

IMYM Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting Sessions

2019 Welcome Session – Wednesday, June 12

7-9 p.m.

Eric Wright and Tom Kowal led us in singing.

Presiding Clerk Molly Wingate greeted us, saying:

Greeting—I wish to acknowledge the custodians of this land, the Native People reaching back thousands of years and their Elders past and present. Europeans and missionaries enslaved many Indigenous people of this land and violently suppressed their spiritual practices. More recently, road construction and the Abiquiu reservoir destroyed some of their art, history and sacred places. Let us be aware. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region.

Source: <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/spirituality/welcome-to-country-acknowledgement-of-country#ixzz5I55hQxcd> mixed with a statement from the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee of the Boulder Meeting.

Welcome, so glad you are here to share the abundance of your gifts and joy. We 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.

Meetings, worship groups. Introduce us to each other. Please rise as your meeting or worship group is called out.

Meeting list:

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

Utah Friends Fellowship: Moab, Logan, Salt Lake City

Colorado Regional: Boulder, Mountain View, Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, Montrose Monthly Meeting

New Mexico Regional: Socorro Worship Group, Santa Fe, Quaker House Santa Fe Monthly Meeting, Las Cruces, Gila, El Paso, TX, Durango, CO, Gallup Worship Group, Clearlight Worship Group (Taos), Albuquerque, Las Vegas.

How far have folks come? Please stand when appropriate.

Miles traveled: More than 1,500 miles, 1,000, 500, 250, or 100.

Years at IMYM: More than 30, 25, 20, 15, 10, 5, 2-5, FIRST TIMERS!!

We warmly welcome all.

Visitor's list—gifts from afar

Bridget Moix– from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Washington Monthly Meeting, our keynoter and resource person for the week. Her topic tomorrow morning is “Faith, Fear and our Future”.

Mary Klein, editor of *Western Friend* from Palo Alto Meeting

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Enrique Esqueda of the Mexico City Friends Meeting of Mexico City, our Heberto Sein visitor

Pati Constantino, also from Mexico City

From Friends General Conference (FGC): Faith Josephs is a member of Charlotte Friends Meeting of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. She serves as the Associate Secretary of Development for FGC and has worked for FGC since January 2019.

FROM Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Mary Comfort Ferrell accompanies Friends in thinking about how they might let their lives speak for future generations at FCNL. She is FCNL's Planned Giving Director and a story teller.

Shelly Tannenbaum – Quaker Earthcare Witness

Windy Cooler and Erik Hansen – From Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Earlham School of Religion

Vanessa Muldanado – Bolivia Quaker Education Fund

Gabriela Flora – American Friends Service Committee, Denver

Miquel Costop-Balam from Guatemala, the Progreso Project

Visiting we have:

Jane and Joe Snyder -- Northern Pacific Yearly Meeting (NPYM)

Robert and Carol Chatfield – NPYM

Donna Smith from Pacific Yearly Meeting

Meg Myer and Arthur Boyd – Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Dave Fabik and Jane Ewert – NPYM

Dolores and David Avner – Sojourning for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

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 Thronweber

Arrangements Clerk -- Laura Peterson

Operations -- Leslie Stephens

Program Working Group Clerks -- DeAnne Butterfield and John Huyler

Registrars -- Marc Gacy and Dido Clark

Volunteer Coordinator -- Susan Dahl

Interest Group Coordinator -- Nancy Dolphin

Worship Sharing Coordinator -- Kay Bordwell

Delegates Committee Clerk -- Sara Keeney

Finance Committee Clerk -- Vance Marshall

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Treasurer -- Jerry Peterson

Youth Working Group Clerks -- Eric "Swanee" Swanson and Cindy Yurth

Please stand if you have accepted a nominated position for IMYM. We have around 120 nominated positions that do the work of the yearly meeting. Stay standing.

Please stand if you are your meeting's representative to IMYM or are volunteering once you arrived at Ghost Ranch.

If you don't have volunteer job and want one, please see Susan Dahl. Susan Dahl is the volunteer coordinator.

Those who have labored for us but could not make it because of health and accidents, let's hold them in the light: Vickey and Steve Finger, Richard and Gail Grossman, and Bill and Genie Durland.

Greg Rvosos, interim director of Ghost Ranch, welcomed all. He said he's sad that IMYM will not return next year to Ghost Ranch, but said he hoped all would feel welcome this year. He said he is pleased to hear good things about the staff, since the intent of the staff is to practice "radical hospitality."

State of Society – Presiding Clerk Molly Wingate summed up the state of the Social of Friends within IMYM, relying on annual reports from the monthly meetings to form this portrait:

We are optimistic, we support each other, we are active, we have been at odds with each other, we work to identify and meet our struggles, and we are pretty tired. That, I think, is the state of Intermountain Yearly Meeting.

More than the past two years, I read about strife in monthly meetings. Meetings have had sudden changes in service positions, Friends abruptly leaving meetings, difficulties with long standing relationships, as well as disagreements within meetings. And Friends have struggled to be loving in disagreement.

This is hard, tiring work.

In state of the meeting reports, I read often about how Friends are facing white privilege and racism within their meetings. Meetings work to make their premises accessible and welcoming, building ramps and ridding rooms of chemicals. Most meetings, even those that have laid down their Peace and Social Concerns committees, are engaged in sanctuary work and providing support for homeless people in their cities and towns. Meetings have supported individual Friends' leadings that speak to women's rights, gun violence, Native American rights and more. Several meetings regularly participate in their communities' local interfaith groups.

