

Report to Meetings and Worship Groups from the NPYM Coordinating Committee Meeting of 3/17/2018

The NPYM Coordinating Committee met on March 17 for Quaker business—and, even more important, for building connections and relationships across our wide-flung Yearly Meeting.

Here are some common interests and concerns that emerged as CC members shared what is happening in their meetings.

- Several meetings have found renewed energy through legislative advocacy work, whether in Quaker Voice (for meetings in WA State) or on the national level with Friends Committee on National Legislation.
- Several meetings are grappling with deep concerns around racism and other oppressions. Many Friends have read *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, on their own or in a discussion group, as prelude to hearing Friend-in-Residence Vanessa Julye at Annual Session this summer.
- As one CC member noted, anti-oppression work is broader than black-and-white; numerous meetings are finding ways to support Native American groups and immigrant communities in their area.
- The biggest detention center for undocumented immigrants in the U.S. is in Tacoma. There may be ways that NPYM meetings and worship groups can help Tacoma Friends Meeting help detainees being released from the center.
- Several meetings and worship groups report themselves as being “somewhat small and somewhat fragile” but still find ways to engage in the work of Friends.

News! News!

Copies of the new *Faith and Practice* will be arriving soon—the first weeks of April. The Yearly Meeting is paying for copies to go to meetings based on the number of assessments paid (plus 2 for the meeting library). We’ll be able to order additional copies from *Western Friend*.

Registration for Annual Session (7/25-29) will open in early April. All registration will be online this year.

The Children’s Program at Annual Session this summer will be on the “play as led” model, offering the children different choices for what they can do at various times. Do you have a talent or a skill to share with a great group of kids aged 3-13 for an hour or two, or more? Let us know!

Ways to Connect with Friends

Here are some specific requests and ways that we can connect with the wider community of Quakers:

- NPYM will send a visitor to the first Annual Session of the new Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting (Friends churches). If you’d like to be the visitor, contact NPYM’s Ministry & Oversight Committee.
- Eugene Monthly Meeting needs us to help season a proposed minute for Annual Session about Renewed U.S. Military Action against North Korea. Please take this issue into the Light, and give Eugene Friends your feedback.

- NPYM's Peace & Social Justice Committee is planning a workshop on Undoing Institutional Racism for this fall, to be held at Olympia Meeting. Watch for details! If you are concerned about racial equity, please consider attending.
- eric maya joy is a released Friend with a concern for spiritual unification. He'd be glad to come talk with your meeting!
- The Nominating Committee needs our good ideas and help! Think about who you know who'd be great helping NPYM on the Youth Committee, or Nominating, or Outreach & Visitation.
- This year we are experimenting with "Abundant Financing" for Annual Session. Please consider how you and your meeting can contribute so that worries about cost won't keep anyone from attending Annual Session.
- The NPYM Ministry & Oversight Committee invites clerks of related committees in the monthly meetings to their next consultation – a conference call discussion about racism, on April 22.
- Make your numbers count in the Quaker world – make sure your meeting turns in its Statistical Report to the NPYM Secretary by May 1.

Ask your meeting's member of the Coordinating Committee for more information about any of these items. There's a lot going on in our Quaker community!