

NPYM Coordinating Committee

Draft MINUTES

August 7, 2021 via Zoom
(9 AM PST; 10 AM MST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82153398109?pwd=VFgxeW1RV2YzcS91eFlsY0IRVWZmUT09>

Present: Celia Castle, rising CC associate Clerk, South Seattle Friends; Mim Coleman, Youth Program Coordinator, Salmon Bay MM; Susan Cozzens, Peace and Social Concerns Clerk, Eastside; Dorothy Day, NPYM Secretary, Bridge City Friends; Ann Dudley, Recording Clerk, Multnomah Friends; Dave Ek, Multnomah Friends; Linda Ellsworth, Clerk of Nominating Committee, Orcas Island WG; Ted Etter, Missoula; Lucy Fullerton, Ministry & Counsel Committee, University Friends; Rocky Garrison, CC Clerk, Bridge City Friends; Iris Graville, Lopez Island Meeting; John Gotts, Webkeeper, Pullman-Moscow MM; Lucretia Humphrey, Montana Gathering of Friends; Nancy Irving, Finance & Legal Committee, Olympia Friends; Barbara Luetke, Salmon Bay; Johanna MacNee, Pullman Moscow MM; Jana Ostrom, Rising YM Clerk, University Friends; Warren Ostrom, University Friends; Necia Quast, Outreach & Visitation Committee, San Juan Worship Group; Lew Scholl, Annual Session Event Planner, Multnomah Friends; Debbie Townsend, Clerk of NPYM Faith & Practice Committee and Youth Committee, Eastside Friends; Sylvia Weaver, South Mountain Friends (Ashland); Corin Whittemore, NPYM Treasurer, Umpqua Valley WG; David Zeiss, NPYM Clerk, Eugene Friends.

(Note: Two items below in blue are requests for consideration by Monthly Meetings).

I. COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Annual Session Planning Committee

1. Exit Survey. Lew Scholl reported that the survey is still in process and the results will be sent out soon.

2. Paying presenters at Annual Session. Is it feasible or reasonable to pay Interest Group Leaders and/or Friend-in-Residence? Rocky suggested that the final decision be made in the spring, prior to Annual Session (AS) and season it until then. Discussion centered around several issues and concerns:

a. Finances: With three paid positions and the possible increased cost of next year's hybrid Annual Session, there may be a need to increase fees to participate and/or an increase in Monthly Meeting assessments. Payment to a presenter will further increase costs. A Friend noted that with the Abundant Financing model used over the past two years, there is a substantial reserve that may be enough to cover next year's Annual Session without an increase in fees or assessments.

b. Re: paying Interest Group leaders – these are typically people within the Quaker community who follow a leading to present an interest group. Payment is not expected. In the case where someone outside of the Quaker community is invited to present an interest group and payment is deemed fitting, it was suggested that this be

considered by an appropriate committee and payment made from that committee's budget.

c. Re: Paying Friend-in-Residence – opinions varied from setting a specific honorarium to recognize the considerable work and time involved (\$500 - \$750, beyond room, board and travel expenses that are now provided) to consideration on a case-by-case basis, depending on personal financial needs. Several Friends mentioned that decisions about payment should be made by the AS Planning Committee. [The Clerk asked that Monthly Meetings take up the question of payments and honorariums, as they relate to NPYM governance: Who will discern these considerations - the Annual Session Planning Committee, with advisement from the Coordinating Committee, or another committee established for this purpose?](#)

3. [Annual Session 2022 in Montana.](#) Ted Etter requested input to the planning committee regarding a balance of on-line, hybrid and in-person offerings for plenaries, worship groups, interest groups, etc. [Monthly Meetings are requested to survey members for preferences regarding participation in next year's annual session.](#)

4. A concern was expressed that NPYM is not seen as relevant to many Friends, especially young and LGBTQ Friends. Other Friends are unaware of the function and activities of NPYM. It was noted that, unlike some other Yearly Meetings, NPYM does not communicate with its members, for example via a periodic newsletter. A Friend asked that this situation be taken up by one of the committees.

5. Celia Castle offered to work on a quarterly newsletter and invited others to join her.

B. Executive Committee update – Rocky reported that the Pre-nominating Committee has been formed and will be meeting soon. Members are Lucretia Humphrey, Ann Stever, and Laura Arcidiacono.

C. Personnel Committee report – Celia Castle expressed gratitude to Lew Scholl for his outstanding work as Annual Session Event Planner for the past two years. Personnel and Executive Committees will put forth nominations for this position. Friends were asked to send nominations for this position to Celia. Personnel Committee will send out performance evaluations soon for the three paid staff positions.

D. Youth Committee report – Debbie Townsend reported a request from a Friend that the Youth Committee consider two changes: 1. Explore a different background check company. This Friend thinks that the Trusted Employees company that we currently use is too intrusive. 2. Re-consider the policy that all volunteers who work with children and youth must undergo background checks. The Youth Committee has not yet had an opportunity to discern these requests. Debbie will find out the impact on our insurance liability policy if volunteers are not screened. It was noted that many parents are more likely to have their children participate knowing that volunteers are screened. Also noted that “red flags” in a background check are considered on an individual basis.

II. NPYM GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Coordinating Committee members are asked to study the Peace & Social Concerns proposal regarding Working Groups, put forward at Annual Session.

Link to proposal: [PSC Working Groups Proposal](#)

Susan Cozzens reported that the proposal for the Uprooting Systemic Racism group to join YM as a standing committee hasn't been discussed by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. This relates to the question of how we want NPYM to be structured to incorporate direct action and/or study and education related to a specific issue, such as the work of the Uprooting Racism Committee. The proposal will be considered at a future CC meeting.

III. PLENARY SESSION MINUTES

The minutes were not ready in time for acceptance during Annual Session. Some edits have been made to the Epistle and are posted on the YM website. More time is needed for CC members to read the minutes. Acceptance of the minutes will be considered at the next CC meeting.

IV. OTHER ITEMS

Lucretia Humphrey announced an upcoming forum sponsored by *Western Friend* that will feature four Quakers elected to public office. Find the Zoom link at westernfriend.org.

Please hold Nora Percival in the Light as she returns to her ministry in Kenya.

Please hold Mim Coleman in the Light as she travels to the Montana Gathering of Friends.

Appreciation extended to Barbara Luetke for her work as Recording Clerk for both Coordinating Committee and Annual Session. Thank you's extended to Ann Dudley and Jonathan Betz-Zall for accepting the positions of Recording Clerk for CC and AS, respectively.

Gratitude to David Zeiss for his work as NPYM Clerk, and to Jana Ostrom, rising NPYM Clerk.

Gratitude to Rocky Garrison for serving as CC Clerk, and to Celia Castle, rising CC Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Dudley
Recording Clerk