Despite being tired and a bit at odds, we remain active.

We continue to expand and share our understanding of Quakerism today and in the past through our Quaker 101 groups, adult education, and children's programming. We grow our communities with worship sharing, potlucks and house meetings. Small meetings with far flung members cherish opportunities to worship together and warmly welcome visitors. Many of us come together and to share our lives.

We support each other's growth in the Spirit.

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This year we welcome two new monthly meetings as part of Intermountain Yearly Meeting; both were nurtured as worship groups and preparatory meetings under the care of other meetings. What a terrific success for Friends. Several IMYM Friends have had articles and poems published in Quaker journals, sharing their Light. A few meetings have growing children's programs, and we have a dedicated group working to create a terrific Youth Program for next year's annual gathering.

We look eagerly to the future; we are optimistic.

And even as our Yearly Meeting has not found a clerk as my term ends, I remain optimistic. It is the nature of faith, I think. To be the presiding clerk has meant that I have learned a great deal, my connection to the Divine is richer and palpable. And you all have surrounded me in Light, love and support. I had no idea how personally and spiritually enriching this service would be. Thank you.

As we seek the Light while we do our work, engage in our activities, and provide mutual support, our optimism will grow. Let this time together renew us and show us the way.

Schedule preview:

- Keynote address will be Thursday morning
- Thursday evening: Panel of Quaker Organizations will have a chance to speak to our theme and their work.
- This year, we have lost 14 members for which we have memorial minutes. We will hold a meeting for worship to hear abbreviated minutes on Friday evening at 6:30 in the chapel. If you are reading a minute, please be at the chapel by 6:15.
- Please refer to the schedule for events and locations. The interest groups locations are published 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.

The current agenda for plenary business meetings is posted at registration, the dining hall, Ghost House, and the dining room. We have work before us and I urge you to prepare for it. The documents in advance are available at registration and online at imym.org.

Be helpful to newcomers.

- The Contra Band is back. We will have contra and folk dancing here on Friday evening starting at 7. All generations are welcome!
- Read Documents in Advance—very helpful and really interesting to learn what are representatives and delegates have been doing on our behalf: Budget, Nominating, Mountain Friends Camp, etc.

Announcements—

- Introduction of Susan Wiley, kitchen liaison. If you have compliments for the kitchen staff, give them to the kitchen staff. If you have complaints or comments, give them to Susan.
- Our Ombudsman for Persons of Differing Abilities is Rosemary Blanchard
- The bookstore is open

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- Other announcements – Ghost Ranch does not have a nurse on staff. Instead, IMYM people with medical training (doctors, nurses or paramedics) will see people with medical issues every day 1-2 p.m. in the dining hall.
- Ariel Dillon announced that the Arts Building is open and ready for folks to come explore the arts.

Closing worship

Keynote Address - Thursday, June 13 – Bridget Moix on Faith, Fear, and Our Future

10:00 – 11:45 AM

John Huyler and Deanne Butterfield, co-clerks of the Program Working Group, introduced Bridget Moix, now clerk of general committee of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). Bridget currently heads the US office of Peace Direct, an international organization that works with local people to stop violent conflict and build lasting peace. Bridget was raised in a Catholic household of four girls. She became involved with Quakers as an intern with FCNL.

The following account is taken from Bridget's notes that she typed after her talk.

Thank you to IMYM for the invitation and for such a warm welcome.

On behalf of FCNL, thank you to everyone who supports our witness in Washington and is part of Quaker lobbying around the country. Thanks to all those who have left a gift to FCNL in their will. FCNL's 75th anniversary was last year.

Thank you for all the work you do as peacebuilders in your own communities. Peace Direct works with local people to stop violent conflict and build lasting peace. As the mother of two Mexican-American boys, I can't tell you how important your work is to me personally.

Faith, Fear, and Our Future – what a topic!

What I'd like to do is share some stories and lessons from peacebuilders around the world and people I've had the privilege to work with and who have taught me so much. I also want us to share stories with each other.

The background to this talk is my own doubts and fears about whether peace is really possible. I obtained a doctorate trying to learn what those who live on the frontlines of violent conflict and still choose peace can teach us. Would I really be able to do the same?

I have five key lessons of what I've learned.

1. To bring Light into this world, we must first face the darkness.
Just as George Fox saw a vision of an ocean of darkness and an ocean of Light, Quakers and local peacebuilders around the world know they must face the darkness, must even wade into it.

We are Truthseekers. And the world needs Truthseekers right now.

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I know of Syrians who chose to remain with their communities in all their darkness and all their light rather than depart to another country. In my hometown of Dayton, Ohio, the Ku Klux Klan had a rally. But Dayton residents pushed back, quietly outnumbering the KKK.

Pause to reflect on the darkness.

2. Courage is a group process
Peace is a group effort.

We are really good at idealizing the individual hero with courage, but in fact courage comes through other people to us and from us to others. It is a group process.

Fear isolates, but faith gathers us together. She told of a Pakistani woman, Gulalai Ismail, who inspired groups to form to support peace. Members of those groups gave each other courage.

Pause to talk with neighbor: What and who gives you courage?

3. Peacebuilding requires head, hands, and heart
This is an insight of Dishani Jayaweera, who lives in Sri Lanka.
She was one of the founders of the Center for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation there that came under attack on Easter. Dishani was tired. But her community called her back.

Quakers are very good at head, hands, heart. We also know that small can be beautiful.

