviewed minutes)**

Rotation of responsibility for JYF will remain the same, with Arizona Half Yearly Meeting doing 4 years. Responsibility for CYM has shifted. Boulder/Ft Collins to continue through 2020. Mountainview and Colorado Springs will shadow in 2020 and take on responsibility in 2021.

- **Proposed Minute on Accessibility at Yearly Meeting (from Rosemary Blanchard)**

Discussion:

MINUTE APPROVED

"Universal design is the process of creating products and built environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation. Universal design benefits everyone and promotes a more inclusive environment for individuals with disabilities. ... Unfortunately, physical and attitudinal barriers limit the full involvement

of people with disabilities in their communities. Promoting a more inclusive environment helps to challenge an “ableist” world view by increasing recognition of disability as a diversity factor. ... Designing for universal access from the start prevents the need for more costly and often less pleasing adjustments." (<https://www.apa.org/pi/disability/resources/publications/newsletter/2013/11/inclusive-environment.aspx>)

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- **Nominating Committee Report (Gale Toko-Ross)**

APPROVED the following positions: web clerk, clerk of representatives committee, clerk of procedures committee, facilities liaison, coordinator of operations, QEW observer, interest group coordinator, clerk of delegates, and peace and service clerk.

It was noted that nominating committee does not have someone to move into the role of presiding clerk at the rise of 2019.

Nominating committee wonders, should the facilities working group clerk position be laid down? There were mixed opinions on this question, in part because of the possibility that the position might be needed after a move. It was agreed that the position will be put on hold for 2 years.

Nominating committee reported that there are vacancies for delegates to FCNL from CO and UT, and stated that AZ wonders if they can fill the vacancies temporarily. This was clarified to note that it is mostly a vacancy for UT. Gale Toko-Ross agreed to get clarity from Utah Friends on whether they would be comfortable with having Dave Wells from Arizona fill the position.

- **Treasurer/Finance Committee Report (Jerry Peterson and Vance Marshall)**

The Treasurer reported that the yearly meeting’s reserves are in good shape, and that the assessment is somewhat higher than is in fact needed to cover all costs. This will allow

the meeting to continue with a pay as led model for some time to come, with the ability to absorb potential losses.

Registration and the pay as led model were discussed. Talked about a need to clarify what people are paying in advance, making the late registration date clearer, and encouraging the use of credit card payment. Other suggestions included having someone designated to help registrants become oriented, having all attendees pay a registration fee up front, including a summary sheet in each packet of the person's activities, and combining waivers into one sheet.

A proposal was made to require a registration fee in order to assure that those who register are committed. It was decided that the committee is not ready to support this recommendation at this time as it does not strike Friends as in keeping with the spirit of the pay as led model.

REPORT ACCEPTED

- **Faith and Practice Report (Gretchen Reinhardt)**

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- **Peace and Social Concerns Report (Gretchen Reinhardt and Sara Keeney)**

It's been harder lately to have enough time for groups that we support to report to us at yearly meeting, so we have decided to have a separate plenary to address this issue. Links and resources available at imym.org

REPORT ACCEPTED

- **Mountain Friends Camp Report (Eric Wright)**

Camp is growing (this is its 10th year). Please pass on the word, we need more campers. It is time for a new evaluation of the camp's operating structure and procedures.

- **Minute on Migration-Based on Proposed Minute from Santa Fe MM and Durango MM**

— Friends approved recommending a minute based on these two minutes for consideration at our plenary sessions. Recording clerk, Sarah Tie, agreed to create one

minute bringing in some of the wording that Durango had added to the one written by Santa Fe:

Equality, community and integrity are foundations of Quaker belief. We also recognize that these testimonies are rooted in the Spirit of God. We affirm that there is that of God in every one and that the Holy Spirit calls us to treat the stranger, the foreigner, the immigrant with particular care and concern...”for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” Matt 25:35 (NRSV)

Therefore, as immigrants and refugees in our community encounter trials such as family separation, incarceration, internment and deportation, Intermountain Yearly Meeting is called to put these beliefs into action. We will support these neighbors in their daily lives, providing aid, companionship, friendship and safety in whatever ways we are able. We affirm the right of refugees from all types of violence to apply for asylum in this country, including those whose lives are threatened by gang violence, rape, and domestic violence and abuse. We affirm the right of those seeking asylum to be treated with respect, dignity, and due process during the application procedures. We call upon the government of the United States to honor its legal obligations under the Refugee Act of 1980 and the 1967 United Nations Protocol on Refugees to provide protection to those who qualify as refugees.

We recognize that our national immigration system is in dire need of attention, funding and fixing. We advocate for local, state and national policies that live up to our values, calling for meaningful, lasting immigration system reform.

- **Clerks report-responses to queries:**
 - **Pay as Led**
 - **Early Days**
 - **Intervisitation**

- **Harassment policy (maybe): Clerk Molly Wingate offered to contact Steven Finger, Allen Winchester and Paula Rhodes to see if they would help create a policy**

- **FGC Audit on Racism**

A deep sharing brought forth many thoughts but no plan to move forward.

Some of the messages included:

Who is not here?

Consider a forum to share pain

Allyship

Silence vs silenced

Study of whiteness

Tender and loving radical truth telling

People of color have tried everything they can and now they are depending on white people to work against racism.

Open and welcoming

- **Closing Worship**