

PLENARY IX

Plenary IX of Pacific Yearly Meeting 2009 began with silent worship at 8:50 a.m. the First Day of Eighth Month, 2009.

Reading Clerk Susan Stanley read from the Epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. That Meeting found the importance of love, finding no minute that could speak to their question.

Minutes of Plenary VIII

Jamie Newton, Recording Clerk, read the minutes of Plenary VIII.

A Friend commended the Recording Clerk for recording this long and difficult meeting with clarity and in melodious tone.

PYM 2009-n The minutes of Plenary VIII were approved as corrected.

Ministry and Oversight

Laura Magnani, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight, noted that 23 people, in addition to Ministry and Oversight itself, supplement the work of the Committee. The Electronic Subcommittee needs a Web Coordinator. Friends should contact Don Bean. The Mexico City Subcommittee worked on the translation of the Advices and Queries to accompany *Faith and Practice*. A large number of Friends are involved in interfaith bodies and in outreach. Laura was disappointed that we could not devote more attention to the work of Vanessa Julye and the FGC Committee on Ministry and Racism, and particularly that we had to forego Vanessa's Interest Group yesterday.

The Futures Subcommittee heard that the first step in a possible restructuring, as proposed at the Representatives Meeting, is clearly discerning the purpose of Yearly Meeting, and of our plenaries at the annual session. We need to attend to the question of a lack of trust and resulting behaviors.

ATTACHMENTS RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY =====

A Friend thanked Laura for her service. He is troubled by what he experienced yesterday. He felt that those who had concerns were overwhelmed by others. He raised the question of whether we unite with the spirit or with the proposal. He expressed concern that the form of budgeting for the Youth Program Coordinator might be confusing as to whether this is actually a one-year rather than a three-year plan.

The Clerk reminded us that this is now the time to move the proposal forward, and that he met this morning with the Clerks of Nominating and Ministry and Oversight to do so.

David Barrows, Clerk of Finance Committee, noted that there is also a place for individual contributions to the Youth Program Coordinator, and that a letter will be sent out to Meetings indicating approval of the proposal, informing them of the costs, and asking for pledges.

A Friend asked to be recorded as in agreement with the sentiments of the Friend who expressed concerns about yesterday's process.

Epistle of Pacific Yearly Meeting Pre-School

Aldon spoke the Pre-School Epistle. Some boys were chasing turkeys up the hill and cows charged the boys. Three children contributed to the writing of the Epistle.

Epistle of Lower Elementary

Several of the children together (including Joyce, Nina, Audrey Susan Johson, Bethany, Alexander, Garner) read the Epistle. They spoke of those things they liked and didn't, liking especially swimming and other activities, and not liking especially the cold. Phea Farley loved working with the group.

Middle School Epistle

In another joint effort, several readers spoke of the energy which surged throughout this group, sometimes creative, sometimes resulting in annoying each other. They learned to trust each other, creating a common fabric. (Hannah McKinney??)

Young Friends Epistle

Luke Milleron read the Young Friends' Epistle, noting the fog and the poison oak, and the organizing of a session on respectful relationships and an ice cream social. Young Friends were drawn together by the Youth Coordinator proposal, and held a vigil prior to the session considering it.

Pacific Yearly Meeting Epistle

Chris Mohr read the revised Epistle of Pacific Yearly Meeting. We deepened our faith together as we considered and approved the Youth Coordinator proposal, which contained 110 pages of appendices, after lengthy and difficult discernment. Long periods of worship each morning helped us space ourselves. Early morning sessions on Bible Study and Transformative Quakers drew many. Walker Creek Ranch provided encounters with wildlife. Unity with Nature helped offer primarily vegetarian meals, and several people bicycled part of the way here.

Several Friends shared their view that we did come to decision on the Youth Coordinator, but that we did not in fact come to unity, and preferred that the Epistle reflect what they believed to be truth. The Clerk informed us that unity is not unanimity and that it is the Clerk's role to discern whether there is unity. The Clerk of Ministry and Oversight indicated that we were out of order in amending the Epistle, that it was read yesterday and was now to be accepted. The Clerk asked that that we accept the Epistle, and asked that further concerns go to the Clerk of the Committee.

Minute: Pacific Yearly Meeting accepted the Epistle. .

Peace and Social Order Committee

Stephen McNeil, member of Peace and Social Order Committee, brought back this revised minute on health care, as requested during Plenary IV, for approval.

"In keeping with our Testimony on Equality and Community, Friends believe that access to health care must be universal, available to every individual in this land, at minimal administrative cost. Friends support a single-payer system, do not support a single government-run health delivery system, and support the right of states to adopt the single-payer option, such as SB 810 in California."

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Many Friends suggested that we could not speak for the views of all Friends, not having considered that matter here. Several Friends suggested the importance of universally available and affordable health care. Some felt that it was important to keep the reference to the California legislation; others did not. A Friend said she cared about health care, but not this minute, and suggested coming to unity on not approving this minute. Another begged us to come to unity on the minute.

The Clerk suggested that this would be a more powerful minute if it spoke to what specifically in our testimonies leads us to this, and suggested that a more powerful version could be brought to Representative Committee.

One Friend suggested that the problem with most minutes is that we think someone is listening. Having approved a minute, we forget to make our voices heard in ways that really make a difference, with letters to the editor and contact with legislators, and that this is what we need to do. Whether we act now is less important than what we do in the next few weeks.

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

"In keeping with our Testimonies on Equality and Community, those of us gathered at Pacific Yearly Meeting in 2009 believe that access to health care must be universal and affordable for every individual in this land. There is support among Friends for a single-payer health insurance plan, and we support the right of states to adopt the single-payer option. We encourage further study and action by monthly meetings"

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Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle

?? read the Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting, which held its business meetings in the morning to be more in keeping with the schedule of these Friends. Junior Yearly Meeting strongly supported the position of Youth Coordinator.

Other reports

Other reports not presented at this session will be attached.

PYM 2009-n The Meeting approved the minutes as corrected.

The meeting closed at 11:20 a.m. with announcements and silent worship.

Faithfully submitted,

Carolyn Stephenson, Recording Clerk

Joe Franko, Presiding Clerk