We are only called to do our part. My mom had a sticker that read: I know God will only ask me to do as much as I can handle; I just wish s/he didn't trust me so much.

4. We are called to live in in the world of now but not yet
This lesson came from Joe Volk of FCNL.

We are called to live in the world in which we find ourselves, with all its darkness and light and to live as if the world we seek is already here.

"Walking cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone", George Fox wrote.

When we live as if the world we seek already exists, we actually help bring it into being.

Local peacebuilders know this; they are joyful, hopeful people.

Pause to talk with neighbor: How do you live in the world of now but not yet?

5. We are the ocean of light. We are all peacebuilders.
The future can look very scary: global warming, climate change, endless war, displacement, Washington policies, growing authoritarianism around the globe. . .

We may try to look for the Light outside of ourselves. But we/you are the Light. We are part of the ocean and the ocean is rising.

We never fail to find people working for peace in the midst of violence. In the U.S., peace mapping has found more than 200 places.

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We are part of something bigger than ourselves. Remember Elise Boulding's 200-year present. The Boulder woman said that looking into the past of our grandparents and to the future of our grandchildren's children easily can encompass 200 years.

Ordinary people are doing extraordinary things. Just look around.

Before I close, I'd like to issue a call for action.

Young people, it seems, do not feel empowered to work on issues of war and peace.

The world needs Friends now.

- Our faith that sees God in all
- Our relentless hope in the face of darkness
- Our prophetic pragmatism, practical actions to change the world
- Our persistent truth seeking.

Please:

- 1) Keep doing what you are doing.
- 2) Follow your call
- 3) Stay in touch with whatever inspires and nurtures you. This is the long haul.

Plenary Business Meeting - Thursday, June 13

2:15 – 4:15 p.m.

1. Worship
2. Epistle read by Watching Committee – Ireland Yearly Meeting 2018 Epistle (read by Charlotte Miller, Mountain View Friends Meeting)
3. Housekeeping comments about speaking and announcements
4. Review Agenda and request for additions
5. **We approved this minute:**
MINUTE 20190613(a): We approved with joy requests from Quaker House Santa Fe and Montrose (Colorado) Meeting requesting affiliation in IMYM.
 - a. Quaker House Santa Fe began as Southside Worship Group and Montrose Meeting as Three Valleys Worship Group.
6. Consent Agenda:
 - a. **We approved the consent agenda that included these reports:**
 - **Procedures Committee**
 - **Faith & Practice**
 - **Program Working Group**
 - **Arrangements Committee**
 - **Mountain Friends Camp**

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- **Peace and Social Concerns**

The reports are in Documents in Advance.

7. Finance Committee: Jerry Peterson, treasurer; Vance Marshall, clerk of Finance Committee
 - a. Report on Documents in Advance and recent meeting report

For the year ending September 30, 2018, IMYM had a \$20,000 surplus; for the year ending September 30, 2017, a \$16,198 surplus; and for the year ending September 30, 2016, a \$17,265 surplus. Including donations from individuals and Meetings toward pay-as-led support, the 2018 Annual Meeting had an operating loss of \$1,662. In the first year of “pay as led” last year, IMYM seemed to have broken even.
 - b. FY 2020 Budget brought forward for discernment
 - Assessments should be left at \$64/per adult member due to uncertainty about expenses with the move to Fort Lewis College in Durango.
 - IMYM will incur some additional expenses with the move to Fort Lewis. For example, Fort Lewis College has no college staff to help with the children’s programs. IMYM could have \$3,000 in transitional costs and \$6,500 more for expenses of the children’s program.
 - A new line item in the budget for \$3,000 is for an Inter-visitation program among IMYM, an idea of Molly Wingate’s.
 - The budget also has \$1,000 for the FWCC Section of the Americas, a matter of survival for the organization.
 - The budget proposes using \$9,490 in reserves.
 - **We accepted the Finance Committee report.**
 - **We approved the FY 2020 Budget.**
 - **We approved this minute:**

MINUTE 20190613(b): IMYM will create a new line item, the purpose of which is to encourage intra-visitation among Meetings and worship groups within IMYM. The presiding clerk will approve proposals from monthly meetings and Friends, which should have mutual support from Meetings and visitors. In two years, this mechanism shall be revisited for any revisions and direction.
8. Gale Toko-Ross announced that the Nominating Committee has found a recording clerk and a presiding co-clerks for the next few years.
9. Arrangement Committee: Laura Peterson invited all to a slide show on Saturday about Fort Lewis College. Also discussed will be a description of how the planning and executing of the move to Fort Lewis College is going. Laura asked that those with concerns about the transition to bring their concerns to her.
10. All are invited to the Practices of Quaker Organizations event at 7 p.m.
11. Closed with worship.

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Plenary Business Meeting - Friday, June 14

10:00-11:45 a.m.

1. Worship
2. Epistle read by Watching Committee – Great Plains Yearly Meeting in Harmony, OK, the 125th meeting
3. Housekeeping comments about speaking and announcements
4. Nominating Committee - Gale Toko-Ross

Gale spoke of the difficulties in filling positions. The committee is trying to avoid same-group mentality; considering the need to draw in new people; and fostering knowledge, skills, and habits of mind. Not all vacant positions have been filled, partly because those who have often served are aging or because people have already accepted a number of positions. The intra-visitation effort may draw in others to serve. The Nominating Committee asks that people do not reject out of hand the opportunity to serve the next time they are asked. At the very least, they should talk to those who currently serve in a position for which Nominating Committee is considering them. Also, people should let Nominating Committee know if they are aware of good candidates for certain positions.

