

## **PLENARY IV (DRAFT)**

Plenary IV of Pacific Yearly Meeting 2009 began with silent worship at 1:15 p.m. Seventh Month 29, 2009.

Reading Clerk Susan Stanley read from the Epistle from Northern Yearly Meeting, held in Wisconsin, which spoke of the balance between the individual and community senses of the divine.

### **Visitor**

Clerk Joe Franko asked for introductions from visiting Friends. Kamilla from the Las Vegas Worship Group introduced herself.

### **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Report**

Laura Magnani, Interim Regional Director of Pacific Mountain region of AFSC and Shan Cretin, Regional Director of the Pacific Southwest region of AFSC, told us of the impact of the financial crisis on AFSC offices, which have been particularly reliant on portfolios and real estate. They are now faced with at least a 50% cut in the budget for the coming fiscal year beginning in October. Laura told us that in the Pacific Mountain region, a large number of staff have been there for more than 20 years, and that this region has a larger proportion of Quaker staff (5) than any other region. The biggest program area is in human migration and mobility. This region will have to cut some offices and merge others.

Shan Cretin told us of the work of Pacific Southwest region in addressing the needs of the marginalized and dispossessed, including in the area of sustainability. In Tucson there is work with the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, in San Diego with the immigrant community, in Los Angeles with the Arab and Islamic communities, through the lens of human rights, and in Hawaii with the native Hawai`ian community. Because of the inability to cut in areas where there are grants, some other offices have had to be cut drastically. She expressed an urgent need for support from Friends for the work of both regions, in terms of prayers, finances and volunteering.

### **Pacific Friends Outreach Society (PFOS)**

Liz Baker, Clerk of Pacific Friends Outreach Society, reminded us that PFOS still exists, and is meeting annually until such time as it is called to serve PYM.

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### **Statistical Report**

Lee Knutsen, Statistical Clerk, reported that there are 36 constituent meetings, 13 worship groups, and one preparative Meeting. Two meetings, Palo Alto and Berkeley, have 100 or more members, while six have 10 or fewer members. Overall PYM membership has increased by 9

members to 1,462. Increases primarily resulted from convincement (42) and transfers (18) into meetings, while decreases included 19 deaths, 9 transferring out, and 28 released or withdrawing.

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### **Peace and Social Order Committee**

Hubert Morel-Seytoux, Clerk of Peace and Social Order, introduced the members of the Committee, and presented two minutes for approval, asking that the Clerk and Monthly Meetings send the minutes out to appropriate legislators and the press.

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The first proposed minute read:

" In keeping with our Quaker Peace Testimony, Pacific Yearly Meeting opposes the expansion of the war in Afghanistan and elsewhere and urges our government to increase and depend on diplomacy and other nonviolent means to resolve conflicts in the world."

One Friend asked about the inclusion of withdrawal from Iraq, another about adding seeking to remove the underlying causes of war, since most war today is not between states.

**PYM 2009-n** The Meeting approved the following minute as revised.

In keeping with our Quaker Peace Testimony, Pacific Yearly Meeting opposes the expansion of the war in Afghanistan and elsewhere and urges our government to address the underlying causes of war and to increase and depend on diplomacy and other nonviolent means to resolve conflicts in the world.

The second proposed minute was as follows:

"In keeping with our Testimony on Equality and Community, Friends believe that access to health care must be universal, available to every man, woman, and child in this land, at minimal administrative cost. We hope that Friends will support the public option at the federal level, and will support the right of states to adopt a single-payer option, such as SB 810 in California. At present, most Friends prefer a single-payer system, but we remain open to alternatives as long as they provide both universal care and cost efficiency."

A Friend suggested postponing consideration of this minute until after the interest group on this subject. Another argued that this minute contains two types of statements, addressed to different audiences, with the latter part involving actions that could be taken. Yet another Friend said that this part inappropriately attempted to summarize Friends' views. Another Friend proposed that the phrase "every man, women and child" be changed to "all individuals of all ages."

The minute will be brought back with revisions following the interest group.

Hubert Morel-Seytoux also mentioned another minute sent from Southern California Quarter, on which the committee was unable to come to agreement. The copy of this minute on global health

care and humanitarian – or rather development -- aid will be available in the attached report. Clerk Joe Franko agreed to send out this proposed Southern California minute to College Park and unaffiliated meetings.

### **Unity with Nature Committee**

Joe Morris, Clerk of Unity with Nature, suggested that the world seems to be developing almost an allergic reaction to us humans. He reminded us that the proposal several years ago to lay down this committee stimulated the committee and PYM into action. By 2007 thirteen meetings and PYM had approved minutes on environment. While it is too late to avoid climate change, there is now a recognized sense of urgency, and we have begun to focus both on mitigation and adaptation. The Committee is now discussing a possible testimony on environment. Such a testimony – a lived conviction – would seem to relate clearly to our testimony on simplicity. Some argue that if we simply lived our existing testimonies, each building on another, we would not need this new one. We were reminded of John Woolman's living testimony in this area.

Other ideas from monthly meetings are to view our lives as a part of nature, and to focus on sustainability rather than harmony with nature. Perhaps we should focus on responding to queries. Individual action – changing our light bulbs – may not be enough; we need to change the way in which our society is structured. The upcoming December 2009 Copenhagen UN conference on climate change, to produce the successor document to the Kyoto Protocol, will be critical, and Quakers are taking action with respect to this. Next year, 2010, will be the 25th anniversary of the founding of our PYM committee. We need to listen again to that still small voice (2 Kings 19).

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Clerk Joe Franko thanked the Clerk of Unity with Nature for his work on testimonies.

**PYM 2009-n** The minutes of Plenary 2 were read and approved as corrected.

The meeting closed at 3:20 p.m. following announcements and silent worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Carolyn Stephenson, Recording Clerk

Joe Franko, Presiding Clerk

RESOURCES – DELETE AFTER DRAFTING THE SESSION =====

**Topic Headings in Bold Title Case**

**PYM 2009-n** Action minutes... The Meeting approved ....

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