

## PLENARY 1 (DRAFT)

The 63rd annual session of Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) opened with worship at 6:50 p.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> Month 27, 2009, at Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County, California.

Presiding Clerk Joe Franko welcomed us to this beautiful rustic setting, reminding us that we are here to recreate the spiritual community that embraces us annually when we come together, Brigadoon-like.

Claudia Lyons, Walker Creek Ranch Conference Manager, also welcomed us and oriented us to this unique facility and its environment.

Susan Stanley, Reading Clerk, read a letter of greeting to PYM from Britain Yearly Meeting. At their annual gathering in 2008, Friends recognized their common experience of the inner light despite diversity of specific beliefs. Mindful of the challenges of our time, Friends seek to become seeds of change and to tend the spiritual seeds within us.

Our Clerk reflected on the message the Rev. James Lawson once brought to an AFSC staff retreat: each of us brings our baggage with us, including parts of the baggage of the society and culture of which we are part. This week is about letting go of some of that baggage. We are not here to be successful; we are called here to be faithful. That is our Quaker process, and it cannot work unless we lay down some of our baggage. We must trust one another, confident that each of us comes to this gathering with good will, and that our committees have done the best they could with the information they have had. The Clerk expressed his concern about our testimony of integrity, which was not always evident in our use of this facility last year. He asked that we not hold tight to the views and aims that we bring with us, but open ourselves in tender listening to each other, and to the light that we bring to one another. This week, we will seek unity on the Youth Coordinator position. On Wednesday, our committees will hold open meetings to which all interested Friends are invited. We were urged to attend, to learn what these committees do, and to see whether we might be led to participate in that work. On Thursday evening, monthly meeting representatives are asked to meet together, and to consider ideas for new ways in which representatives may be able to work together to facilitate the work of our Yearly Meeting. Time has been reserved on Friday morning in case we need it to complete our discernment on the Youth Coordinator proposal.

The Clerk introduced Jamie Newton and Carolyn Stephenson, Recording Clerks, Sue Torrey, Assistant to the Clerk, and Susan Stanley, Reading Clerk.

## **Roll Call of Meetings and Worship Groups**

Sue Torrey, Assistant to the Clerk, read the list of monthly meetings and worship groups

Friends from the following Meetings and Worship Groups were present at this annual gathering, according to our registration records:

**PLACEHOLDER: Meetings and worship groups that were represented at PYM will be listed below in alphabetical order, based on the Registrars' files.**

## **Introduction of Guests and Visitors**

Four visitors introduced themselves to us:

- Janice Domanik, Lake Forest Monthly Meeting and Illinois YM, and the Friends General Conference Committee for Ministry on Racism.
- Lucy Duncan, Goshen MM of Philadelphia YM, and Associate Secretary for Programs and Communications of FGC, here as the FGC staff visitor.
- Vanessa Julye, Central Philadelphia MM, and Coordinator of the Friends General Conference Committee for Ministry on Racism.
- Felix Ostrom, University Friends Meeting (North Pacific Yearly Meeting)

The Presiding Clerk told us that this year, as part of our effort to live more lightly on the earth, the food we will be served will be primarily vegetarian, and simpler than in the past, with meat available as an option.

Carol Mosher, Arrangements Clerk, was called to the microphone with the Clerk's appreciative superlatives. Carol is ably assisted by Eric Moon, Sarah Tyrell, and Jan Turner, each of whom carries special responsibilities for the arrangements.

For the Children's Program Committee, Joe Magruder welcomed children and their families. Programs have been prepared for three age groups. Joe explained the procedures that parents are asked to follow. Volunteers are needed.

## **Epistle Committee**

Chris Moore, Clerk of the Epistle Committee, and Committee members Kitty Bergel and Eli Fowler were introduced.

## **Junior YM**

Michael Eastwood, Adult Clerk of the YJM Committee, introduced two of the three JYM Clerks, Cee-Cee Fitzgerald-Cook and Marc Lichterman, who described some of the JYM plans and activities and welcomed Friends to join in. Volunteers are also needed by JYM.

## **Young Friends**

Through a skit, Maia Wolf and other Young Friends explained how the Unity with Nature Committee and the Young Friends are trying to help us green the Yearly Meeting, including a largely vegetarian menu and cultivating a respectful relationship with our food. The Young Friends Co-Clerks, Sarah Cooper and Felix Ostrom, introduced themselves and told us of tonight's plans.

## **Respectful relationships**

The Presiding Clerk reminded us of our commitment to respect one another's boundaries, and to refrain from alcohol and the use of prohibited substances this week.

## **Worship-Sharing**

Amy Southwick explained how our worship-sharing group assignments and locations will be posted in the dining hall before the first breakfast is served.

## **Secretariat**

Don Bean, Clerk of the Secretariat Committee, informed us of the Secretariat's availability, hours, and procedures for services and access to equipment. He asked that all reports be provided as electronic files to the Secretariat and to the Recording Clerks prior to the plenary session in which they will be presented. The Secretariat will assist Friends with preparation of their reports.

**PYM 2009-1** The minutes of Plenary I were read and approved.

The meeting closed at 8:20 p.m. with worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Jamie Newton, Recording Clerk

Joe Franko, Presiding Clerk