We accepted the report of the Nominating Committee.

The nominees are:

- Presiding Clerk – Valerie Ireland and Gale Toko-Ross, Boulder, until rise of IMYM 2022
- Recording Clerk - David Nachman, Tempe, until rise of IMYM 2021
- Web Clerk – Karli Wheeler, Santa Fe, rise of 2022
- Communication Assistant – Laura Peterson, Mountain View, rise of 2022
- Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Barb Stephens, Colorado Regional Meeting (Boulder), until rise of 2022
- Ministry & Counsel representatives – Ted Bordwell, Arizona Half Yearly Meeting (Flagstaff), rise 2021; Tracy Davis, New Mexico Regional Meeting (Durango), rise 2022; Patrick Esterling, Utah (Logan), rise 2021
- Archivist – Vona Van Cleef, El Paso, NM, rise 2022
- Representatives Committee Clerk – Lisa Motz-Storey, Mountain View, rise 2022
- Arizona Half Yearly Representative – Kay Bordwell, Flagstaff, until 12/2022
- Operations Co-Clerks – Leslie Stephens, Boulder, and Jonathan MacPhee, Colorado Springs, until 2022
- Registrars – Need one or two to shadow Marc Gacy and Dido Clark to learn the job in 2020
- Children’s Yearly Meeting – Someone from Fort Collins or Colorado Springs meetings needs to shadow Julie Fair and Joseph Linton in 2020
- Program Working Group, Young Adult Representative –Travis Etling, Durango, rise 2022
- Finance Committee – Eric Wright of Mountain View, Colorado Regional Meeting representative, rise 2022
- Delegates Committee Clerk – Sara Keeney, Albuquerque, until 2022
- Friends Committee on National Legislation – Connie Crawford and Tom Vaughan, New Mexico Yearly Meeting representatives, through 11/2022. Damon Motz-Storey of Mountain

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View serves through 11/2020 as Colorado Regional Meeting representative. The nominating committee of Colorado Regional Meeting had nominated Kiarra Osakue of Mountain View, thinking Damon's term was up. Kiarra will begin serving after Damon's term ends.

- Quaker Earthcare Witness – Richard Grossman, Durango, and Diane D'Angelo, Mountain View, until 2022

The Nominating Committee needs representation from each of the monthly meetings. The current membership of three to four people is not broad enough to do Nominating Committee work well.

We approved the Nominating Committee nominees.

5. Representatives Committee Items for Discernment – Penny Thron-Weber

Penny previewed the items Representatives Committee is bringing before the Meeting:

- Universal Design
- U.S. Immigration Policy
- Climate Change

We accepted the Representatives Committee report.

a. Minute on Immigration

During discussion about the minute before approving it, the following comments were made, with a few changes made to the wording first brought to the Meeting for Business:

- We should consider the minute a call to action.
- The minute should include Immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE) as well as the Border Patrol. Under Homeland Security, ICE is responsible for internal enforcement. ICE runs the ports of entry while the Border Patrol has authority within 100 miles of the ports of entry, an area the American Civil Liberties Union calls the "Constitution-free zone".
- We are called by where we live to confront and hold accountable our government's actions at the border.
- Pima Monthly Meeting, only 60 miles from the border, has created a Migrant Action Committee within the Meeting to fund getting migrants out of jail. Pima Monthly Meeting would like to advertise the existence of the fund throughout the country so that others can contribute to it. It's not unusual to need \$10,000 to get some migrants from jail.
- Let's adopt this, but let's go further. No one wants to see those children in cages.

We approved this minute:

MINUTE 20190614(a): 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.

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We affirm the right of refugees from all types of violence to apply for asylum in this country, including those whose lives were threatened by rape, domestic violence and abuse. We affirm the right of those seeking asylum to be treated with respect, dignity, and due process in a timely fashion during the application procedures. We each take the responsibility to educate ourselves to rely on standard documented information by respected reliable sources. 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, which includes an increase in the number of people allowed in legally. We ask that the Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement be held responsible and accountable through congressional action and oversight to follow International and U.S. Law(s). We call for a process that is humane and respects the dignity of all persons applying for legal entry or asylum, including women, LGBTQ people and people of color, and those fleeing places that don't honor the standards of life, liberty and the security of person as stated in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (1948).

b. Minute on Universal Design

Universal design is described as "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/inclusiveenvironment.aspx>

We approved this minute:

MINUTE 20190614(b): 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.

c. Minute Regarding Climate Change

Several comments were made about the minute as presented. We tabled action on the minute until those wanting to make more changes meet and bring them back to Meeting for Business Friday afternoon.

Comments concerned:

- Some of the language could be considered condemnatory.

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- Part of the minute could be used by others as an anti-immigrant statement.
 - The minute has two purposes: to serve IMYM and the broader world.
 - Properly managed lands can decrease carbon in the atmosphere; perhaps the minute could suggest that people try to eat lower on the food chain.
 - Until we make peace with the earth, we cannot make peace with each other.
6. Announcements
 - a. The reading of the Memorial Meetings will take place in the chapel; those planning to read a memorial minute should arrive by 6:15 p.m.
 7. *Western Friend* – Mary Klein

Mary Klein, editor, said *Western Friend* is doing well financially now, having 6 months of operating expense in the bank. *Western Friend* finally has the financial resources to pay her a living wage. New initiatives include online community pages, and an online bookstore selling Faith and Practices. She is starting an online current news page too about Quaker happenings throughout the western United States. She is open to any other ideas, and knows there is much creativity among the readership.

We accepted the report from Western Friend with gratitude.

We closed with worship.

Plenary Business Meeting - Friday, June 14

2:15-3:30 p.m.

1. Worship
2. Australia Yearly Meeting 2018 Epistle – read by Charlotte Miller of Watching Committee
3. Housekeeping comments about speaking and announcements
4. First Reading of the IMYM Epistle from the Watching Committee – Peter Anderson

The following comments were offered:

 - It would be good to record that many conversations in Spanish are taking place.
 - We should acknowledge the indigenous people on whose land we meet.
 - The epistle should include not only the immigration minute, but also about what we've been doing on the issue in communities close to the border.
 - The epistle may borrow some of the language in Peace and Social Concerns Committee report included in the 2019 Additional Reports.
 - The epistle could include the Delegates Committee event Thursday night, in which representatives from seven Quaker organizations came together to share what they're doing with others. Other Meetings could take inspiration from it.
 - A hungering to reach out to others along the border seems to be present at IMYM. People who are so moved are invited to do so.
5. Proposal from Youth Working Group regarding schedule at Fort Lewis College – Eric Swanson, co-clerk

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Fort Lewis College has no college staff, unlike Ghost Ranch, meaning we will need to cover the children's program ourselves. We will still have early and regular days. All three age groups have agreed where they will be located. The college has an indoor pool and a lake. The area has a number of resources, such as rivers, trails, and museums. Information on those resources will be distributed to the group leaders to use as they see fit. Infant care will continue to be offered for a half day at Fort Lewis College. Children have been involved in planning their program, partly through conversations with Eric about locations for the various age groups.. About 30 percent of the student population at Fort Lewis College is Native American, which offers another teaching opportunity.
We accepted this report.

6. Junior Young Friends Minute (JYF) regarding a request for space at Fort Lewis College starting in 2020:

We approved this minute:

MINUTE 20190614(c): The JYFs would like to ask for the Escalante Lounge for our hangout space and Centennial for the cantina. We would like to ask for Centennial specifically for the cantina since the cantina has always been part of the JYF experience, and we would like to continue that. Rose Feitler and Sophia Dickerson signed the minute.

7. Report from Mountain Friends Camp – Ana Ebi, helper, and campers
Campers mentioned some of their favorite things about the camp, such as “spork”, a combination of work and sports, and field trips.

Mountain Friends Camp began 11 years ago, and has been at several places. It will again be on Collins Ranch outside Mora, NM, for the third consecutive year. The biggest expense is staff, and expenses have exceeded revenues. One mother of a Mountain Friends Camp camper said her oldest son is 15, and the family has been going to Mountain Friends Camp for eight years. The camp is very special to her and to the children who attend. She said way needs to open in raising funds and recruiting board members, camp counselors, and helpers. Mountain Friends Camp is a great beneficiary of IMYM. She is excited about the coming camp, but also tired and concerned about the camp's future.

We accepted this report from Mountain Friends Camp.

8. Traveling minutes

Clerk Molly Wingate acknowledged Friends traveling in a ministry who attended IMYM this year:

- Meg Myer and Arthur Boyd – Baltimore Yearly Meeting
- Dave Fabik and Jane Ewert – North Pacific Yearly Meeting (NPYM)
- Dolores and David Avner – Sojourning for Lake Erie Yearly Meeting

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9. Revised minute about climate change

We approved this revised minute:

MINUTE 20190614(d):

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”

Ancient Haudenosaunee Philosophy

From the Great Law of the Haudenosaunee, founding document of the Iroquois Confederacy

“It would go a long way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing the Creation of it. For how could [they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the face, in all and every part of it?”

William Penn, 1693

“The produce of the Earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.”

John Woolman, 1772

“The environmental crisis is at root a spiritual and religious crisis; we are called to look again at the real purpose of being on this earth.”

London Yearly Meeting, 1988

We have gathered for a week to consider “Faith, Fear, and Our Future,” acknowledging that we are now living during a time of climate crisis. We come to this moment grounded in the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends. The testimonies of community, equality, stewardship, and integrity call us forward in our work. We recognize that peace is increasingly linked to climate justice, both globally and locally.

Care for Earth, for all of creation, is a core spiritual value and a practical necessity. Until we make peace with Earth, we cannot make peace with each other.

We unite with those who are already experiencing the stresses of this crisis, displaced by: rising seas, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, drought, fires, lower agricultural production, famine, and the threats to human health posed by increasingly warm temperatures and variable weather patterns. These changes can lead to adverse health consequences, scarcity,

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and conflict, as well as mass migration. Migration pressures, in particular, link emerging climate refugees to a web of increasingly strained and stressful social and governmental structures that exacerbate economic inequality and undermine racial and environmental justice.

We know that there is much about these times that can cause us to feel fearful, angry, and helpless. We seek to be gentle with ourselves and one another, to take time for our feelings, seek ways to release our own stress, as we continue the work. At the same time, our integrity insists that we acknowledge our part in causing the current crisis, and accept our responsibility to act.

From a global perspective, Americans have used, and continue to use, a disproportionately large share of fossil fuel resources, while those who are most vulnerable to climate disruptions overwhelmingly bear the negative impacts. Although we are clear that speed is not our only priority, we need to face the reality that there are real tipping points, and our national failures to act are decisions with as much impact as other action choices we can make.

With this awareness, we ask ourselves what more we could do, and together we have settled on the following:

- We continue to seek the Light through worship and prayerful consideration. We shall be led by the Spirit as we confront the realities of climate change.
- We seek to understand our role as humans, and the dangers unfolding through climate change. We continue to educate ourselves rigorously on these matters.
- We commit to learning about and engaging in collective action and advocacy at the local, state, national, and global levels.
- Compelled by deep concern for the care of our life-giving planet and the irreversible effects of current climate disruption for generations, we support with our voices and our witness legislation such as H.R. 763, the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, looking to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and other organizations for guidance.
- We support legislative initiatives designed to lead to equitable and effective carbon emission reductions and/or safe carbon sequestration.
- We commit to act on our responsibility, both in our personal use of resources and in the management of our meetinghouse resources. We ask: How can we have greater integrity in these matters?
 - Perhaps by tracking or reducing first our personal, and then our communal carbon emissions through conservation, load-shifting, recycling, composting, considering the carbon impact of what we eat and without food waste, and use of low-carbon methods of personal transportation.
 - Perhaps by divestment from fossil fuels as individuals or communities.
- We commit to support and practice regenerative agriculture to safely sequester carbon.
- We support policies and practices intended to preserve as much biodiversity as possible to reduce species extinction.

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- We understand that global support for the education of women (which in turn is strongly correlated to lower birth rates) and support for reproductive health are among the top five individual climate action tools identified by [Project Drawdown](#), since having one fewer child (anywhere in the world) decreases a life-time of carbon emissions.
- Friends might consider a population-focused carbon-offset approach, like that of “Quaker Popoffsets,” as described by Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) at <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/quaker-popoffsets>: “Quaker PopOffsets is a program that gives people a means of offsetting their carbon emissions by helping them fund voluntary family planning for people who might otherwise not be able to access it.”
- We seek to create examples and patterns, carrying this message forward to other Friends’ communities and to others who carry concern and love for the earth.

We closed with worship.

Plenary Business Meeting - Saturday, June 15, 2019

10-11:45 a.m.

1. Worship
2. Epistle read by Susan Wiley of Watching Committee – Amigos de Mexico
3. Housekeeping comments about speaking and announcements
4. Accept the Epistles from IMYM:
 - a. Adults – Peter Anderson
We accepted this IMYM adult epistle. It incorporates suggestions made earlier.

Epistle to all Friends

From Intermountain Yearly Meeting

Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico, USA

June 9-16, 2019

To Friends Everywhere:

Greetings from host Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, where we are gathered for Intermountain Yearly Meeting. We begin by acknowledging, with humility and respect, those who have inhabited this land: many generations of Pueblo peoples and their ancestors; Ute, Comanche, Apache, and Dine people who came here to hunt and trade; families with roots in Spain whose villages and towns offer us hospitality as we pass through.

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The theme of this year's gathering is "Faith, Fear, and our Future." How do we sustain love, faith and hope in our connections to God and to one another in these uncertain and turbulent times? What does our faith teach us about overcoming fear? As we walk with these queries, we realize there are no easy answers. We also know this: what stirs in the depths of our hearts offers us guidance as we discern the way forward.

Our faith grows out of deep listening. In silence, we try to listen for the "still, small voice" of the Spirit. We try and listen to the words left to us by the fellowship of Friends who have come before us. We try and listen to one another as if we are hearing one another for the first or last time, as if any of the words we receive may carry glimmers of the Light. Our kind of faith requires practice; it is a verb, not a noun.

Often, the most poignant and powerful moments we experience together happen in worship sharing. This year, as always, our group leaders set the tone and offered us safe spaces, even brave spaces, where circles of Friends shared moments of vulnerability, connection, and discovery. We considered the sources of our hope and faith and found out that they are large and small, obvious and subtle. We are renewed in the space and beauty we find here at Ghost Ranch and elsewhere. We glean hope from the children riding their tiny bikes down to Lower Pavilion for opening night ceremonies. We are inspired by the great work being done by Quaker leaders such as Bridget Moix, our plenary speaker this year. We find grace in moments of laughter with our elders. Creative opportunities for artists and writers remind us that we are participants in an ongoing Creation. Conversations in both English and Spanish affirm the value of diversity.

As we renew and restore one another, we find new strength for the hard work of sustaining our meetings and taking our faith out into the streets of our towns and cities. Moving out from the source of our faith, we tend first to the sanctuary that our meetings provide. Peacemaking is a group effort as our plenary speaker reminded us, so we do what we can to keep our meetings strong. Any number of factors—aging memberships, personal conflicts, the difficulties of offering a welcoming space to those of different backgrounds, ethnicities, and abilities—challenge us in this work. Nevertheless, we find solace, if not faith, in knowing that Friends have been creating and sustaining meetings for a long time. This year, with the intention of sustaining and enhancing the vitality of our communities, we have set aside funds to support Friends as they feel led to visit and share in the fellowship of one another's meetings. We are also pleased to welcome two new meetings to our yearly gathering: Montrose (Colorado) Friends Meeting and Quaker House Meeting in Santa Fe. Still, we realize that many of our meetings are fragile and will continue to demand much of us in the way of attentive love and tenderness.

As we maintain and sustain ourselves and our meetings, we continue to do the work of truth-seeking and peacemaking. In the past year, we have seen our monthly meetings manifest that work in many ways, including our continued participation in the coalition of faith communities offering sanctuary to immigrants. Meetings near the border have been especially active in word and deed: accompanying families threatened with separation under harsh detention and deportation policies; assisting destitute migrants who are dumped by Border Patrol into the streets of towns where they have never lived; gathering and delivering donations to help immigrants in need. We are grateful for support from others who are concerned about this expanding humanitarian crisis. We will continue to

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shine a light on the harmful policies and procedures causing the deaths of so many migrants trying to cross southwestern deserts.

As our meetings carry on this work, we realize, as Bridget Moix suggested, that there is a “now” and a “not yet” dimension to seeking justice: “now” because we can make decisions every day that support our vision of a world more hospitable to truth and peace; “not yet” because this work takes time, lots of time, and we may not get to see the results. We were reminded of this again during an enlightening evening of presentations from various Quaker organizations. As one Friend put it, an exceptional community plants trees under whose shade they may never sit.

Though our gestures may seem small in the face of massive challenges such as working to mitigate climate change, our minutes remind us of the work at hand. One minute that we approved this year acknowledges the link between peace and climate justice, and asks us to understand our role in the crisis, to accept responsibility, and to act accordingly. Another minute affirms the rights of refugees from all sorts of violence to seek asylum in this country and calls on Friends to support our immigrant neighbors—providing aid, friendship, and safety—as we are able. We realize that resolution of some issues will take time and vigilance, but we believe that the long road ahead will “bend toward justice.”

Our yearly meeting is preparing for a move to Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and saying goodbye to Ghost Ranch, one of the places that has offered us solace and sanctuary and nourished our yearly meeting over the years. Some Friends remind us that it is not the place but the people that make a yearly meeting. Others speak to the depths of stillness and the beauty that we have enjoyed here. Some Friends focus on looking forward while others savor precious memories of their long-ago-little children playing in the shade of the grand old cottonwoods here. Moving challenges us in different ways, but we walk in the faith that the Light we have carried to and from Ghost Ranch, is the same Light we will bring to our new gathering place in southwestern Colorado. In stillness we find a Holy Presence that will always help us find the way home,

Firm in our Faith

With Hope, Con Esperanza,

And in Friendship,

Molly Wingate, Clerk

and the Friends of Intermountain Yearly Meeting

- b. SYF – Under discernment
- c. JYF Reflections on Being at Ghost Ranch and Going to Fort Lewis College in Durango (Note: This is not an epistle, and is not intended to be shared outside IMYM.)

Read by Sam Prewitt, JYF co-clerk

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Something I will take away from Ghost Ranch is all the fun memories that I made here with friends. I am bringing memories with me and hanging onto them. I am leaving bad memories behind. I take away the knowledge that we are a community that is not dependent on a physical location, and that brings me joy and strength.

I am taking with me the ability to make felt creatures and to crochet. I take home crochet and new friends. I leave behind no wifi. I'm taking a creative mind filled with a need to make new. I take new friends, new hearts. It makes me so happy to connect with individual JYFs as people. I see them and they see me. I am leaving behind a sad cold heart, and breathing, the community and Ghost Ranch staff.

Some individual thoughts about the JYF time at Ghost Ranch this year:

- We talked about what overwhelms us – like being in a crowded room, or too many instructions or loud noises, and how we deal with it.
- I liked having freedom . . . almost. I hated the BUGS.
- I liked the community decision making on Fort Lewis College, and the creativity shown with sewing projects. I don't like loud talking over each other.
- I like the cantina. I hate moving to Fort Lewis.
- I like hanging out with friends and making things. I don't like that there was not much vegetarian food that I like. I don't like lots of quiet non-action things.
- Hiking to Kitchen Mesa was good. It was bad to get too hot.
- I liked the fun experience of sewing my creature.
- I took away the skills of crocheting necklaces and bracelets, the skill of economic persuasion and the cantina. I take away new friends.
- The group talked about fear and anger and courage. I liked that. I hated too-loud yelling.
- I like people being more confident. I didn't like the long long, long walk.
- Friends are important. They help. I don't like that we are moving away because I love Ghost Ranch.
- We learned about Elise Boulding's concept of the 200-year present. Noticing our 11-year-old quilt brings this alive, too, for me. I don't want people disrespecting others with their choices of when to talk and play that keeps others from sharing effectively.
- Everyone here is an artist or becoming one.
- What feels important to me is that some things like evening activities are optional and not required. I didn't like lots of socializing and staying still for a long session.
- I like the reunion of friends. I dislike chaos in free time or in between activities.
- People seem to enjoy using the felt to make creatures.
- I really enjoy and appreciate how welcoming everyone in the community has been. I wish there were more opportunities for SYF members and JYF members to interact.
- I like that we talked about our fears – we shared them. I liked learning ways we each have overcome or outgrown a fear.
- I like the cantina. I don't like being tired.
- I learned how to crochet and hope to learn double crochet. Thank you, Lisa Grenier!
- We are not the oldest and we are not the youngest, but we are still running the cantina.

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2019 JYF Officers:

- Sophia Dickerson, recording clerk
- Sam Prewett, co-clerk
- Rose Feitler, co-clerk

We accepted the JYF reflections.

d. CYM Epistle

Children's Yearly Meeting attenders took turns telling Meeting for Business their favorite things about IMYM: swimming, hiking, scavenger hunt with JYF, going to the lake and finding creatures in the water, water and sand, and art and writing. They thanked all those who made those projects possible. They learned about peace, and that is a kind of peace. Learning to talk to people who bother them or are mean, and talking to adults if needed. They said they will miss Ghost Ranch, and are looking forward to CYM at Fort Lewis College.

We accepted the CYM epistle.

5. Penny Thron-Weber announced that during IMYM, Kris Loudon of Mountain View Friends Meeting died suddenly from a stroke. Kris, who attended IMYM several years ago, didn't speak much in Meeting, but she did not long before she died. She told a story about being asked to take a look at a bird that had flown into the window of a friend. The friend had tried to revive the bird with bird seed, thinking it was a robin. It was a hawk. Kris fed it some hamburger meat. After the hawk revived, it flew out of her hand.
6. **We approved minutes of gratitude to Ghost Ranch and staff, to outgoing clerk Molly Wingate and recording clerk Gail Hoffman, to all others whose terms are ending, and to all those who have accepted new positions with IMYM.**

7. Registrars' Report – Marc Gacy

This year marks the last year of a long run of IMYM Gatherings at Ghost Ranch. As is usual for each year some things changed and some remained the same. This year, one of the biggest challenges was the reduction in housing due to some structural issues with the upper mesa rustic housing. The uncertainty lasted until we were on the ground at Ghost Ranch and we had to make some accommodations. The situation however was handled with grace from both the IMYM attendees and Ghost Ranch staff. In this and other interactions, we found the staff welcoming, inviting, and concerned with our well-being, satisfaction, and happiness.

The housing challenge was exacerbated (in a good way!) by an increased attendance this year to 310. Until Wednesday, when more housing on the upper mesa became available, we had filled every single room available to us with current or coming attendees.

We have seen trends continue that started last year with pay-as-led, and we have included 2017 numbers for comparison. The main highlights are that we still see a sustained increase in first-time attenders with 53 in both 2018 and 2019. The bulk of the increase in attendance this year came from JYF, SYF and YAF, with double digit increases. The YAF numbers may be slightly elevated as we used age range as opposed to self-identification.

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	2019	<i>Diff</i>	<i>% Diff</i>	2018	2017
First Time	53	<i>0</i>	<i>0%</i>	53	35
CYM	25	<i>-1</i>	<i>-4%</i>	26	21
JYF	16	<i>4</i>	<i>33%</i>	12	14
SYF	26	<i>3</i>	<i>13%</i>	23	23
YAF	23	<i>6</i>	<i>35%</i>	17	11
Adult	220	<i>8</i>	<i>1%</i>	217	196
Total	310	<i>20</i>	<i>5%</i>	295	265

The registrars feel the simplifications made to registration, particularly in the areas of dates attending, camping and meals selection, and online payments have been helpful not only to the registrars themselves, but also to the attendees and may hopefully provide a clearer indication of the financial impact of Pay as Led. As of the writing of this report, we don't have the financial information to verify this yet.

The registrars would like to officially acknowledge the efforts of Sonja Toutenhoofd, who graciously volunteered to pick up registrar duties halfway through the week.

The primary challenges for the upcoming year are two-fold. First and foremost, the move to Ft. Lewis for IMYM will require a whole new understanding of the space available and the relationship with the owners. The second challenge is that the company we have been using for registration over the past few years, RegOnline, is being retired at the end of the year and we will be doing an assessment of new systems, hopefully with a suggestion by Arrangements Committee.

The date of Arrangements Committee is also important as the registrars are still wishing to know/have someone to shadow next year, preferably starting at Arrangements Committee. The registrars hope that the improvements/modifications we have made over the years will make the job less daunting, especially when moving to a new location and new registration system.

In Peace and Service,
 Marc Gacy, Dido Clark (and Sonja Toutenhoofd), Registrars

We accepted the registrar's report.

8. Remaining business

a. How minutes get out in the world

Jamie Newton of Peace and Social Concerns said that we should remember we are God's hands and feet. At the bottom of the first page of the Peace and Social Concerns report in the

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Additional Reports section in imym.org is a description about what happens to the minutes. We are a virtual resource network for one another. Google groups exist for border concerns, climate concerns, testimonies in action, and rights of indigenous peoples. IMYM has two Zoom subscriptions that provide a more stable platform for communicating with each other, with Western Friend, and others via phone or computer.

Molly Wingate said she sends minutes to national publications, New York Times, the Denver Post, and the Guardian. IMYM attenders should send the minutes to their own newspapers and to groups to which they belong. They may also approach local radio stations to get the word out about what Quakers are doing.

Other ideas are:

- We shouldn't forget to cultivate relationships with our state and U.S. representatives and senators. The best time to contact them via email is now, while budget processes are going forward.
 - Go to boulderfriendsmeeting.org for a document on "do-ables": things we can do to have an influence.
 - When we send letters to newspapers, we should remember to mention the names of our elected representatives. Clipping services see that elected representatives receive such references.
 - Become more adept at using social media such as Facebook. A meeting on the topic will take place today.

b. Nominating Committee – Gale Toko-Ros

Gale had some corrections and additions to an earlier report. Those changes are reflected in the minutes of the morning Friday, June 14, minutes, or in this document:



Nominating
Committee 2019 Rep

- c. **We minuted our deep gratitude to our co-registrars, Marc Gacy and Dido Clark, and to Sonja Touthoofd for stepping up to help as registrar halfway through.**
- d. Quaker Peace Teams will take on Paula Palmer's ministry on indigenous people.

We closed with worship.